

**BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806**

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY FORUM AND LISTENING SESSION 4/25/2019

A Community Forum was held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the Barrington High School library. School Committee Chair Dr. Douglas called the forum to order at 7:06 pm. Present were Dr. Douglas, Ms. Severson, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann, Ms. Bae, Ms. Kuo, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Fiore.

Ms. Severson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Dr. Douglas gave a brief presentation on the topics for tonight's community forum. The discussion tonight will be regarding the two-tier transportation. This is an initiative which will allow the alignment of the K-5 school schedules and allows for the introduction of the medically recommended school start time for the middle and high school students. The change has been discussed in Barrington for many years but due to budgetary constraints it was delayed until this year. The Committee on Appropriations this past week has approved the budget which included the two-tier initiative. It is understood that change is difficult for everyone but change that will allow the school district to address the well-documented physical and medical health needs of our students is a change that is worth the challenge. The Committee is thankful to the district for working so diligently to finding solutions to potential obstacles which will be addressed tonight. The purpose of tonight's forum is to allow everyone to hear firsthand about the reasons and solutions.

Mr. Messore gave a brief explanation of when the process began and the research the district has been gathering. This process began about 8 years ago with the Health & Wellness Committee, which is a sub-committee for the School Committee. Mr. Messore has spent quite a bit of time talking to 11 districts across New England regarding their schedule changes and their challenges. The implementation might be different in every district but the end result is they made a change from earlier time (7:20 - 7:40am) to a later time (8:30 - 8:45am). There were always challenges with the change of times with the elementary and child care. Barrington has a great partnership with the YMCA in town and Springboard (an outsourced company that provides childcare before and after school at all the K-3 schools). Mr. Finn has done quite a bit of work with the teams in our league, the teams in the interscholastic leagues, with the partners at the Y and with the facilities we use, especially for hockey, to look to see if the change will work with the schedules. Mr. Messore understands that there will be obstacles and hurdles that will need to be worked out but the district will continue working on these obstacles to insure that the system will work.

Dr. Douglas explained how the process will work for the evening's forum. There will be 5 topics for tonight's forum. Each group will be allowed approximately 15 minutes at each table to hear the information and give their feedback. Note takers will be at each table and notes will be collated and distributed.

Table one – Sleep Research - Dr. Mary Carskadon gave a short presentation
Table two – Transportation/Budgetary ROI – Mike Messore and Doug Fiore
Table three – Sleep and Mental Health – Dr. Karyn Horowitz
Table four – Elementary Collaboration – Paula Dillon and the Elementary Principals
Table five – Athletics/Clubs – Joe Hurley and George Finn

Dr. Douglas, noting the late hour due to prolonged sessions at some tables and the departure of many participants, recommended deferring further discussion of the forum contents to the next meeting, with the opportunity for public comment later in the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

FY20 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Fiore stated last night, April 23rd, at the Committee on Appropriations (COA) meeting the school's proposed budget was approved. Also, the request for the facilities study was partially restored for \$50,000 as well as an initial investment in the district's Wi-Fi system of \$75,000. The next steps are the Budget Hearing on May 8th and the Financial Town meeting set for May 22nd. The school department is requesting that the community support the COA's recommendation.

Mr. Messore stated that the Facilities Advisory Committee has been visiting all the schools with the Director of Facilities along with the building principals to look at what are the improvements that have taken place over a number of years with our capital reserve and what are the long term areas that need to be looked at based on the State mandated Jacob study and the Phase 1 and Phase 2 study that the district did when we were going through the bonding process for the new Middle School. The committee will be prioritizing what needs to be done and will be putting together a recommendation to RIDE in order to achieve the grant which will allow the district to do a full facilities study. The state requires a complete facilities study every five years in order to receive 35% reimbursement for Immediate Health & Safety improvements.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW WEBSITE

Mr. Messore stated that the district was able to reallocate some of the funds that were in place for communication in order to develop a new website at a very cost effective approach. Dr. Dillon and Mr. Burrows have begun to work with a company to revamp our website.

Dr. Dillon explained the company that the district will be using to revamp the website is Apptegy. Apptegy has a program within their design program called Thrillshare. Apptegy is the only company that has this feature. Thrillshare creates an app out of the website that someone can choose to download to your cell phone. The app provides you with the most essential information that you would want on a regular basis. It also has a feature for mass notifications.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Ad Hoc Advisory Athletic Field Committee membership and charge

Ms. Bae read the charge of the Athletic Field Advisory Committee. The school district members of the Committee are Gina Bae, Anna Clancy, David Caldarella, Skip Learned - Director of Facilities, George Finn - Director of Athletics and Student Activity, Tess Gagliano - student, Donald Denham - soccer coach, and Michael Messore - Superintendent of Schools. A discussion ensued among the School Committee members on whether the employees of the school should be non-voting members. There was also discussion around whether the High School student and soccer coach would also be non-voting members. The thought was that there are students on other advisory committees and that they should be allowed to vote.

Ms. Sevetson made a motion that the members of the AD Hoc advisory committee who are employees of the district be non-voting members with the exception of Mr. Denham. Mr. McCrann seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 to 1 with Dr. Douglas voting against the motion.

Ms. Sevetson made a motion to postpone the discussion on Community communication regarding Health & Wellness Advisory Committee with recommendation regarding Nutritional Guidelines. Ms. Clancy seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Barrass, 14 Peck Avenue. As a coach of the High School Indoor Track & Field, he has concerns over practice times. Mr. Barrass also expressed concerns that if there is a motion to remove money from the budget that it doesn't affect the teaching staff or the students programs.

John Palmieri, 17 Doane Road expressed his concern that the School Committee is not listening to the community members of the Town.

CJ Hilty, 14 Wildflower Road reiterated concerns regarding student privacy rights with regards to security cameras and content filtering on 1:1 devices.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Messore stated that Kristen Matthes will give her report and summarize the topics from the consultant. In the fall, Mr. Messore would like to bring this back to the Committee with an in-depth presentation from the consultant.

Discussion points for the next meeting are library specialist, transportation update, sleep education and district communication policy.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to adjourn the Business meeting at 10:07 p.m. and to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining with National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) and United

Steelworkers. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Bae, Ms. Clancy and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

The executive session was adjourned at 10:49 pm and the minutes were sealed.

Dr. Douglas reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Ms. Sevetson moved and Ms. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:50 pm. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Bae, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Clancy voting in the affirmative.