

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

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Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/11/2016

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 in the Barrington Town Council Chamber, Town Hall. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Guida, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea, Mrs. Anna Clancy, Mr. John Alessandro, and Student Representative Katharine Odjakjian. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff present: Superintendent Michael Messore, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Ronald Tarro, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Elizabeth Levesque, and Network Manager Scott Morpeth.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Suzanne Costa, Barrington High School Library Media Specialist and K-12 Library Department Head, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Thirteen Barrington High School seniors were selected as 2016 United States Presidential Scholars Program candidates: Grace Biagetti, Alexa Collins, Quentin Duyck, Samyukta Mallick, Isabelle Rea, Nina Regan, Dustine Reich, Ian Sabula, Renee Seto, Vivian Tian, Emma Vorenberg, Samuel Whitman, and Ethan Wold.

The Barrington High School (BHS) Jazz Ensemble won first place at the Berklee College of Music High School Jazz Festival for Large Ensemble Class 3 for the second straight year. The BHS Combo, featuring Rohan Chander, Elena Serrano, Samuel Rockwell, Jacob Whitman and Kieran Egan, placed second. In addition, Kieran Egan, drummer, was voted Outstanding Musician for Large Ensemble Class 3. Rohan Chander and Samuel Rockwell received Judges' Choice Awards for the Combo and Jazz Ensemble.

Barrington High School students recognized at the 2016 Scholastic Art Awards Competition were: Julia Bowen – Silver Key, Drawing; Yiran Jia – Gold Key, Drawing; Alexa Jurgeleit – Silver Key, Sculpture; Ingrid Kenyon – Silver Key, Sculpture; and Vivian Tian – Silver Key, Sculpture. Honorable mentions were awarded to: Risa Wan, Alla Alsahli, Emilie Cherau, Jack Miniati, Anders Brandvik, Charlotte Szosz, Madeline Durkin, Vincent Portelli, Isabel Portugali, Katherine Faulkner, Elizabeth Lewis, Anya Voshchullo, Kira Goodale, Taryn de Meillon, and Yiran Jia.

Hampden Meadows School held their National Geography Bee and Eli Terrell won first place and Samuel Spector second. Finalists included Jack Zwolinski, Julianna Dufresne, Mia Leroux, Ella Porter, Peyton Whittet, Grace Angert, Ian McTaggart, and Finn Myatt.

The Primrose Hill School cast of 101 Dalmations held performances on January 22-23, 2016.

The Sowams School cast of the Little Mermaid held performances on February 6, 2016.

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BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced Mrs. Beth O'Connell, Barrington High School (BHS) Technology Specialist, and members of the BHS Student Technology Assistance Team (STAT), Junior Kieran Egan, and Sophomores Michael Sangiuliano and Christopher Sarli. Mrs. O'Connell and the students provided an overview of the role of the STAT team, its internship opportunities for students on the team, and its support of the 1:1 technology initiative and resources provided to both faculty and students.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon introduced building administrators present at the meeting who provided the Committee a mid-year progress report on K-5 student achievement data. Building administrators previously presented data on November 19, 2015. Present were Hampden Meadows School Principal Mrs. Tracey McGee and Assistant Principal Mr. Gino Sangiuliano, Sowams School Principal Mr. James Callahan, Primrose Hill School Principal Mrs. Patricia Tolento, and Nayatt School Principal Ms. Tracey Whitehead. Each building administrator reviewed school data for literacy, Mathematics, and social emotional goals as well as action steps. A mid-year report from the secondary schools, along with additional information from Mrs. McGee for Hampden Meadows School, will be provided at the next School Committee meeting. Questions from the Committee included monitoring of student data at the classroom level and how that information may be used in other classrooms and to increase common planning, and current supports at the building level.

Mr. Tarro presented an overview of the proposed comprehensive Operating Budget for FY2016-2017, including major operating and capital budget categories, district priorities, new initiatives and enrollment change impact, staff reconciliation, overall budget summary, and administrators' summary. Questions from the Committee included FY17 state aid and potential for a funding offset through grants, data relative to FTE enrollment over time, maximizing course loads for teachers at the secondary level, and a request for additional information on added FTEs in the past three years and their return on investment.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Lisa Daft, of 5 Robbins Drive, parent, presented a binder of information to the Committee including 1,000+ signatures on a petition opposed to a change in school start times. Dr. Daft urged the Committee to table any change, noted the importance to survey all stakeholders, and referenced Health and Wellness membership and meeting minutes.

Mr. Samuel Read, Barrington High School Sophomore, urged the Committee to reconsider its decision on school start times and presented a petition signed by more than 500 Barrington High School students in opposition of a new start time.

Ms. Jenna Andreozzi, Barrington High School Sophomore, shared results from a recent student survey with more than 300 responses including survey questions relating to sleep, homework and activities. Survey results included 13% of students in favor of a change, 21% of students said they would get more sleep, and 13% of students agreed that the Committee made a fair decision. Ms. Andreozzi urged the Committee to take these survey results into consideration.

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Mrs. Denise Andreozzi, of 215 New Meadow Road, Barrington Middle School Special Education Teacher, and parent, shared her disappointment with the decision making process relating to school start times, noting that the decision could have been respected if the community had been heard first. Mrs. Andreozzi asked the Committee to reconsider their decision.

Mr. Emilio Cuebas, Barrington High School Sophomore, asked for a show of hands from the audience on who does not support the change in school start time, with most in the audience raising their hand. Mr. Cuebas added that the problem is not the start time for school, but rather students' level of stress and anxiety.

Mrs. Pamela Lauria, of 56 Martin Avenue, parent, thanked the Committee for listening to science and moving forward with a change in school start times. Mrs. Lauria added that the community can work together to address schedules, and topics of student stress and homework can be addressed at the same time.

Mrs. Mary Roberts, of 11 Adams Avenue, Barrington Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher, and National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) President, shared recent studies on sleep including a study by St. Lawrence University professors that noted an increase in tardiness and disciplinary issues with later school start times. Mrs. Roberts asked why there had not been a recent survey on a change in school start times as was done with the school calendar and other recent topics.

Mr. Ethan Ames, Barrington High School Sophomore, having heard only opposition from students and teachers to the proposed change in school start times, urged the Committee to hear the voice and opinion of the community. Mr. Ames also asked the Committee to consider the number of daylight hours that will be jeopardized for athletics and activities with school dismissal shifted to later in the afternoon.

Ms. Isabel Rotondo, Barrington High School Senior, and co-captain of the girls swim team, asked the Committee to remain open minded and listen to representatives of the student body who oppose a change to school start times.

Ms. Elizabeth Ryan, Barrington High School Senior, and co-captain of the girls swim team, urged the Committee to consider programs like swimming that could be jeopardized with a change to school start times.

Ms. Kim Jacobs, of 5 Massachusetts Avenue, parent, stated that studies are not often science based and believes that the Committee's decision to change school start times was done without taking all factors into consideration.

Dr. Megan Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, pointed to studies that show increases in the average of sleep time for students with later school start times and the ability to perform better in activities, as well as a decrease in suicidal rates and risk for depression.

Mr. Ryan Brady, Barrington High School Sophomore, stated that the change in start times will negatively affect students because of the later start for athletics and activities, adding that more data is need to quantify the advantages for a change to school start times. Mr. Brady stated that he is not against the plan completely, but is against the lack of data to implement a change in school start times at this time.

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Mr. Jack Fortin, Barrington High School Senior, and captain of the boys swim team and vice president of the Stagemasters drama club, stated that he finds it bizarre that the Committee would propose a plan to change school start times that could jeopardize extracurricular activities, activities of which keep students happy and engaged.

Ms. Liana Cassar, 2 Hope Court, parent, in favor of a change in school start times, cited research to support the benefits of a change and asked that the community move forward with implementation.

Mrs. Gina Pine, of 479 New Meadow Road, parent, referred to a change in school start times as a band-aid approach as it does not address the actual needs of why students are depressed, and by not listening to the students, they are being taught helplessness as they do not have a say in the process.

Ms. Kristin Tavares, of 409 New Meadow Road, Barrington Middle School Art Teacher, and parent, was proud of the students who provided a voice at the meeting and expressed concern for the message sent to them if they continue to be ignored.

Mr. Matthew Bloom, Barrington High School freshman, stated that a change in school start times will not set up students for success, noting that real world jobs start early. Mr. Bloom added that areas affected by a change include teachers' ability to stay after school for student support, and homework will be done later.

Mr. Liam Flaherty, Barrington High School Senior, noted the effect of a later school start time on families where students help care for younger siblings and asked the Committee to reassess its position on a change to school start times and listen to the community.

Mr. Christopher Poirier, of 11 Chantilly Drive, parent, wondered why the Committee is not listening to the community they represent and hoped the decision would be revisited for more discussion.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, supports the school start time change to 8:30 a.m. and is hopeful that the Committee will continue to move forward with its strategic vision as it began this process five years ago with the process of looking to studies and gather data to support the return on investment.

Mrs. Katharine Killilea, of 19 Martin Avenue, parent, thanked the Committee for their vote for a change in school start times, noting that the district will adjust and can continue to be great and provide for the students who are struggling or depressed, most of which are not represented at the meeting this evening.

Ms. Kim Jacobs provided a follow up comment to note that the extra time given to students after school by teachers will not continue with a change in the current school start times.

Ms. Allison Kelsey, Barrington High School Senior, and captain of the Barrington/Mt. Hope/Portsmouth co-op girls ice hockey team, stated that a change in school start time will greatly affect the hockey team as they constantly travel because there is no ice rink in town. Ms. Kelsey asked the Committee to reconsider their vote for a later school start time.

Ms. Allison Faria, Barrington High School Girls Ice Hockey Varsity Head Coach, stressed that athletic activity is a healthy outlet for students and a change in school start times would add to their stress level. Ms. Faria urged the Committee to listen to the student voice in opposition to a change in school start times.

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Mr. John Sandy Gorham, of 16 Bay Spring Avenue, Barrington High School Swim Coach, stated that a change in school start times will severely affect the swim teams as off campus activities will be need to be shifted. Mr. Gorham added that the Bayside YMCA is working with the district but there will be restrictions.

Mr. David Root, of 28 Meadowbrook Drive, parent, asked that a more focused look be taken at the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results to address gaps.

Mr. Anthony Arico, Jr. of 166 Lincoln Avenue, urged the Committee to table the implementation plan for a change in school start times as the costs are too high to spend with the pending Barrington Middle School building project. Mr. Arico also urged community members to attend Committee on Appropriations meetings to assure their voices are heard on the town budget.

Mr. Dominic Portelli, Barrington High School sophomore, asked the Committee to reconsider its decision on a change to school start times noting the many after school activities it will affect including student jobs, activities, and athletics.

Mrs. Christine Barton, of 29 Meadowbrook Drive, parent, and volunteer, stated that it is the responsibility of parents to monitor sleep for their children and wondered what programs would be impacted with the spending of nearly \$500,000 on additional transportation for the district.

The Committee agreed to hear the Field Trip Approval agenda item out of order. Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson requested that the review and approval of the Barrington Middle School field trip to Washington D.C. be tabled to the next School Committee meeting, as the dates need to be revised.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Tarro provided an update on the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee including continued work to prepare for the completion of the State II application, the bid opening for commissioning agent services, evaluation of the owner project manager, preparation of a policy for School Committee approval on Energy Star compliance, and the Building Committee's intent to refine the proposed budget for the BMS building project. The Building Committee will meet next on February 29, 2016. Questions and discussion by the Committee included use of the Massachusetts model relative to bonding, communication, and community engagement.

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including recent communication on the change to the current school calendar and adjustment of a Professional Development Day due to the two snow days in February, and plans for an upcoming forum on Suicide Prevention Strategies for Parents on February 23, 2016 at Barrington High School.

Mr. Messore presented an update on the school start time implementation plan, including the availability of athletic schedules for the next academic year and continued work on the district's bus route scheduling and Special Education transportation. Mr. George Finn, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, will be invited to present information to the School Committee at its next regular meeting on February 25, 2016. Discussion ensued on the goal and benefit to students for bus rides no longer than 30 minutes, possible impact to athletic schedules, messaging to the community, measurement of success and a timeline for the

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implementation plan.

Old Business from School Committee

No old business from the School Committee was presented at this time.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence for Ms. Andrea Correia, Barrington High School, Mathematics Teacher.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody read aloud the School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols and called for a motion for adoption of the document to include signatures of School Committee members and the Superintendent.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the 2015-2016 School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols. The motion passed 4-1 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Alessandro opposed.

Dr. Shea provided an update on the Health and Wellness Committee meeting held on February 3, 2016, including reports from the BAY Team, Chartwells, nutrition education, and the presentation on mindfulness from Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson and Barrington Middle School Social Worker Ms. Courtney Canario. Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley will present at the March 2, 2016 meeting on the topic of student stress. Dr. Shea thanked the Health and Wellness Committee for their work on school start times over the last four years as formally charged by the School Committee. Discussion ensued on a similar presentation to the School Committee on mindfulness, and future discussions by the Health and Wellness Committee on membership and meeting times.

The School Committee policy on Energy Star Compliance was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. Adoption of the policy is part of the criteria to meet the Rhode Island Department of Education Stage II application for the Barrington Middle School building project. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for February 25, 2016.

Decision Items

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for February 25, 2016 to be held at the Barrington Middle School (BMS) will feature updates on the BMS building project, budget, and a secondary student achievement data mid-year progress report, along with discussion on the draft 2016-2017

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school calendar. Mr. Messore requested that the topic of blended learning/learning spaces be moved to the March 23, 2016 meeting, and that the topic of Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Response to Intervention (RTI) update be moved to the March 10, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Brody requested that Mrs. Levesque poll the School Committee for their availability for the next Joint Legislative Breakfast in March.

Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Alessandro proposed that the Committee take another look at school start times and possibly delay the implementation plan for one year as the process seems to be moving forward too quickly without serious review of all it will impact. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to discuss the timeline for the school start time implementation plan at its meeting on March 10, 2016. Mr. Messore added that Mr. Finn will be available to report on the impact to athletics and activities at the School Committee meeting on February 25, 2016.

Mr. Guida asked that the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Informational Workshop remain on its scheduled date of May 19, 2016.

Announcements

Mrs. Brody announced that the Barrington Town Council will host an informational forum for boards and commissions on February 24, 2016.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, encouraged continued discussion to pull together information to move the schools start time implementation plan forward and the possibility of forming ad hoc committees on the topics of student stress and homework.

Dr. Lisa Daft provided a follow up comment to thank Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Alessandro for the request to continue School Committee discussion on school start times and for taking the time to pause and review all factors and areas that may be impacted.

Ms. Kim Jacobs provided a follow up comment to encourage Mr. Messore to continue to add to the start time Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and for the Health and Wellness Committee to modify its meeting schedule to the evening to allow for more participation.

Mrs. Kellie Polando, of 39 Baron Road, Barrington Middle School Business Teacher, and parent, stressed the importance of feedback on a change in school start times from all stakeholders, and added that student stress has a lot less to do with sleep and students do better when they participate in athletics.

Mr. Reid Willett, of 409 New Meadow Road, noted that losing 30 minutes at the end of the school day is a big loss for athletes and will put student athletes at a disadvantage. Mr. Willett asked how a decision could have been made on an idea and not on an implementation plan and urged the Committee to make the right decision for the community.

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Mrs. Mary Roberts provided a follow up comment to thank the two members of the Committee who requested a future agenda item to include additional discussion on the school start time implementation plan and stressed that several coaches and advisors may not be able to continue in their roles with the new proposed schedules.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:24 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation with National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) and United Steelworkers. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:44 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:45 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.