

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

Page 1

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 in the Barrington Middle School Auditorium. 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, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Mr. Guida.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Dr. Robert Shea, Mrs. Anna Clancy, Mr. John Alessandro, and Student Representative Katharine Odjakjian. Mr. Patrick Guida was absent. 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 Computer/Network Technician Michael Fallgren.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Andrew Anderson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington High School Senior Vivian Tian was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Barrington Middle School and Sowams School have been named Commended Schools by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Barrington High School's 2015-2016 Winter Sport Champions include Girls Swim Team 2016 Rhode Island State Champion and Division I League Champion; Boys Swim Team Runner up in the Rhode Island State Championship; Boys Swim Team members Jack Fortin, Harrison Homans, Aidan Lane, and Ethan O'Connor are the 200 Medley Relay Team State Champions with a winning time of 1:37.70, a new Rhode Island state record, and 200 Freestyle Relay Team State Champions with a winning time of 1:28.76, also a new Rhode Island state record; Sophomore Harrison Homans is the Swimming Individual State Champion, 500 Freestyle; and Senior Robert Colantonio is Indoor Track and Field Individual State Champion, Hammer Throw.

Mrs. Alison Burrows, Hampden Meadows School Math Intervention Specialist, has been named an Amazon Educational Fellow.

Barrington Middle School 7th Grader Clara Kugler has been named a semifinalist eligible to compete in the 2016 National Geographic State Bee on April 1, 2016.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon introduced Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson and Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley who provided the Committee with a mid-year progress

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

Page 2

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

report for secondary grades student achievement data. Hampden Meadows School Principal Mrs. Tracey McGee was also present to provide updated Grades 4-5 data for literacy, Mathematics, and social emotional goals and action steps. Questions from the Committee included proficiency scoring, growth data, resources available for integration from Hampden Meadows School to Barrington Middle School, initiative strategies relating to Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP), the Challenge Success Survey opportunity for Barrington High School students and how its results will be used, and a request for a presentation on mindfulness to the School Committee as presented to the Health and Wellness Committee.

The Committee agreed to hear the Field Trip Approval agenda item out of order. Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson provided the Committee with details and requested approval for the Grade 8 field trip to Washington, D.C. with the revised dates of June 2-4, 2016.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to approve the field trip on June 2-4, 2016 for Barrington Middle School Grade 8 to Washington, D.C. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro provided an update on the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee including a recent meeting with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to prepare for completion of the Stage II application by March 15, 2016 and discuss the schematic plans for the building project. The building project will be based on enrollment of 800 students, and approval of the square footage may be limited to 130,000 square feet. Discussion ensued on state reimbursement rates, capturing schematic efficiencies and whether or not the schematic will include an auditorium, the timeline for community engagement, and relocation of the ball wall currently outside BMS. The Building Committee will meet next on February 29, 2016 and will hold a meeting with the community abutters on March 7, 2016.

Mr. Tarro provided the proposed FY2016-2017 comprehensive budget with revisions to the original budget document as presented that included district priorities, enrollment data, administrators' summary and tax impact data. Mr. Messor explained the rationale for the adjustment in the increased positions as requested by the principals with the implementation of an instructional coach to provide embedded professional development in the classroom and the plan to fill the positions of interventionists through possible future reallocation of personnel. The presentation will be made available on the district website. Discussion ensued on coaching versus social emotional support, continued implementation of the 1:1 technology initiative, and including a historical perspective on district successes in the budget narrative.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to accept the proposed 2016-2017 budget with revisions as presented and to advance the budget to the Committee on Appropriations. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

General Public Discussion and Information

Ms. Tina Calise, of 17 Townsend Street, parent, encouraged the community to move forward with the School Committee's decision to change school start times, noting past successful initiatives.

Ms. Jane Knight, of 21 Christine Drive, parent, stressed that sleep underlies all health issues, advocated for all to get more sleep, not just the kids and noted her observations as a professional relative to increased

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

Page 3

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

relaxation of the students at Mount Hope High School who have a later school start time.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, read quoted statements from the School Committee candidates from the Barrington Times in October, 2015 on candidate views on changing school start times, noted that this democratic process can be used as a teaching opportunity for children and noted his support for tackling stress and homework as identified priorities.

Dr. Lisa Daft, of 5 Robbins Drive, parent, shared information from Health and Wellness Committee minutes, asked what happened to the task force on school start times that had been mentioned in the minutes and stated that the 8:30am start time was unreasonable as it affects all students. .

Mrs. Kellie Polando, of 39 Baron Road, Barrington Middle School Business Teacher, and parent, urged the School Committee to consider postponing any change to school start times for one year to provide the opportunity for the entire community to be heard and to revisit the topic with other priorities.

Mr. Jason Leigh, of 8 Roberta Drive, parent, stated that the district is going after initiatives with no need, referencing the change in school start times, dared the community to address the issue at the Financial Town Meeting and stated that there is a precedent to accept the outside needs of the Barrington community as opposed to having data specific to Barrington.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus, of 1 Howard Street, parent, asked if the new Barrington Middle School building would be built on the current new fields and if so, would the district need to have to pay back the grant that had been received and used for the fields. Mr. Messoro responded that he has spoken to the Town Manager and that the grant should not have to be repaid. Mr. Rimoshytus applauded the School Committee members willing to table the change in school start times for one year and advocated for a less drastic change.

Mrs. Denise Andreozzi, of 215 New Meadow Road, Barrington Middle School Special Education Teacher, and parent, expressed concern for the possibility of many coaches needing to resign with the revised athletic schedules and less participation by students in athletics and activities.

Ms. Erika Sevetson, of 408 New Meadow Road, parent, urged the School Committee to stay the course with their decision to change school start times as the current schedule does not work for everyone.

Mrs. Cassandra Thayer, of 5 Indigo Road, parent, referred to a Letter to the Editor recently published in the Barrington Times that called for collaboration on reasonable and workable solutions rather than pushing for more time to deliberate the benefits of a later school start time.

Mrs. Gina Pine, of 479 New Meadow Road, parent, stated that the funds preliminary allocated for additional transportation should instead be put toward the necessary professional supports in the schools, and expressed concern for the lack of concern for the stress of elementary students with the proposed new school start times.

Dr. Michael Johnson, of 28 Old Chimney Road, parent, commended the School Committee for their decision to change school start times for the benefit of students' health and wellness and expressed his support for moving forward with implementation of the change in school start times.

Mr. Anthony Arico Jr., of 166 Lincoln Avenue, noted that the community will have the opportunity to speak

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

Page 4

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

up regarding the overall budget that includes the additional transportation costs at upcoming Committee on Appropriations meetings as well as at the Financial Town Meeting.

Mr. Paul O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, parent, stressed the importance of democracy and the responsibility of showing up as residents to meetings where decisions are discussed and made, and noted that the discussion on school start times began in 2011 and has continued at the Health and Wellness meetings through this year.

Mr. Nahum Mitnik, of 187 New Meadow Road, Barrington High School Music Teacher, representative for the National Education Association Barrington (NEAB), and parent, expressed concern for the change in school start time impact for early bus pick up times for Grades K-3 students, drop off too close to the beginning of the first class time at Barrington High School, and for how the additional cost for transportation may impact the budget for programs.

Mrs. Anne Merlino, of 15 Mallard Cove Way, parent, pointed to the failure to look at actual studies on the community of Barrington and consideration for changes in curriculum, stress, or a change in socialization that may occur with a change in school start times.

Mrs. Gina Pine provided a follow up comment to encourage use of the funds allocated for additional transportation to be used instead for additional educational support for students in schools to help with student stress and anxiety.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messoro provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including plans to recognize Barrington Middle School and Sowams School as commended schools and explanation of what it means to be a commended school, and plans to develop an informational pamphlet on the Barrington Middle School building project. Mr. Messoro reported on the Suicide Prevention Strategies for Parents Forum that was held on February 23, 2016 at Barrington High School where Dr. Karyn Horowitz and Ms. Leigh Reposa were guest speakers. Information from the event will be made available on the district website.

Mr. Messoro presented an update on the school start time implementation plan, including makeup of the School Start Times Task Force that included building principals and the Athletic Director, continued work on the district's transportation plan, and introduction of the implementation timeline. Mr. Messoro introduced Athletic Director and Director of Student Activities Mr. George Finn, who provided an update to the Committee on his ongoing work relative to the possible adjustment to schedules for athletics and extracurricular activities and the possible impact on outside facility use, transportation, and field lighting. Questions from the Committee included use of alternative facilities, practice and junior varsity schedules, field lighting, student and staff participation in extracurricular activities, economic impact to families, impact to schedule of activities, and district wide transportation.

Old Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Energy Star Compliance was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adopt the policy on Energy Star Compliance.

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

Page 5

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore recommended the appointment of Mr. David Burrows for the position of Director of Technology. Mr. Messore provided a brief overview of Mr. Burrows' educational and professional background, including his ten years with Barrington Public Schools. Mr. Burrows will be present at the next regular School Committee meeting for a formal introduction.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Mr. David Burrows, Director of Technology. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Mrs. Ritza Dulchinos, Accounts Payable. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Ms. Amanda Forte, Primrose Hill School, Kindergarten Intern. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence for Ms. Kara West, Barrington High School, Science Teacher, the resignation of Mr. Ryan Meade, Barrington High School Assistant Boys Varsity Lacrosse Coach, and the retirement of Mrs. Martha DeAngelis, Primrose Hill School, Special Education Teacher.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for January in the amount of \$3,857,714.44. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro reported that one sealed bid proposal was received for 600 Chromebook protective cases for the student assigned devices for the FY2017 and 2018 academic years. Information was provided to the Committee for its reference prior to the meeting. It was recommended by the Administration to award the bid to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Brand Advantage Inc., of Norwood, MA, with a unit price of \$16.50 for FY2017 and a unit price of \$17.00 for FY2018. The purchase will be funded from the Capital Reserve-Technology account. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to defer the bid approval to a future meeting following review of student feedback on the current use of Chromebook protective cases purchased by the district.

Mr. Messore provided an update on school facilities following the inclement weather during the February break that required repairs to Barrington High School and Barrington Middle School.

Mr. Messore provided the Committee with a proposed draft calendar for the 2016-2017 academic year.

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

Page 6

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

Questions from the Committee included consideration for use of a similar calendar narrative to the Howard County (Maryland) Public School System relative to its calendar development, elimination of the February break and recognition of only federal holidays for more continuous learning. The draft calendar presented by the Superintendent, after consultation with and approval by the National Educations Association of Barrington (NEAB) leadership, includes the traditional vacation weeks in February and April. Approval of the 2016-2017 school calendar will be on the next meeting agenda on March 10, 2016.

New Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Naloxone was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. Mrs. Dillon noted that adoption of the policy is a requirement by the State of Rhode Island for middle schools and high schools. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for March 10, 2016.

Decision Items

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for March 10, 2016 will feature a Pupil Personnel report, and updates on the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Response to Intervention (RTI) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). Mrs. Brody asked that the update on STEAM be moved to the March 23, 2016 School Committee agenda.

Mrs. Brody noted that the next meeting agenda will include discussion and possible vote on the school start time implementation plan.

The bid approval for the Chromebook protective cases for the student assigned devices for the FY2017 and 2018 academic years will be included on a future agenda.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced that February 29, 2016 is a Professional Day in the district. The Building Committee will meet next on February 29, 2016 and on March 7, 2016. Barrington High School will host a regional Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) meeting on April 4, 2016.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Lisa Daft provided a follow up comment to share information from a sports administration study published in 2012 that documents the positive impact on academic performance for students who participate in athletics, athletes, and expressed concern for the possible dismissal of student athletes to participate in scheduled sports activities after school, and possible additional transportation for athletics that may not be included in the current budget.

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

Page 7

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/25/2016

Dr. Scott Douglas provided a follow up comment to encourage the School Committee to not rebuild the small problems, but instead to figure out the large issues and expressed his support for a concerted communication effort.

Mr. Philip Freshman, of 19 Short Road, parent, asked the School Committee to reconsider a communication plan on school start times that includes measurement of success, and studies before and after a change in start times to determine goals and identify benchmarks to avoid any grey areas of understanding.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus provided a follow up comment to confirm that the School Committee will consider a vote to postpone change to school start times for one year.

Mr. Jason Leigh provided a follow up comment to applaud the School Committee for their questions this evening on the school start time implementation plan but noted that it is late in the process, and hopes that the many questions can be addressed and true costs can be represented in the budget. Mr. Leigh also asked, since there are no days off in March, if days off in the school calendar could be spread out.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:15 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; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:45 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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

Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:46 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Clancy voting in the affirmative for the motion.