

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

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**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 04/14/2016**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, and 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 Computer/Network Technician Michael Fallgren.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Representative Joy Hearn, District 66, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District:

Barrington Middle School Grade 7 student Clara Kugler will represent Barrington Middle School at the Rhode Island National Geographic Geography Bee.

Barrington Middle School Science Olympiad Team placed first in the 2016 Rhode Island Science Olympiad competition and will represent Rhode Island at the national competition in Wisconsin in May. The team is led by Barrington Middle School Science teacher Ms. Rebecca Ferry.

Barrington High School Science Olympiad Team placed first in the 2016 Rhode Island Science Olympiad competition and will represent Rhode Island at the national competition in Wisconsin in May. The team is led by Barrington High School Science teachers Ms. Kara West and Ms. Sonalya Jayasuriya.

Barrington Middle School and High School Students won several awards at the Rhode Island State Science Fair, including four of the top Best in Fair awards.

Hampden Meadows School Grade 4 Student Grant Culton competed as one of 12 students from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont in the Grand Finale of the inaugural U.S. Banagrams Challenge.

The top ten students from the Barrington Calculus Bowl competed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Rhode Island Calculus Bowl. The team of Andrew Sheinberg, Conor Mc Gartoll, Michael Lamontagne, Daniel Sheinberg, and Jonny Zhang placed first, giving BHS its second straight win. The second team of Colin Patton, Geoff Huang, Ethan Wold, Wanqing Li, and Michael Chung won their heat and made it to the final round.

Barrington High School LifeSmarts team members earned top awards at the National Consumers League's competition in Denver: Team Captain, Junior Eli Shea is the National Consumer Rights and Responsibilities

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Champion; Sophomore Michael Lamontagne is the National Environment Champion; Junior Andrew Sheinberg is third in the nation in Personal Finance; Senior Ian Fitzgerald is third in the nation in Health and Safety; and Freshman Daniel Sheinberg is fifth in the nation in Technology. The team overall advanced to the final 16. The team is coached by Barrington Math Teacher Mr. Samuel Schachter.

The Committee agreed to move the agenda item on the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee out of order to hear from Representative Joy Hearn, District 66, on the timeline for the legislative process as it relates to the BMS building project. Representative Hearn stressed the importance of having a bill submitted to the General Assembly by the end of May to ensure that it is placed into the pipeline for a floor vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to the end of the current legislative session in June, 2016. Representative Hearn noted that there were multiple bills, including sponsored legislation, that were not heard in the last legislative session due to its adjournment in early June, 2015. Discussion ensued on the approval process by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDA) and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, whether a final dollar amount on the project is needed for the legislation, and the best approach to meet the May deadline, including providing information to the Town Council for approval of a resolution in support of legislation at its May 2, 2016 meeting. The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2016.

**Information and Proposals**

Mrs. Dillon presented an overview of the summer learning program opportunities for K-12 students in the District including curriculum based activities at each grade level and virtual learning. The Barrington High School summer school is available to students for both credit recovery and for those not demonstrating proficiency in core coursework. Mrs. Dillon highlighted the summer bridge program, enhanced reporting mechanisms, and new funding requirements. Questions from the Committee included cost to the District for summer programming, project based learning, communication to students and families, eligibility requirements for the summer bridge program, and whether college credit courses are offered during the summer. Barrington High School will hold a Parents Night on April 28, 2016 on the Advanced Coursework Network and Internship Program.

Mrs. Dillon provided information on the District's work with Solution Tree and assessment literacy, including review of key objectives and critical success factors, the organizational review process, accomplishments, measurement and evaluation, and next steps including the transition from training with Solution Tree to training in District. Mrs. Dillon highlighted the collaborative work with other public school districts to form the East Bay Professional Learning Community that was launched to develop a culture of assessment literacy through ongoing focused professional learning. The eight districts, including Barrington, had their work acknowledged in a published article in the *Journal of Staff Development*. Questions from the Committee including the decision making process on in District training versus Solution Tree training and assessment of the depth of expertise of district educators.

Mrs. Dillon provided a report on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Global Learning Network Rhode Island Regional Meeting held on April 4, 2016 at Barrington High School (BHS). The regional meeting included Rhode Island schools from Westerly and Pawtucket, and Sturgis Charter Public School in Hyannis, Massachusetts. BHS Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley presented on Reading, and facilitator Dr. Jack Dale, former Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, led the OECD teams in analyzing data. The meeting offered opportunities for future collaboration among districts, including plans for

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BHS to visit the Sturgis Charter Public School's International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

No issues were raised at this time.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Guida provided an update on the ongoing work of the Barrington Middle School Building Committee including the status of the Stage II application, the recently updated enrollment data from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) with a projected enrollment of 840 students, and work that has already begun with the newly appointed Owner's Project Manager and Commissioning Agent. Upcoming meetings include a Building Committee meeting on April 25, 2016, and an abutters informational meeting on April 26, 2016. Discussion ensued on the ambitious timeline for project approval by RIDE and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, and a possible change in strategy relative to the timeline for a presentation to the Town Council in light of the information learned from Representative Hearn earlier this evening.

Mr. Tarro provided an update on the recent meeting with the Committee on Appropriations (COA) held on April 12, 2016, including discussion of the \$265,000 transportation line item in the proposed 2016-2017 school operating budget. The COA has requested a meeting with the Administration and a School Committee representative on May 3, 2016. Mr. Messor reported on initial survey data and ongoing work of the District and bus company to identify efficiencies to address concerns on the length of bus runs and early morning bus pick up times. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to hear additional information at its regular meeting on April 28, 2016 to then provide a recommendation to the Administration on the budget line item for transportation.

Mr. Messor presented a draft rubric for use as an objective tool for the population of the School Start Times Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. The Committee offered initial feedback that included clarification of the criteria to support the decision for a later start time, logistical concern for the availability of members during the summer months, and how specific criteria will be measured with the blind scoring component of the process. Mr. Messor invited the Committee to provide additional feedback directly to him and the revised draft document will be presented for Committee approval at its regular meeting on April 28, 2016.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Dr. Shea led the continued discussion on membership of the Health and Wellness Committee. Currently, the majority of the current membership is made up of non-District employees and four District employees. The Committee discussed a proposal to add representatives from each school for a total of 10 District employees and then, for balance, include at least 11 non-District employees. Dr. Shea noted the comments from long standing members about the potential for overcorrection of efforts of the last few months that have arisen since the recent discussions on school start times. Mrs. Dillon noted that a change in membership would require a change in policy, since the Health and Wellness Committee has statutory responsibilities. The Committee also discussed the importance of continuing the open and informal meeting environment format, the opportunity to rethink its mission for District needs now, a new meeting time to allow for greater staff and student participation, and increased communication to the community on the work of the Health and Wellness

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Committee. Mr. Messore noted that the success of the Health and Wellness Committee is due to the leadership of Dr. Shea as Chair, including his support of the open dialogue meeting format, and agreed that it may need a strengthened focus on communication. The Committee commended Dr. Shea for his leadership and longstanding service on the Health and Wellness Committee.

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence for Mr. Gino Sangiuliano, Primrose Hill School, Enrichment Specialist/Literacy Coach, a continuance request permitted by Rhode Island General Laws Section 16-13-3 for a current District administrator to be granted a leave of absence from a teaching position.

Mr. Messore announced the retirement of Mrs. Martha Johnston, Sowams School, Grade 2 Teacher.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for home schooling for the named individual. The student name was not identified publicly. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Tarro highlighted line items that are over budget in the current budget that require continued close monitoring, including out of district tuition, and items such as services from the Department of Public Works that require a transfer in journal entries. The District is on target overall to end the fiscal year under budget by approximately \$145,000. The Committee commended Mr. Tarro for his strong fiscal accountability and management expertise.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for March in the amount of \$3,859,418.69. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Tarro reported that one sealed bid had been received for consultant services for a communications/media specialist. The Committee was provided a memo and bid tabulation sheet prior to the meeting. It is the recommendation of the Administration to award the bid to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Horan Communications LLC, of Boston, Massachusetts for an hourly rate not to exceed \$175 per hour. Mr. Tarro noted that Horan Communication has a tier rate system, with \$175 as the maximum rate per hour, and that he will clarify the contract specifics to ensure that the District needs are being met with the contract.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to award the bid for consultant services for communications/media specialist to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Horan Communications LLC, of Boston, Massachusetts for an hourly rate not to exceed \$175 per hour. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on District Strategic Communication Plan priorities. The Committee agreed that the two top priority issues are the Barrington Middle School building project and school start times and that the district website is an integral component of both priorities. When a workshop to discuss strategic

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objectives is scheduled, the Committee will review in detail the District Strategic Communication Plan and additional opportunities for improvement, including the District website.

**Decision Items**

No decision items were presented at this time.

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016 will feature a Strategic Plan update and evaluation of programs.

Mrs. Brody requested an update on the Grade 6 Mathematics curriculum at Barrington Middle School and plans for next steps as part of the program evaluation update on April 28, 2016.

**Announcements**

Mrs. Dillon announced that the District, for the second straight year, will participate on the Mathematics Networked Improvement Committee (MathNIC) initiative over the April break in California. Barrington is the only District on the East Coast to have been invited to participate in the cohort. Representing the District will be Mrs. Dillon, Barrington High School (BHS) Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley, Barrington Middle School (BMS) Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson, BHS Mathematics Department Chair Mr. Robert Marley, BMS Mathematics Specialist Ms. Megan Crossman, BHS Mathematics teachers Ms. Lisa Mendo and Mr. John Sexton, and BMS Mathematics teacher Ms. Danielle Teoli.

Mrs. Dillon announced that the District is currently in round two in the process for recognition as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Exemplar Program through the P21 Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning organization. Mrs. Dillon is seeking School Committee participation in the scheduled visit on May 5, 2016. The District is also in round two of the process as a candidate for a grant award from the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) for the addition of a makerspace at Barrington High School.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, stressed the importance to report to the Committee on Appropriations the necessary funding for the District priority on transportation efficiencies.

Mr. Anthony Arico Jr., of 166 Lincoln Avenue, noted that there are upcoming Committee on Appropriations meetings to discuss the school and town budgets, and encouraged the addition of a Barrington Boosters member on the School Start Times Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:00 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.**

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**Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:19 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 Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:20 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.**