

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

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Minutes of School Committee Meeting 04/28/2016

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:32 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, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Elizabeth Levesque. Mrs. Brody introduced Barrington High School Sophomore Michael Sangiuliano who served as videographer for the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Michael Sangiuliano led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District:

Barrington High School is a Gold Medal winner in the 2016 U.S. News and World Report annual Best High School rankings, placing second in Rhode Island and 400th nationally. Among the top 500 schools, Barrington High School also ranked 144th in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Barrington High School Junior Molly Littman won four writing awards this year for her playwriting including the Asheville National 10-Minute Play Contest and Festival where her play "Beatrix" was selected as one of ten plays for production; Ms. Littman was awarded first prize in the Hollins University High School 10 Minute Play Contest, an Honorable Mention for the Scholastic Art and Writing Award Northeast Region-at-Large, and a 2016 Young Playwrights Festival Top Finalist from the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore presented a progress report on the District Strategic Plan that included strategy, action steps, and scope of work. Mr. Messore noted that he will review and address priorities at the May 19 School Committee meeting after the Committee has had an opportunity to review the progress report. Mr. Messore reported on his recent meeting and discussion on strategic goals with Mrs. Brody and Mr. James Marini, former Superintendent of Schools in Newton, Massachusetts and consultant with the New Superintendent Induction Program, Massachusetts District Governance Project. The Committee discussed initial next steps including consideration of a summer workshop to explore work on a proposed new approach with strategic objectives; strategic objectives would incorporate targeted goals with measurable outcomes that focus on core academic and social emotional goals and impact student achievement and development. The Committee requested that Mr. Messore provide additional information relative to the strategic objectives governance model at the next meeting.

Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon presented information on the program evaluation process including data

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analysis on enrollment, course offerings, student needs and interests, and budgeting. Mrs. Dillon provided examples of the programs evaluated and highlighted the upcoming visit by a group from the P21 Partnership for 21st Century Learning as the District is in round two in the process for recognition as a 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program. Mrs. Dillon also reported on the Barrington Middle School Grade 7 Mathematics program and next steps, including plans for summer learning and ongoing communication with parents. Questions from the Committee included measurement of student achievement, parent and community communication, and the introduction and promotion of district wide programs to the student population, especially for new elective courses at Barrington High School.

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 (BMS) Building Committee. Recent Building Committee meetings were held on April 25, 2016 and with the BMS building abutters on April 26, 2016. The Building Committee noted its support for including an Auditorium in the plans for the new Barrington Middle School, as strong support for an Auditorium has been identified as a priority by community members. The Building Committee, at its May 9, 2016 meeting, expects to make a recommendation to the School Committee relative to the project cost. Upcoming state level meetings are occurring in early May, and the School Committee will hold a joint meeting with the Barrington Town Council on May 12, 2016 to request the endorsement of a resolution in support of legislation for a bond referendum on the November, 2016 ballot. The Building Committee is working closely with the Owner's Project Manager to identify savings in the proposed building project. Mr. Tarro also reported on the work with the Kaestle Boos Associates marketing team to develop a comprehensive communications plan, including frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a website for the BMS building project.

Mr. Tarro provided a budget update and reported on the communication from the Committee on Appropriations (COA) on its reduction of \$634,331 to the proposed 2016-2017 school operating budget. Mr. Tarro reported on the adjustments to attrition, medical insurance, and labor contracts that total \$216,531, leaving a \$417,800 variance with the COA recommended proposed budget. Mr. Messoro reported on the ongoing work with the bus transportation company including three items for Committee consideration: an annual registration system for bus ridership, consolidation of current bus stops to achieve efficiencies, and the addition of one bus to potentially alleviate the two current longest runs as identified with current data. The Committee discussed the cost of one or two additional buses and bus monitors, the possible additional reductions to the transportation line item in the budget, and remaining committed to the goal to reduce bus run times and reduce bus stop pickups that are too early, i.e. before 7a.m. Following discussion,

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to approve a reduction of \$145,000 in the transportation budget and direct the Administration to forward the adjusted proposed operating budget to the Committee on Appropriations. 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.

Mr. Tarro noted that the total variance with the adjustment is \$272,800, and the adjusted proposed operating

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budget is \$48,031,198 representing a 1.83% in spending and a net increase to taxpayers of 1.39%.

Mr. Messore presented the draft selection criteria document for population of the School Start Times (SST) Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. Dr. Shea and Mrs. Clancy volunteered to serve on the selection committee along with Mr. Messore and members of the Administration team. Mr. Messore stated that a press release is planned for next week on the SST Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

Old Business from School Committee

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

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Michael Curry, Barrington High School, Assistant Coach Boys Lacrosse. 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 approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Greg Graham, Barrington High School, Head Coach Boys Basketball. 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 approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Dennis Kloc, Barrington High School, Sailing Club Advisor. 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. Messore announced the leave of absence for Mrs. Patricia Tolento, Hampden Meadows School, Head Teacher and Math Specialist, 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. Natalie Stein, Barrington Middle School, Guidance Counselor, and thanked Mrs. Stein for her many years of service. Mr. Messore also announced the retirement of Mrs. Susan Healy-Mills, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, and expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Healy-Mills' many years of leadership and advocacy for students. The Committee thanked both Mrs. Stein and Mrs. Healy-Mills for their service.

New Business from School Committee

The Committee agreed to defer the policy revision first reading for the Technology Resources Responsible Use Policy to the next regular School Committee meeting on May 19, 2016, to allow for further review of the legal counsel recommendations by the Policy Committee.

The National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) contract for September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2019 was presented for discussion and approval. Mrs. Brody reported that the overall negotiation process was

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smooth and collaborative resulting in a fair compensation package.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the three year (2016-2019) National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) contract as proposed by the negotiating team.

The Committee acknowledged Mr. Tarro's significant contribution to the negotiation process and his collaborative work with legal counsel Mr. Benjamin Scungio.

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.

In response to a question from Mr. Guida, Mr. Alessandro noted that he felt many items were not addressed and that the focus was not where it should have been in the contract.

The United Steelworkers contract for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 was presented for discussion and approval. Mrs. Brody thanked Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro for their work on negotiations with the United Steelworkers.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the three year (2016-2019) United Steelworkers contract as proposed by the negotiating team. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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 Thursday, May 19, 2016 will feature updates from the BAY Team and Barrington High School Student Assistance Counselor Mrs. Joanne Royley, and continued discussion on the District Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Brody noted that the next meeting on May 19, 2016 will include a report from the Health and Wellness Committee.

Announcements

The Budget Hearing will be held on May 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Barrington Middle School and the Financial Town Meeting will be held on May 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Barrington High School.

Mr. Alessandro announced the Hampden Meadows School Tough Tiger event scheduled for May 1, 2016.

Mrs. Dillon announced that on May 5, 2016, individuals from the P21 Partnership for 21st Century Learning

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organization will be in District for a day long site visit that will include a meeting with the Central Office Administration, visit to all six schools, and a meeting with the members of the School Committee, parents, and community partners. The District is currently in round two in the process for recognition as a 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program.

Mrs. Dillon announced that on May 19, 2016 Monica Martinez from Stanford University will be in District for the first strategic planning session on deeper learning. Barrington is one of eight districts that is working on Deeper Learning Models with Monica Martinez.

Mrs. Brody announced that the Committee on Appropriations has requested a meeting with the Administration and a School Committee representative on May 3, 2016. Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore, and Mr. Tarro are scheduled to attend that meeting.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, stressed that the reduction to the transportation line item in the proposed budget is more than a good faith effort and that it should be conveyed to the Committee on Appropriations that the District has been operating with an artificially low transportation budget for years.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus, of 1 Howard Street, parent, asked what will happen to the fields and where will student-athletes play during construction of the new Barrington Middle School building project. Mr. Rimoshytus also asked what will happen to the funds allocated in the budget for buses if it is not used, and how many cents on the dollar is the budget impact to taxpayers.

Mrs. Pamela Lauria, of 56 Martin Avenue, parent, stated that the addition of two buses may not meet the goals to reduce run times and eliminate bus stop pickup times that are too early. Mrs. Lauria stressed that many Barrington High School students are getting to school too early before classes begin.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus asked how much money the Rhode Island Department of Education has put aside for school building projects in Rhode Island. Mr. Guida noted that the exact number is not known as it is subject to approval of projects by the Rhode Island Department of Education's School Building Authority.

Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, parent, thanked the Committee for standing up for a real auditorium for the new Barrington Middle School building project, and expressed frustration for the discussion on bus transportation as it is not putting families' needs first.

Mrs. Brody noted that an Executive Session would not be needed this evening as the Committee ratified the contracts for the National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) and United Steelworkers earlier in the meeting.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:50 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.