

Minutes of School Committee Policy Workshop 08/12/2015

A policy workshop of the Barrington School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at the Barrington High School Library. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro.

New Business

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Debra DePietro, HS, Physics. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Lelia Leite, HS, Theatre Technical Director.

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

Mr. Tarro described the progress of the roofing project at Barrington High School. He indicated that there is still some question regarding the extent of the damage caused by the construction and that the district will seek to be reimbursed through Liberty Roofing's insurance for any damages sustained as a result of the project. Mr. Tarro also reported that the two projects underway at the Primrose Hill Elementary School – the parking lot reconfiguration and playground construction – are in their final stages and should be completed by the beginning of the school year. Other, smaller projects in the school district are taking place as planned.

Policy Workshop

Mrs. Brody began the discussion by noting that the school district's existing policy document is 300 pages long, has no search function and consists of 12 different categories of policies. She observed that, in evaluating best practice relative to policy frameworks, other formats appear to be more streamlined, such as that in East Greenwich, with 10 categories in a searchable format. Mrs. Brody indicated that it would benefit the district to have a numeric, searchable organization framework, including the archive function, for its policies. Mrs. Dillon, who was part of East Greenwich's policy streamlining, provided an overview of that district's reorganization efforts. Dr. Shea pointed out some limitations in the search function in East Greenwich's approach. Mrs. Brody stated that the reorganization would require time and effort, and reminded Committee members that comments related to better electronic communication, including website revision, were provided during the strategic planning process and that web site reorganization is on the Superintendent's list of goals for the school district as a whole. Mrs. Brody stated that the current website format is insufficient to accommodate best practice options for policy frameworks. Mr. Messore stated that two concerns he would like to address are the different options for managing and hosting the new web site and the yearly cost associated with moving to a different format. Mr. Guida pointed out that the new site would represent a new design and construct, and Mrs. Dillon

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indicated that templates that can be modified locally are available to school districts. Dr. Shea shared feedback relative to his experience with a Blackboard hosted website at Bryant University. Mrs. Brody suggested that, in the interests of an efficient process for the review and management of district policy, a standing group comprised of a School Committee member, a central office representative, the Superintendent and, as needed, a rotating Administration and/or School Committee member, can be tasked with the responsibility of meeting on a monthly basis and reviewing policies for approval by the School Committee. Mrs. Brody and Mrs. Dillon volunteered to serve in that capacity.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to ask the Superintendent to explore options for a new website. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Review of Barrington Public Schools Policies

1. Barrington Health and Wellness Policy (HIAMD): Dr. Shea described the development of the wellness policy, with particular regard to celebrations during school. Mrs. Dillon stated that any requested food celebrations will need to go through Chartwells, which will have a special menu for families to choose from. Dr. Shea pointed out that the policy focuses on the school day only and noted that the policy revision will be reviewed by the Health and Wellness Committee at its September 2, 2015 meeting.
2. Food Allergies Policy (IHA): Dr. Shea stated that the food allergies policy will now extend to all grades and that allergy-related information is now going to be embedded in Aspen. The policy revision will be reviewed by the Health and Wellness Committee at its September 2, 2015 meeting.
3. Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program Policy: Mrs. Dillon stated that she received from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education suggested language regarding potential scholarship funding for the proposed language for dual and concurrent enrollment. Mrs. Dillon will incorporate the suggested changes into the policy that will appear in front of the Committee on August 27.

Introduction of New Policies

1. Tutoring for Pay Policy: Mrs. Brody stated that a review of best practice for the facilities use policy brought to light the need for consideration of guidelines for teachers' use of facilities for private tutoring, and referenced Fairfax County's (Virginia) policy on this topic. The Administration continues its work with the Town Manager relative to the facilities use policy. Mrs. Brody stated that this policy references elective tutoring outside regular school hours. Mr. Messor reported that in the past, some students received music lessons from external private teachers on school property and that the teachers were charged for using school facilities. He stated that it is important to have equity and consistency with policy implementation and that it is only fair that teachers who are working as tutors on a contracting basis outside the school day should also pay for using school facilities. Mrs. Dillon stated that the new policy clarifies for parents that teachers are working on an independent contractual basis and not as school employees. The policy can also contain a link

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to the section of Rhode Island General Law related to facility use. This policy will appear before the School Committee on August 27.

2. Selection of Ad Hoc Committees and School Committee Advisory Committees from the Community: Mrs. Brody discussed best practice guidelines for selecting the ad hoc committees that can address different topics consistent with the District Strategic Plan. Dr. Dominguez suggested that a structured mechanism be put into place to recruit members of the community, in a way similar to how volunteers are recruited for school events and activities. Mr. Messoro indicated that the process that the district's volunteer coordinator Mrs. Tracey Orchard follows is straightforward and would be an option for consideration. The Administration will consult with Mrs. Orchard and incorporate suggestions for volunteer recruitment in a policy revision for future approval by the School Committee.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the policy workshop at 8:06 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.