

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 08/27/2015**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, August 27, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Dr. Shea, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida and Mrs. Dillon.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Dr. Robert Shea and Dr. Paula Dominguez, and Student Representative Katharine Odjakjian. Mr. John Alessandro and Mr. Patrick Guida were absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff present: Superintendent Michael Messore, Director of Administration and Finance Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Elizabeth Levesque. Mrs. Paula Dillon was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Dominguez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Mrs. Colleen Deluski, Barrington Middle School Special Education Teacher, has been named the 2015 District Teacher of the Year.

Barrington High School is ranked number one on the High School Report Card by Rhode Island Monthly in its September 2015 issue.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. Messore provided a summary of the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative, initially made available to the district through a grant by the Rhode Island Department of Education that focused on building leadership capacity through training teacher leaders and exploring compensation models. The grant funding has ended and the district has made the decision to continue with a program made up of voluntary participation to utilize LEAPP strategies in the classroom, build culture and teacher interest. Questions from the Committee included cost to maintain the initiative and how teacher leaders' expertise is supported in the district.

Mr. Messore provided a brief overview of the professional development scheduled for the 2015-2016 academic year that includes six focus areas: the integration of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Grades K-5, assessment literacy, technology integration and argumentative writing for all grade levels, K-12 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), and a focus on deeper learning. Discussion and questions from the Committee included multi-district collaboration, the issue of student stress, and the request to hear more in depth on all areas of professional development.

The Committee held a discussion on the tentative meeting dates and topics for the 2015-2016 academic year that includes workshops to be held quarterly and meetings scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. The calendar of tentative dates and topics will be posted to the district website.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

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Mrs. Kathleen Crain, of 11 Briarfield Road, expressed concern regarding the school calendar with Barrington students beginning the school year earlier and finishing later than most districts in Rhode Island, as well as the temperature in classrooms that are not air-conditioned and the impact on teaching and learning. Mrs. Crain also addressed concerns relative to the need for greater depth of differentiated instruction at the lower grade levels. Mr. Messore listed a number of considerations that are factored into the school calendar including seven professional development days and major religious holidays. Mr. Messore also reported that work has started on tying student learning to the curriculum versus a grade.

Mrs. Maraidh Thomson, of 3 Ridgeland Road, stressed the need for equity across the district relating to student enrollment, as Nayatt School currently has a much larger number of students than the Sowams School causing classroom sizes to be much larger at Nayatt. Mr. Messore stated that the Administration continually monitors student enrollment and reevaluates the allocation of existing resources to meet teaching and learning needs.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Tarro reported that the Barrington Middle School Building Subcommittee met on August 11, 2015 with the attorney for feedback on the contract document with Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA). Once the contract document is finalized, the Building Committee will meet as a whole to then make a recommendation to the School Committee. Questions from the Committee include an estimated timeline for a recommendation to the School Committee and clarification on the timeline imposed by the School Building Authority. Mr. Tarro confirmed that it is his expectation that the Building Committee will meet the October 1, 2015 deadline for the Letter of Intent for a major projects program.

Mr. Tarro reported that the planning and visioning process for the Barrington Middle School building project will begin on September 16-17, 2015 with Dr. Frank Locker, educational planner. The planning sessions will include up to 50 individuals, 25 from the school side and 25 from the community including Town of Barrington representatives. A closing visioning session is also scheduled for October 2, 2015. Mr. Tarro asked the Committee for input on the recruitment process for population of the planning and visioning work group. The Committee asked the Administration to consult with KBA, in consideration of its expertise with prior educational building projects, for support on the process.

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro provided a report on the district enrollment for Grades K-5 that included actual enrollment comparisons to district budget projections and New England School Development Council (NESDEC) projections. Mrs. Brody invited members of the public to address the Committee at this time. Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, asked about the overall enrollment numbers for Barrington Middle School and Barrington High School, and Mr. Tarro provided the data. Discussion ensued on how to allocate resources to best support increased enrollment following Mrs. Thomson's question on allocation of resources in regard to teacher assistants, buses, and lunch monitors.

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, noting the communication shared with parents over the summer months relative to student bus transportation and 1:1 technology implementation at Barrington High School. Mr. Messore also reported on his initial research on the exploration of a new district website design including potential costs; it was the consensus of the School Committee at the Policy Planning Workshop that the current format of the district website is insufficient to accommodate best practice options. The Committee agreed to hold a discussion at a future meeting relative to a possible new website design once a proposal is received by Mr. Messore.

Mr. Tarro reported that the Budget Forecasting Committee met on August 26, 2015 to discuss and review NESDEC projections, actual enrollment, and assumptions relative to state aid funding. This Committee will

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meet next on October 14, 2015 at which time Mr. Tarro and Ms. Kathy Raposa, Town of Barrington Finance Director, will present additional information for rolling out the projected town budget document.

**Old Business from School Committee**

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

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Sara Kelley, NA, Special Education Teacher Assistant. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Cynthia Lucock, HS, Geometry. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore noted that this is part of a shared position for Geometry at Barrington High School. Mrs. Lucock will teach classes in the morning, and Mr. Jason Appel will teach classes in the afternoon.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Lynn Rathbone, NA, Teacher Assistant. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence for Mrs. Sara Cabral, HM, Grade 5; and the resignations of Mrs. Sally Collins, MS, Guidance Clerk; Mrs. Rosemarie Gillooly, MS, Reading Specialist; Mr. Christopher Keller, HS, Girls Basketball Assistant Coach; and Mr. Robert Perry, HS, Latin.

**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 individual. The student name was not identified publicly. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for June in the amount of \$7,712,511.68. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for July in the amount of \$1,290,863.24. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Tarro reported that four sealed bid proposals were received for physical therapy services. 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, Bristol County Rehabilitation Services Inc., of Middletown, RI, for a period of three years with options for two additional one year extensions.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to award the bid for physical therapy services to**

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**the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Bristol County Rehabilitation Services Inc., of Middletown, RI, for a period of three years with options for two additional one year extensions. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody announced the resignation of School Committee Vice Chair, Dr. Paula S. Dominguez. Dr. Dominguez thanked members of the Committee and Administration, expressing her honor to serve on the Committee, and the Committee and Administration in turn commended and thanked Dr. Dominguez for her service. Dr. Dominguez has accepted a new position at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College and will move to Sharon, Massachusetts. Mrs. Brody read aloud the policy on School Committee Member Resignation and noted that the Town Council will next determine the timeline for a special election to fill the School Committee vacancy.

The School Committee policy revision on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment was read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next School Committee meeting scheduled for September 10, 2015.

The first reading of the School Committee policy on Tutoring for Pay was tabled for the next School Committee meeting scheduled for September 10, 2015.

**Decision Items**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messoro reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for September 10, 2015 will feature updates on athletics and student activities, the School Resource Officer program initiative, and graduation requirements.

Dr. Dominguez requested results from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) testing by Barrington High School students be made public as soon as they are available.

**Announcements**

No announcements were presented at this time.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

No issues were raised at this time.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:35 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**