

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/10/2015

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, 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, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Barrington Police Officer Josh Melo led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Nine Barrington High School students have earned the distinction of 2016 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists: Quentin Duyck, Isabelle Rea, Nina Regan, Ian Sabula, Huanglizhi Sheng, Vivian Tian, Emma Vorenberg, Samuel Whitman, and Ethan Wold.

Barrington Middle School has been recognized with a Spotlight School Award by the New England League of Middle Schools. Barrington Middle School is one of three middle schools in Rhode Island, and one of 34 middle schools in New England, to receive this recognition.

Barrington Public Schools Pupil Personnel Services has been recognized by the Rhode Island Department of Education's Office of Student, Community, and Academic Supports for reaching 100% compliance during the 2013-2014 academic year on the State Performance Plan/Annual Report Performance Report, Early Childhood Transition, and for the high percentage of child outreach screenings.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson who presented information on the Barrington Middle School Grade 8 field trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2015 that included 190 students. Dr. Anderson noted that one of the major benefits of the trip was that it served as a significant bonding experience for the Barrington High School Class of 2019. Presenters also included Barrington Middle School Physical Education Teacher Stuart Moran, and current Barrington High School freshman Sydney Polando, who shared experiences from the trip as well as a video. Dr. Anderson also shared plans for a possible trip for this year's Grade 8 students.

Information and Proposals

Mr. George Finn, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, provided a comprehensive overview for athletics and student activities for the 2014-2015 academic year. Mr. Finn highlighted the athletic teams and individual accomplishments, the 38 clubs and activities, and continuation of Unified Theater Program. Discussion and questions from the Committee included how students can form a club and the financial

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challenges for when students compete at the national and international level. Ms. Odjakjian noted that student activities are a great part of the high school experience.

Mr. Messore reported on the School Resource Officer (SRO) program initiative and introduced Barrington Police Chief John LaCross, Barrington Police Officer and SRO Josh Melo, and Barrington High School Principal Joseph Hurley who provided feedback on the initiative to date, the impact to all schools, and plans to continue building relationships within the school community. Questions from the Committee included the selection and training process, and consideration of a process for evaluation of the program initiative. Mrs. Brody shared feedback from Barrington High School student Joshua Romano on the successful connections already made with the SRO.

Mrs. Dillon provided an update on graduation requirements as a follow up to the report by Mr. Messore and the discussion held at the last School Committee meeting on August 27, 2015. The update included how information on the new graduation tiers will be shared with students and parents, and on the supports in place for students to achieve their personal best.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mr. Joel Hellmann, of 13 Richmond Avenue, commented on the support for the graduation requirements for Barrington High School noting that the information reported is not all true as he explained his children's recent experiences in the district.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Guida reported that the Barrington Middle School Building Subcommittee met this evening prior to the School Committee meeting to review the draft contract document with Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA). Next steps will include providing additional feedback to the attorney to finalize the agreement. Mr. Tarro added that the insurance company will also be contacted to review insurance requirements. The Subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on September 28, 2015 and the entire Building Committee on October 5, 2015. The planning and visioning sessions are set to begin on September 16-17, 2015 with the closing visioning session on October 2, 2015.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the work completed to date relative to school start times as he continues to work with a transportation consultant. The Committee has planned a school start times workshop on October 1, 2015.

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, noting that a proposal for a possible new website design has not yet been received from Blackboard. Mr. Messore has discussed with Mrs. Katie Miller, Director of Technology, the possibility of creating online forms and digitizing the student registration process.

Old Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy revision on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval. Mrs. Brody noted that the policy was approved on June 18, 2015 and that the Rhode Island Department of Education has since issued new guidelines that warranted a revision to the policy.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy revisions on Dual and Concurrent

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

As a follow up to the presentation by Mr. Messoro at the last School Committee meeting held on August 27, 2015, Mrs. Dillon shared additional details about the Lead, Educate, and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative 2014-2015 report. Discussion ensued on training sessions, continued collaboration, goals for the program including classroom walkthroughs, teacher support, and connecting work to Solution Tree and school improvement plans.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messoro announced the resignation of Mrs. Maggy Rose Bell, School Psychologist.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the requests for home schooling for the named individuals. The student names were not identified publicly. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy revision on Health and Wellness was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. Mrs. Brody thanked Dr. Shea and the Health and Wellness Committee for their collaborative work with Mr. Messoro and Mrs. Dillon on the policy revisions. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2015.

The School Committee policy revision on Food Allergies was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2015. The Committee agreed to include draft policies in the School Committee Briefs for public review.

The School Committee policy on Tutoring for Pay was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2015.

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on the proposed plan for a Joint Legislative Breakfast with a target date in the fall of 2015 as a follow up to the Joint Legislative Breakfast held earlier in the year. As a result of discussions at the Town Council's recent meeting, a meeting date of January, 2016 date was suggested. Mrs. Brody asked the Committee if a breakfast meeting date in November or December would be feasible. Following discussion, Mrs. Brody agreed to communicate with the Town Clerk on suggested meeting dates.

Mrs. Brody noted the importance of the role of School Committee Vice Chair in School Committee governance and referenced School Committee Policy BDB, School Committee Officers. The policy states that when the Clerk/Vice Chairperson is absent, a clerk *pro tem* shall be appointed by the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson; Mrs. Brody proposed the appointment of Dr. Shea as Vice Chair. The Committee was in agreement. A special election for the vacated seat on the School Committee will be determined by the Rhode Island Board of Elections.

Decision Items

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No decision items were presented at this time.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the School Committee is next scheduled to meet on October 1, 2015 for a School Start Times Workshop.

Mr. Messore requested that the proposed agenda item on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) be moved to later in the academic year. The Committee agreed to move that agenda item from October 15, 2015 to March 10, 2016.

Mr. Alessandro requested a future agenda to include discussion on job descriptions for central office personnel.

Mrs. Brody addressed a previous request from Mr. Alessandro relative to policy review and dissemination, and referenced the current policies on Policy Adoption, Policy Dissemination, and Suspension of Policies.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced that the school open houses will begin next week on September 16, 2015 at the Nayatt, Primrose Hill, and Sowams schools, and on September 17, 2015 at Barrington High School.

Dr. Shea announced that the Rhode Island Healthy School Coalition Breakfast for School Leaders Symposium 2015 is scheduled for September 24, 2015.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, remarked that the communication from the Administration has been outstanding and asked if the future agenda items document referenced by the Committee would be available on the district website. Mrs. Brody responded that the tentative dates and topics document is available on the district website and that the future agenda items document is an internal working document.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:20 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 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, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:46 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.