

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 10/15/2015

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, October 15, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Guida, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Tarro. Mr. Alessandro arrived at 7:25 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Carrie Clegg led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

On September 29, 2015, the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that Nayatt School was one of three schools in Rhode Island to receive the prestigious 2015 National Blue Ribbon School recognition.

Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander, K-12 English Language Learners (ELL) Specialist, and Department Coordinator, has been elected to the Executive Board of the ELL State Advisory Council.

Mr. Messore thanked Ms. Kathleen Sullivan for her community efforts as Program Director of the BAY Team. Ms. Sullivan has accepted the position of Community Prevention Manager with Rhode Island Student Assistance Services.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

The Spotlight on Teaching and Learning was deferred to the next scheduled meeting on November 5, 2015.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Tarro reported no significant changes in district enrollment since last reported on September 10, based on information provided to the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) in preparation for enrollment projections anticipated to be released in November. In preparation for the Barrington Middle School building project, the district has retained the services of a second company whose data will be used in conjunction with the data from NESDEC.

Mrs. Dillon introduced Barrington High School Science Teacher and Department Chair Dr. Diana Siliezar, Barrington Middle School Science Teacher and Curriculum Leader Peter McFarland, and Hampden Meadows School Teacher and K-5 Science Coordinator Carrie Clegg, who presented the district's New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science scores and the ongoing transition to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The presentation included district score comparisons to the state average, areas of focus, and strategies for the future. Discussion ensued on the new curriculum with the emphasis on inquiry

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based learning and ongoing professional development for teachers.

Mrs. Miller provided an update on the 1:1 Technology Initiative and the work of Barrington High School student interns and volunteers as shared in her Twitter feed. Mrs. Miller also shared the strategy for future Chromebook distribution. Mrs. Dillon reported on the district efforts toward personalized deeper learning.

Mr. Jason Appel, Barrington High School Mathematics teacher and Fuse Rhode Island Fellow, reported on his work to date as Technology Integration Fellow at Barrington High School. Mr. Appel's two pronged approach to tasks includes problems in need of a solution, and solutions in need of a problem, and shared examples of both. Questions from the Committee included the level of sharing of information with faculty, personalized learning, differentiated instruction, and alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Megan Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, inquired about the possible impact on school start times with the use of screens/devices, and if there will be screen time limits related to the 1:1 Technology Initiative.

Mrs. Kathleen Crain, of 11 Briarfield Road, expressed concern for differentiated instruction and attention to individual growth at Barrington Middle School and the K-5 schools, and shared examples of her children's experiences in the district. Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon noted the opportunity for curriculum presentations at future School Committee meetings to address parent concerns and showcase curriculum changes.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Tarro reported on the Joint School Committee and Building Committee meeting held on October 13, 2015, and the Barrington Middle School building project planning and visioning sessions held on September 16-17, 2015, and the closing visioning session held on October 2, 2015 with Kaestle Boos Associates and Dr. Frank Locker, Educational Consultant. On October 1, 2015, the Building Committee and School Committee approved its support by unanimous vote for the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) State I and Stage II Housing Aid construction application process. The Town Council also by unanimous vote approved its support on October 5, 2015. Building Committee updates are available for public view on the district website.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the School Start Times Workshop held on October 1, 2015 and shared an additional option for consideration based on the workshop discussion. Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to ask the Administration to explore logistics with the transportation consultant for a preferred start time of 9:05 a.m. for Barrington High School, 9:11 a.m. for Barrington Middle School, 8:20 a.m. for Hampden Meadows School, and 7:50 a.m. for Nayatt School, Primrose Hill School, and Sowams School, as well as to have no student on a bus longer than 30 minutes. The Committee also agreed to hear a presentation from Director of Athletics George Finn on the impact to athletics and co-curricular activities, along with an update from Mr. Messore, at its next meeting on November 5, 2015. Updates from the School Start Times Task Force will be made available on the district website.

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including the evaluation and plan to issue a Request for Proposal for the district website review and design, and the possible addition of electronic forms to the district website to increase workflow efficiency.

Mr. Tarro recommended that the Committee approve a three-year renewal natural gas contract with Direct Energy at a reduced rate of \$5.95 per DTH. The new rate represents an annual approximate savings of

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\$33,000. The Committee previously approved a contract with Direct Energy on April 24, 2012 for a contract period of April 1, 2012 to November 2016 that included a rate of \$7.12 per DTH. The bid process for this contract was handled by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to confirm the revised contract with Direct Energy for natural gas at the DTH reduced rate of \$5.95 with the contract purchased through the efforts of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees bid process. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Old Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy revision on Health and Wellness was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy revision on Health and Wellness. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The School Committee policy revision on Food Allergies was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy revision on Food Allergies. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The School Committee policy on Tutoring for Pay was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy on Tutoring for Pay. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Dawn August, MS, Reading Specialist. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Rebecca Ferry, MS, Science Olympiad Advisor.

Mr. Messore noted that Ms. Ferry will return as advisor with support from her colleagues following her resignation as MS Science Olympiad Advisor last year. The program has since been restructured.

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

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Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Lee Jensen, MS, Guidance Clerk. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Jaime Medeiros, Custodian. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Samani Villella, MS, Library Assistant. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Kimberly Wind, HS, Guidance Clerk. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messoro announced the leave of absence for Jessica Melo, PH, Grade 3; the resignation of David Lauria, PH, Music; and the retirement of Mary Ann Stiling, HS, Science.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for August in the amount of \$2,154,932.72.

Mr. Tarro reported that the line item of for out of district tuition is over budget and will continue to be monitored by the Administration.

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

Mr. Tarro reported that one sealed bid proposal was received for laser engraver and laser fume extraction system in the amount of \$21,657.00. 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, Advanced Educational Technologies, of Essex, MA, for an amount not to exceed \$21,657.00. Mr. Tarro added that this purchase will be funded with both Perkins funds in the amount of \$14,889.00 and operating funds in the amount of \$6,768.00.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to award the bid for laser engraver and laser fume extraction system to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Advanced Educational Technologies, of Essex, MA, for an amount not to exceed \$21,657.00. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

The Committee discussed the approval of legal counsel for contract negotiations with the National Education Association of Barrington (NEAB). Following discussion,

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the appointment of Benjamin M. Scungio,

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Esq. with the law firm of Brennan Recupero Cascione Scungio & McAllister, LLP to serve as legal counsel for the Barrington School Committee for the purposes of contract negotiations with the National Education Association of Barrington (NEAB). The motion passed 3-1 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Alessandro opposed.

Mr. Messore presented options to the Committee for a change to the 2015-2016 school calendar to accommodate the December 15, 2015 Special Election due to the vacancy on the School Committee. The Rhode Island Board of Elections set the election date and established five of the district's six schools as designated polling places. While schools are allowed to remain open during special elections, the Committee agreed that for the safety of the students and to preserve instructional time, to shift the November 10, 2015 Parent Conference/Professional Development day to December 15, 2015.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the following change in the 2015-2016 school calendar to accommodate the December 15, 2015 Special Election: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 will be a regular school day for all district students, faculty and staff, and Tuesday, December 15, 2015 will be a Parent Conference/Professional Development day. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody reported on the hard copy letter received on September 16, 2015 from Representative Justin Price, District 39, Exeter, Hopkinton, and Richmond, and Representative Robert A. Nardolillo, III, District 28, Coventry, for Committee consideration to join the Coventry, West Warwick, and Little Compton School Committees to pass a resolution to reverse the mandatory HPV vaccine for Grade 7 students. Following discussion, and Mr. Messore's report on no issues or refusals reported at Barrington Middle School, the Committee opted not to pursue passage of the proposed resolution.

Mr. Messore reported on the donation from the Stiness Family in the amount of \$15,000 in memory of the late Zachary Stiness, Barrington High School Class of 2007. The family previously donated the scoreboard in the lacrosse and field hockey field at Barrington High School and requested that this donation also be earmarked for Barrington High School Athletics.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the donation of \$15,000 for Barrington High School Athletics from the Stiness Family in the memory of the late Zachary Stiness, Barrington High School Class of 2007. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, 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 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Brody requested future agenda items to include Math curriculum and deeper learning, based on tonight's meeting discussions.

Mrs. Brody noted the interest of Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Dr. Ken Wagner to

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visit districts and the possibility of inviting him to visit Barrington Public Schools.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced that in partnership with Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin, the Barrington Police Department, and Cox Communications, the district will host a panel discussion and community forum on cyberbullying and Internet safety for students on October 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Barrington High School Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Mr. Messore added that on October 28, 2015 the Attorney General's Office will visit Hampden Meadows School and Barrington Middle School to present information on the same topic to students.

Mrs. Brody announced that the Rhode Island Technology Conference will be held on October 17, 2015. Presenters will include Mrs. Dillon, Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley, and several district educators.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:34 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)(2) pertaining to litigation relative to the Barrington High School Gymnasium Roof. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:00 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, 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 Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:01 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.