

**BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806**

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING - March 25, 2021

Present at the meeting were Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Erika Sevetson, Amanda Regino Basse, Patrick McCrann, Michael Messori, Paula Dillon, Douglas Fiore, Kristin Mathes, and student representative, Aryanna Mohammadi. Also present were Joe Hurley, Allison Scanlon, Andrew Anderson, Rebecca Silveira, Tracey McGee, Gino Sangiuliano, James Callahan, Tracey Learned, Patricia Tolento and Mark Biancuzzo.

At 6:32 pm, Ms. Bae called the meeting to order.

School Committee Workshop on Social Emotional Learning

Each principal presented their Social Emotional Well-Being goals [document](#). Each principal reviewed their schools' data around the social emotional well-being for their staff and students.

Ms. Learned, principal of Nayatt, shared that Nayatt's goal is to increase the amount of self-reflection in the classroom from 54% to 85% by the end of the school year and increase the implementation of the Mood Meter, Charter, and Meta-Moment to 95%. Ms. Learned will be working with Ms. Spaight and Ms. Brousseau in developing feedback and assess progress and to develop an evaluation tool to assess the implementation of RULER.

Ms. Tolento, principal of Primrose Hill, shared that Primrose Hill's goal is to increase the implementation of RULER to 95% as well. Ms. Tolento also shared that she will be using the April faculty meeting to give a reboot of RULER with her staff and at the PTO meeting for the parents. Ms. Tolento talked about the students that have been distance learning making a celebration when they return back to in-person learning. She has checked in with all the students that have been coming back.

Mr. Callahan, principal of Sowams, shared that Sowams goals were very similar to his colleagues' goals. There was a dramatic rise in all areas at the mid-year point. Sowams teachers will work with the students on "best self" practices and begin teaching about a meta-moment.

Ms. McGee, principal of Hampden Meadows, shared that she took the baseline from last February before the pandemic. The mood meter was used 88.9% of the time in the classroom in February and has increased to 92% this past February. The Class charter was only in 77.8% of the classroom and is now in 100% of the classrooms and the meta-moment date was at 5.6% last February and is now 93%. Mr. Sangiuliano also commented that the teacher assistants have been able to receive a variety of professional development made possible by Kristen Matthes and this has been a very positive step.

Dr. Anderson, principal of the Middle School, shared some examples of how the RULER tools are being used by the students. The Middle School set up an advisory schedule for students to meet twice a month during FAST. At the middle year mark the charter is at 100%, the mood meter is at 85% and at the beginning of the third trimester the meta-moment is at 10%.

Mr. Hurley, principal at the High School, shared that the high school has separated SEL goals into 4 segments.

RULER was slower getting going at the beginning of the year but has recently ramped up. Right now, RULER is being done during advisory. Joanne Royley and LeeAnn Markowski have done the lessons with RULER but have also tied in some SEL activities that work closely with RULER. Mr. Hurley also shared that at the next PD day there will be a two hour training for the faculty. There will be an anxiety and school avoidance forum in May. Mr. Hurley noted that the RULER philosophy does need to be spread beyond advisory.

The School Improvement Team (SIT) is currently focusing on the senior class, and how to get all students engaged in school. The Eagle of the Month which recognizes a student on a monthly basis has proven to be very positive.

The focus of the LEAPP objective has been primarily on student self-reflection. The self-reflection had been at 50% and the goal was to bring it closer to 60%. The high school will also be looking at best practices and sharing this information with the LEAPP team.

Mr. Hurley recently submitted a growth plan to NEASC. The vision of the graduate has been redeveloped with input from students and faculty. The team is now discussing how to make this visual and also bring in a student's voice for the display. Mr. Hurley stated that the goal is to have this completed by the end of the school year.

Ms. Matthes, Director of Pupil Personnel, shared that social emotional learning describes how the student learns and develops self-awareness and self-regulation. After some review, the SEL Advisory Committee and Task Force have suggested that instead of using an SEL assessment tool, that they are moving toward the assessment of school culture. Dr. Douglas explained that the working group looking at assessments was concerned that the SEL assessments were not clearly free of bias, so had moved to a preference for school culture surveys. The groups will continue to look at other climate tools and regroup later in April for a review.

Public Comment

Anna Saal - 17 Lamson Road. Ms. Saal is a sophomore at the high school and discussed the trauma around SEL with the lockdown drills that occur at the high school. Mr. Messoro discussed that he understands her concerns and is looking into the social emotional effect the drills have on students. The drills are mandated by law but he will look to possibly inform the students during the week that

a drill is forthcoming. Ms. Bae suggested that the lockdown drills be added to a future School Committee agenda.

School Committee Business Meeting

Budget Update from Committee on Appropriations Meeting on March 16, 2021

Mr. Fiore informed the Committee that at the March 16th meeting of the COA the School had a second opportunity to answer some of the questions the COA had previously asked. The Committee had asked for clarification of how the fund balance worked and how the excess is brought over to the capital reserve account. He also explained further to the COA the projected state aid that Barrington would be receiving.

There was some discussion about possibly limiting the District increase in the budget to 4% instead of the 4.9% increase that has been requested. Mr. Fiore stated that 3.9% of the increase is being funded by the increased state aid next year. The 4% increase would reduce the District's budget by about \$500,000 and wipe out the local portion of our request.

Mr. Fiore also shared that there has been a presentation over the last four years that showed the escalating percentage increase of our budget requests and he will show at the next meeting to put this in context of the last decade to show that we have about 2.8% increase over the last decade.

Update on funding for teachers/specialist for the legally-blind in our schools

Mr. Messoré reviewed with the Committee that RIDE is changing the process by which it provides services for the visually impaired students, however, this will not impact the students at Barrington. Kristen Matthes will be following up on this.

Update on change in High School Program of Studies Information Night

On April 1, 2021 the District will be holding an informational night to clarify any questions around the High School Program of Study.

Ms. Bae encouraged all the School Committee members to attend the meeting in order to hear all the information. This will be an item on the School Committee agenda for April 8th.

Communication will go out to all families encouraging them to fill out the survey with any of their questions. Dr. Dillon reviewed the potential panelists for the evening. The evening will also be advertised on our website. An agenda will be sent out to the families as well.

Update from Policy Committee re: Decision Making Process

Ms. Bae explained that this is a general policy related to all changes in the district. It will include various items such as communication with various stakeholders, including the School Committee, and is not just related to curriculum. Discussion ensued, with the consensus that members feel the most effective tool would be to have a policy that is for many areas and not a specific item.

Public Comment

Dave Zaluski - 360 Washington Road. Mr. Zaluski thanked the District for addressing the questions about funding for visually impaired students.

Shelli Edgar - 14 South Meadow Lane. Ms Edgar commented on the policy which was discussed at tonight's meeting and asked that the program of study information that had been sent out be resent with links showing the connection of the classes.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to move into the Executive Session under RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) for Sessions pertaining to Superintendent Evaluations at 9:09 pm. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Regino Basse seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Regino Basse and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

At 10:21, Gina Bae asked for a motion to adjourn from executive session. Megan Douglas moved and Erika Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/5 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Erika Sevetson, Amanda Regino Basse and Patrick McCrann voting in the affirmative.

Gina Bae asked for a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session. Megan Douglas moved and Erika Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/5 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Erika Sevetson, Amanda Regino Basse and Patrick McCrann voting in the affirmative.

Gina Bae announced that no votes were taken.

At 10:22, Gina Bae asked for a motion to adjourn the school committee meeting. Megan Douglas moved and Erika Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/5 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Erika Sevetson, Amanda Regino Basse and Patrick McCrann voting in the affirmative.