

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/07/06

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 2006 at Sowams School. Mr. Malafronte called the meeting to order as it was the annual organizational meeting at 7:35 p.m. Present were Mr. Guida, Mrs. Thurston, Mrs. Oberg, Mrs. Eddins, Mr. Hasenfus, Mr. Tarro, Dr. Calise and Mr. Malafronte.

Mr. Malafronte requested nominations for Chairperson.

Mrs. Thurston moved and Mrs. Eddins seconded to nominate Mr. Patrick Guida as chairperson. The motion passed 5-0.

The gavel was turned over to Mr. Guida.

Mr. Guida requested nominations for Vice Chair-Clerk.

Mrs. Eddins moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to nominate Mrs. Thurston as Vice Chair – Clerk. The motion passed 5-0.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Malafronte was pleased to announce that Michael Ding, a senior at the High School, was named a semifinalist in the 2006 – 2007 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Eddins moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of 11/16/06 as written. Mr. Hasenfus requested that the minutes be amended on page 2 to read: “It was suggested that Committee members introduce concrete proposals at future meetings regarding community engagement issues that they identify through reading materials circulated to them.” The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Eddins wanted to emphasize that it was suggested by members of the School Committee that when principals submit their budget proposals that they also include suggestions regarding possible reduction/cutting of items in their budget.

Mrs. Thurston moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to approve the minutes of the special School Committee meeting of 11/20/06 as written. It was noted that this meeting went directly into Executive Session with the Screening Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

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Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to approve the minutes of the special School Committee meeting of 11/28/06 as written. It was noted that this meeting went directly into Executive Session with the Screening Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Eddins seconded to approve the Executive Session School Committee meeting minutes of 11/16/06 as written. It was noted that no votes were taken and the minutes were sealed. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Hasenfus seconded to approve the Executive Session School Committee meeting minutes of 11/20/06 as written. It was noted that no votes were taken and the minutes were sealed. This meeting was with members of the Screening Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to approve the Executive Session School Committee meeting minutes of 11/28/06 as written. It was noted that no votes were taken and the minutes were sealed. The meeting was with the Screening Committee and two Superintendent candidates. The motion passed 5-0.

Information and Proposals

Dr. Calise presented a brief overview of tonight's update on literacy coaches, math coaches and reading specialists indicating that the presentation would focus on the following: 1) What is the role of the literacy coach and what has the impact been; 2) What has happened in the area of professional development; 3) What is the relationship and difference between the literacy coach and reading specialist; and 4) What is the goal of our mathematics specialist and how are we presently achieving this goal. She noted that two important goals of these initiatives are to improve student achievement and reduce the number of students requiring intervention. Presenters included Mr. Ed Doucette, representing East Bay Educational Collaborative, which has been an instrumental organization in providing professional development to individuals in these positions; Carroll Garland - literacy coach @ Sowams; Cara Sanchez – literacy coach at Primrose Hill and Nayatt; Dawn August – reading specialist at Middle School; Deborah Gorman – reading specialist at High School; and Judith Hamilton – mathematics specialist at Hampden Meadows. Much discussion took place during the presentations to clarify various aspects of their positions. Mr. Guida expressed his appreciation for the excellent presentation and for the important work that the staff does.

General Public Discussion and Information

A member of the audience expressed a concern of Middle School parents and students with regard to junk emails being sent to students within the school system. Mr. Malafrente noted that this issue will be researched and that it is easily rectifiable if the emails are being sent within the Barrington Public School system.

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There was no **Old Business from Superintendent and Staff.**

Old Business from School Committee

Mrs. Thurston recommended that no School Committee policies be discussed this evening. She suggested that only mandated policies be addressed until a new Superintendent is appointed.

Mr. Guida presented a brief update on the status of the Superintendent search noting that a public announcement of candidates moving to the next step in the process should be made within the next two business days. He expressed his appreciation to the Screening Committee and the other members of the School Committee for their input and participation in this process.

It was decided to defer a discussion of Community Engagement this evening.

There was no **New Business from Superintendent and Staff.**

New Business from School Committee

Mr. Guida tabled a discussion of the letter received from the RI Department of Education regarding a follow-up to our Face-to-Face meeting regarding help to further implement our High School Diploma System as Mr. Malafronte had not yet received his copy of the letter.

Discussion focused on which members of the School Committee would attend the upcoming 67th NSBA Annual Conference in San Francisco. Several members had expressed an interest in attending the conference. A concern was raised regarding the expense involved in sending more than two Committee members to the conference. A suggestion was made that Committee members might share the expense of the conference. It was also noted that in the past the District had not paid for more than one member to attend a particular conference. It was the consensus of the Committee to make a final determination regarding which member(s) would attend the conference at the next School Committee meeting.

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General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

December 21 st	7:30 p.m.	HS SALT Report NEASC Update
January 4 th	5:30 p.m.	Discussion with Other Suburban Districts Re: State Aid Formula
January 4 th	7:30 p.m.	Budget Input Building Principals

General Public Discussion and Information

A member of the audience expressed her concern regarding scheduling two important meetings (regular School Committee meeting and the meeting with other suburban districts regarding state aid) on the same evening. Members of the Committee assured the audience that this would not be a problem.

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Eddins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-5(a)(1) and 42-46-5(a)(2) for Collective Bargaining and Litigation, specifically for Personnel to discuss the Superintendent search. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:20 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Thurston moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:21 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.