

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/06/08

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the Administration Office. Mrs. Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Mrs. Thurston, Mrs. Oberg, Mr. Hasenfus, Dr. Calise, Mr. Tarro and Dr. McIntyre. Mrs. Eddins was absent. Mr. Guida arrived at 8:50 p.m.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre congratulated the Middle School students who won the RI Math Counts State Championship. Members of the First Place Team Award were: Steven LaMontagne, Kenny Xiao, Olivia Justinsky and Cassidy Laidlaw. The students placed as follows:

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| 1 st Place Individual | Steven LaMontagne |
| 3 rd Place Individual | Olivia Justinsky |
| 5 th Place Individual | Jack Liang |
| 8 th Place Individual | Kassidy Laidlaw |
| 10 th Place Individual | Kenny Xiao |

Dr. McIntyre noted that Steven LaMontagne and Olivia Justinsky will represent Rhode Island in the Nationals in Denver later this year.

Dr. McIntyre praised the High School Robotics Team for their excellent representation at the State Robotics Competition. The students were: Ben Wilder, Ben Carlson, Theo Bardell, Daniel Campbell, Abhimat Gataum, Matthew Akkoui, Zachary Hartman and Michael Speaker.

Dr. McIntyre was pleased to announce that Mr. Robert Marley, High School math teacher and Math Department Chair, has received a 2007 – 08 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement in Calculus. He noted that Mr. Marley will receive a monetary award in the amount of \$1,000.

Mrs. Thurston commended the High School Girls Basketball Team for making it to the Division Two State Championship. The finals will be held on Saturday, March 8, at 12:00 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available this evening.

Approval of Financials

No financials were available this evening.

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Information and Proposals

Dr. Calise summarized a report circulated to the Committee regarding a study on the impact of all day kindergarten which focused on the question, “Are the full day kindergarten students demonstrating more advanced skills and knowledge when compared to students who participated in a half day program?” She noted the results obtained from the statistics conclude that there really isn’t a significant difference in the academic performance of those students who had half-day versus full-day kindergarten at this time. It was noted that this information should not discourage our district from pushing for full day kindergarten in the future. Discussion followed regarding our conclusions versus national findings that all day kindergarten does improve academic performance.

Dr. McIntyre introduced Eileen Moser, President of Organizational Development, Inc, our Strategic Planning Coordinator, who presented a Strategic Planning update which focused on where we are now in the process and where we hope to go. She noted that one of the most important aspects of the process which is presently in process has been facilitating focus groups with key constituents – (teachers, students, parents and community members). Mrs. Thurston spoke on behalf of the entire School Committee and expressed how pleased they are with Ms. Moser’s leadership with this initiative.

General Public Discussion

Mr. Tarro briefly summarized the district’s efforts regarding our health insurance for employees in response to a question from a member of the audience. He noted we are investigating alternatives such as either going to West Bay or GHGRI, which is Governmental Health Group of Rhode Island.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

In response to a question from a School Committee member at the last School Committee meeting regarding over expenditures in Account 3231 – Miscellaneous Building Repairs, Mr. Tarro summarized some of the expenditures in that line item.

Dr. McIntyre presented a brief update on last night’s Committee on Appropriations (COA) meeting that he attended with Mr. Tarro, Mr. Guida and Mr. Hasenfus. Dr. McIntyre noted that it was made clear at the meeting that the school district needs to get the entire \$1.8 in the budget and \$2.6 from state and local aid in order to maintain our services. Discussion followed regarding a recent article in the Barrington Times regarding a suggested solution by a COA member as to how to fund the full day kindergarten program. The Committee was disappointed that the article was printed prior to the Barrington Times researching the information completely and including input from the School Department. Mr. Tarro noted that Rhode Island General Law does not allow us to charge for required school based programs and that he has now passed a copy of the law on to the COA for their information.

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Mr. Tarro reminded the Committee to contact him should they have any questions regarding the Annual Financial Audit Report for FY07 which they had been provided with at an earlier date.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Hasenfus seconded to take the agenda out of order and move to New Business from the Superintendent and Staff and other agenda line items to allow Mr. Guida to be present for the discussion on School Committee policies. The motion passed 3-0.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. McIntyre asked the Committee to notify the central office by next Monday if they planned to attend the Joint Meeting of the Town Council, Planning Board, and Housing Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 18th at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss planning with regard to potential housing developments and how they could impact the schools.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Hasenfus seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointments of Jeffrey Dantas, Head Golf Coach and Rory Whipple as Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach. Following a question from Mr. Hasenfus regarding CPR certification for coaches, the motion passed 3-0.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

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| March 8 th | 9:00 a.m. | RIASC Legislative Update, RIC Building #6 |
| March 18 th | 7:00 p.m. | Joint Meeting – Town Council, Planning Board Housing Board of Trustees |
| March 20 th | 7:30 p.m. | District Report Night/Assessments |

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

The agenda returned to **Old Business from School Committee.**

Discussion of School Committee Policies ensued. Dr. McIntyre had previously been asked to speak to John Gray to clarify certain changes to Policy JFCG. Following Dr. McIntyre's explanation as to the rationale for not including "service projects" as a consequence of smoking violations under School Committee Policy JFCG:

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Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to amend School Committee Policy JFCG – Smoking in Public Schools as presented this evening. The motion passed 3-0.

Mrs. Oberg read aloud School Committee Policy JEB –Age of Initial Enrollment for a first reading. This policy will be up for a 2nd reading at the next School Committee meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a policy to be written regarding compulsory attendance. Mrs. Oberg agreed to draft the policy.

Mr. Guida arrived at 8:50 p.m. and apologized for the lateness of his arrival. Mrs. Thurston brought him up to date on the status of policy discussion and requested that Mr. Guida report on the Board of Regents hearing that he had just returned from. Mr. Guida outlined the major points of the hearing and focused on the three objections to the new Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR).

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-5(a)(1) and 42-46-5(a)(2) for Personnel and Collective Bargaining and Litigation, specifically for Collective Bargaining and Litigation. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Hasenfus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The motion passed 4-0.