

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

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Minutes of School Committee Meeting 05/01/08

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at Sowams School. Mr. Guida called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Guida, Mrs. Thurston, Mrs. Oberg, Mrs. Eddins, Mr. Hasenfus, Dr. Calise, Mr. Tarro and Dr. McIntyre.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre was proud to announce that two high school seniors, Olivia Burke and Ruchir Shah, were selected as 2008 Presidential Scholars.

Mr. Guida was pleased to report that forty-three (43) students were inducted into the National Honor Society at the induction ceremony held Wednesday evening, April 30, 2008.

Approval of Minutes

None were available for approval this evening.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Callahan presented a brief historical overview of the development of the Response to Intervention (RIT) initiative which focuses on how our students respond to instruction, how the school responds to students not achieving, and how the district responds to data they collect on students' learning. He then introduced the following individuals who presented an overview of this initiative and included specific snapshots/examples of it: Mrs. Dawn August, Barrington Middle School, Reading Specialist; Mrs. Kristen Matthes, Elementary, Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher; and Mrs. Patty Ridlon, Sowams, Reading Specialist. A hand-out provided to the Committee was used as the basis of their presentations. Questions were asked by members of the Committee to clarify various aspects of the presentation.

There was no **General Public Discussion and Information.**

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with an update on the Committee on Appropriations (COA) meeting he attended Wednesday (April 30) evening. Mr. Tarro noted that the COA expressed concern relative to fire safety code projects, specifically the doors. Mr. Tarro informed the COA that Primrose Hill and Nayatt School doors will be completed during the summer. Mr. Tarro noted it was the district's intention to then try to address the doors at Sowams and Hampden Meadows School. He further explained that we have discussed deferring the Middle School project until we have a complete facilities assessment done. Mr. Gerald Bessette, Fire Chief, was present at the April 30 meeting and confirmed the information Mr. Tarro provided to the COA relative to due diligence and the timeline for addressing all the schools. Mrs. Oberg commended

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Mr. Tarro for always keeping the Committee apprised of all issues, which was also confirmed by all other members of the School Committee. Also discussed was the School Department's response to the COA's request to reduce monies in the technology account and their request to transfer surplus funds. Dr. McIntyre informed the School Committee that the COA expressed an interest in how contract negotiations are conducted. Mr. Guida noted that he would be happy to hold a community forum to explain how the negotiation process works, but would not include any discussion on our strategy or other specifics in response to the COA's desire to be included in future negotiations with the teachers. Mr. Guida stated he is prepared to support the budget presented to the COA at the Town Financial Meeting. The School Committee confirmed that they are in support of transferring some of the school's surplus funds to the Town if state aid for education were to be cut or applied to a one time capital expenditure.

Old Business from School Committee

A brief discussion focused on the proposed "mission statement" developed by the Committee at their meeting on April 29th.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to delete the word "the" before knowledge. Following some discussion regarding this issue, Mr. Hasenfus suggested the decision be deferred to the entire Strategic Planning Committee for consideration. Mrs. Oberg agreed with Mr. Hasenfus' suggestion and withdrew her motion.

Following a brief overview of the discussion at the 04/24/08 School Committee meeting regarding the recommendation of Mr. John Gray and Mrs. Judianne Point with respect to graduation requirements and a waiver of the requirement for students to take the final exam, it was decided to formally ratify the vote at this meeting.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to ratify the vote taken at the last School Committee meeting with respect to the exemptions as presented at the 04/24/08 School Committee meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Following a discussion regarding the reporting of finances and activities and membership on the Board of Directors for the East Bay Educational Collaborative:

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded that we adopt the resolution prepared by Mr. Timothy Duffy, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, regarding the East Bay Educational Collaborative amending their bylaws which reads as follows:

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“Resolved: that in the best interests of transparency and accountability, the

Barrington School Committee requests the Board of Directors for the East Bay Educational Collaborative immediately amend their bylaws, to comply with Rhode Island General Law § 16-3.1-10 Regional center collaborative – East Bay Educational Collaborative, in defining its members as the school committees of the cities and towns of Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Warren, and by recognizing, acknowledging and affirming that the various school committees may assign their respective school committee chairs or designee or superintendents of schools or designee, to act as representatives to the board of directors;

Further resolved: that the Barrington School Committee urge the East Bay Educational Collaborative comply with § 16-3.1-13 Reporting, by issuing a report on their expenditures and investments to the Barrington School Committee.”

The motion passed 5-0.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Hasenfus moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept with deep regret the retirements of the following individuals:

**Marion DiGiammo, MS, Guidance
Irene Gerbi, HS, Art
Susan Kelley, HM, Grade 4
Karen McAvoy, HS, Physical Education
Barbara Roth, MS, World Languages
Steven Rotondo, HS, Guidance**

The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mrs. Thurston seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the resignation of Elizabeth Burns, HS, Special Education Teacher Assistant. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Thurston suggested that a discussion of School Committee policies be included on all future agendas.

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Mrs. Thurston again encouraged School Committee members to visit the NSBA website to obtain information posted from the Orlando conference that would be of interest to them. It was briefly discussed that information pertinent to the Committee could not be posted on our website due to copyright laws, but links on the Barrington Public Schools website could be provided to the Committee.

New Business from School Committee

Mr. Guida read aloud a letter of resignation from Mrs. Deborah Thurston:

“After a great deal of consideration I am submitting my resignation from the Barrington School Committee effective November 30, 2008.

When I began my second term as a member of the Barrington School Committee, I was committed to completing the search for a new Superintendent to lead our District and provide continuity and support throughout the transition period. It was also important to me to collaborate with my fellow School Committee members to investigate the feasibility of an administrator succession plan, coordinate the update of the Policy Manual and contribute to the District’s long range strategic plan. With these initiatives well under way, it is time for me to direct my attention to other commitments.

It has been an honor to serve on the Barrington School Committee and collaborate and contribute to a community that values the importance of a great educational system. In particular, “Buzz”, I would like to thank you for your leadership and guidance as Chair of the Committee. Your passion for education has been a constant source of motivation for me. I wish the District much success in continuing to fulfill its mission and goals.”

School Committee members and Administrators accepted her resignation with great regret and expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Thurston for her hard work and numerous contributions to the Committee and how much she would be missed. There was a brief discussion on the process that would be used to replace her for the two remaining years of her term.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

May 3 rd	8:00 a.m.	RIASC Annual Meeting @ Pell Center, Salve Regina University
May 14 th	7:00 p.m.	Budget Hearing @ MS
May 15	7:30 p.m.	Math and Writing Initiatives Renzulli Learning

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General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

No Executive Session was necessary.

**Mrs. Thurston moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.
The motion passed 5-0.**