

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 01/08/09

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at the Administration Office. Mr. Hasenfus called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Mr. Hasenfus, Dr. Shea, Mr. Guida, Mrs. Oberg, Dr. Flanagan, Dr. Calise, Mr. Tarro and Dr. McIntyre.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Guida led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Presentation of Gift

Mrs. Jean MacIntyre (author) and Karen North (50th Commodore of the Barrington Yacht Club) presented a book entitled 100 Years of Yachting on Narragansett Bay to the Barrington High School and Middle School libraries outlining the history of the Barrington Yacht Club from 1908 – 2008.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre was proud to announce that senior Erica Chin was one of the state winners of the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement and was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Siemens Foundation. The award was based on her exceptional performance in AP math and science.

Dr. McIntyre was pleased to announce that our district is number one in the state for participation and scores in Advanced Placement exams. He noted that 89 percent of our seniors took AP exams last year and 84 percent received scores at college level mastery, which far exceeded other schools in the state. Mr. Hasenfus noted that this information is available on the Information Works website which is www.infoworks.ride.uri.edu.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the minutes of the budget workshop of the School Committee of 12/18/08 as written. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of 12/18/08 as written. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Financials

None were available for approval this evening.

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Information and Proposals

Mr. Hasenfus explained that tonight's meeting was the first event during the course of the year in developing the school budget to be presented at the Town Financial Meeting. Every principal highlighted their budget requests for the 2009 – 2010 school year and presented their rationale for their requests. The four elementary principals focused their requests on four themes: Professional Learning Community – Arlene Miguel; Response to Intervention – Christopher Kennedy; Professional Development – James Callahan; and Class Size – Robert Abbey. Richard Wheeler, Middle School principal and John Gray, High School principal also presented their budget requests. All principals at all levels requested level services. The next steps in the process were outlined and it was noted that at the next School Committee meeting (January 15th) the School Committee and public would be offered the opportunity to provide budget input. Questions were asked by both the School Committee and members of the audience regarding various aspects of the budget.

Mr. Guida indicated he attended a Regents Meeting this afternoon and presented some input on items where the Governor has proposed budget cuts.

An update was given on the status of the five subcommittees of the Strategic Plan by the facilitators of the subcommittees as follows:

Expand community involvement and engagement to support the excellence of Barrington Public Schools – Joseph Hurley and Michael Messoro

Employ effective programs that meet the needs of diverse learners – Betty Calise

Provide a school environment and programs that involve all students in their physical, social and emotional development – Susan Healy-Mills

Provide up to date facilities and technology to support our future needs – Ronald Tarro

Strengthen efforts to ensure fair and adequate funding to fulfill the mission of the Barrington Public Schools – Robert McIntyre

Questions were asked by the School Committee and members of the audience regarding various aspects of the various presentations.

Dr. Calise was pleased to note that our District applied for and has been accepted into a research study entitled “What Works in Gifted Education: Excellence and Equity in Educating Gifted Students” from the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented.

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Mr. Robert Rothman, Principal Associate for the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University made a presentation regarding the components and importance of “community engagement”. Questions were asked by members of the School Committee regarding various aspects of his presentation.

General Public Discussion and Information

A member of the audience inquired about the process that will be used to decide whether or not to enforce mandatory breathalyzer testing at school dances. Steps presently taken and future steps to be taken were outlined.

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

Old Business from School Committee

Following discussion regarding two School Committee policies which were presented for a 1st reading at the last School Committee:

Mrs. Oberg and Dr. Flanagan seconded to approve the following School Committee policies as amended:

**IKF – Graduation Requirements
Whistle Blower Policy – subject to coding**

The motions passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg suggested no more discussion of School Committee policies this evening.

Mr. Hasenfus mentioned that he had provided the Committee with an article that was recently in the New York Times that was relevant to the policy approved at the last School Committee meeting dealing with teen dating and teen violence.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

There was no personnel action.

Following Mr. Tarro’s overview of the District request to donate outdated textbooks:

Mr. Guida moved Mrs. Oberg seconded to the approve the donation of the textbooks to Hands Across the Water. The motion passed 5-0.

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Following Mr. Tarro's explanation of his request to reject the Food Service Vehicle Bid at this time:

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Flanagan seconded to authorize Mr. Tarro to reject all Food Service Vehicle Bids. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business from School Committee

Following much discussion regarding whether or not a School Committee member should attend the upcoming annual National School Boards Association Conference, it was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Hasenfus attend the conference at no cost to the district. The registration fee will be paid for by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees and Mr. Hasenfus will personally pay for all other expenses.

No final decision was made regarding the appointment of a Committee member to oversee School Committee policies. This issue will be discussed at a future School Committee meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the Comprehensive Community Plan – 5 Year Update which had been provided to the School Committee. The Committee will review the report and provide feedback to the central office if they have any comments they would like included in the final report.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Oberg requested that future agendas include any guest speakers that may participate in the meeting.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

January 15 th	7:30 p.m.	Budget Input (School Committee and Public)
January 22 th	4:00 p.m	Trust Annual Dinner Meeting
January 31 st	7:30 a.m.	Joint meeting sponsored by Trust/RI League of Cities & Towns

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

No Executive Session was necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 p.m.