

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 10/15/09

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Administration Office. Mr. Hasenfus called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Present were Mr. Hasenfus, Dr. Shea, Mr. Guida, Mrs. Oberg, Dr. Flanagan, Mr. Tarro and Dr. McIntyre. Dr. Calise was absent.

Mr. Tarro led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre was proud to announce the following students who were named Commended students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program: Gina Biagetti, Maeve Brody, Cailin Clements, Christopher Dow, Katherine Ferrato, Katalyn Geraghty, Alec Kubas-Meyer, Zachary Sampson, Gabrielle Sclafani and Ellen Wetherill.

Dr. McIntyre was pleased to announce the following students who were named semifinalists in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program: Diana Chin, Laura Cohen, Daniel Fain, Margaret Ferrato, Ailin Lu, Benjamin Shand, David Tong and Noah Zimmt.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the School Committee minutes of 010/01/09 as written. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the minutes of the School Committee workshop of 10/05/09 as written. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Guida abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

Approval of Financials

Upon review and discussion of the July, August and September financial reports:

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the expenditures for July in the amount of \$845,356.13. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the expenditures for August in the amount of \$1,354,251.37. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the expenditures for September in the amount of \$3,271,514.02. The motion passed 5-0.

Information and Proposals

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Following a discussion regarding the revised listing of School Committee Agenda Topics for 2009 – 2010:

Mr. Guida moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to accept the School Committee Agenda Topics for 2009 – 2010 as presented this evening with a revision to include an update on the Breathalyzer issue on the June 3rd School Committee meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Joseph Hurley, with the assistance of Mr. Kevin Blanchard presented an update on the status of the High School NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) evaluation scheduled for March 2010. They summarized the process, what has been done to date and the necessary steps that need to be taken prior to the visit. Discussion took place with questions from the School Committee regarding various aspects of this issue.

Mr. Joseph Hurley and Mr. Michael Messori presented an update on the status of the Strategic Plan Goal # 1 – Expand community involvement and engagement to support the excellence of Barrington Public Schools. They summarized some of the initiatives they are presently considering. Much discussion took place with suggestions from the Committee regarding various strategies to improve community involvement and also questions for clarification regarding various aspects of the update.

General Public Discussion and Information

Members of the audience expressed their concern regarding a senior project proposal that is being denied. They presented their rationale for requesting that the Committee reconsider this senior project proposal and allow it to be accepted. A member of the audience read aloud her point of view regarding this issue and distributed copies to all members of the Committee. Mr. Hasenfus explained that State Law prohibits the Committee from responding this evening.

A member of the audience expressed her concern regarding the safety of the students due to doors being unlocked at the schools. Dr. McIntyre stated that the District shares her concern and noted the steps being taken to date to obtain funds to deal with this issue.

A member of the audience expressed her concern with safety during indoor recess due to a perceived lack of adult supervision. Dr. McIntyre noted he would research this issue. Another member of the audience suggested volunteers be used during indoor recess.

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Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Discussion took place regarding the School Committee passing a resolution urging the General Assembly to deny any efforts to move forward with any binding arbitration proposals for teacher contracts. The Committee had been provided with copies of resolutions passed by other districts in the state.

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mrs. Guida seconded to move forward to adopt a resolution as submitted by Middletown to the General Assembly.

Following much discussion Mrs. Oberg withdrew her motion in favor of a proposal suggested by Mr. Guida which was as follows:

Mr. Guida moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded to submit the following resolution to the General Assembly:

The Barrington School Committee respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly oppose any and all binding arbitration proposals currently being considered for teacher contracts.

The motion passed 5-0.

Old Business from School Committee

Dr. Flanagan read aloud for a 2nd reading the revised Student Survey Policy.

Dr. Flanagan moved and Mrs. Oberg seconded that the Student Survey Policy as presented be approved and coded consistent with NSBA coding.

Following a discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to table final approval of the policy until they revisited the statute again.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Leslie Moody, NA, Special Education Teacher Assistant. The motion passed 5-0.

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Following Mr. Tarro's overview of the Gas Pressure Steam Cooker Bid:

Mrs. Oberg moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of Mr. Tarro with respect to the award of the Gas Pressure Steam Cooker Bid to TriMark United East in an amount not to exceed \$17,094.65, which was the sole and lowest qualified evaluated bidder. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no **New Business** from School Committee.

Discussion Future Agenda Topics

Mr. Guida noted that another workshop be scheduled for the School Committee to address their roles and responsibilities. Mr. Hasenfus and Mr. Guida both have information regarding this workshop that will be distributed to the School Committee in advance of the workshop.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

November 5th 7:30 p.m. Health and Wellness Update
Bay Team Report – Goal #3

General Public Discussion and Information

A member of the audience inquired about the status of a state funding formula and noted that members of the community would be supportive of attending meetings regarding this issue.

No Executive Session was necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.