

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

Page 1

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/06/11

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, September 6, 2011 at the Administration office. Mr. Guida called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Mr. Ramsden, Mr. Fuller, Dr. McIntyre, Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messoro.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Diane Hause led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre expressed his appreciation to all the students and staff for the smooth opening of school.

Dr. McIntyre commended four employees (three bus drivers and one custodian) for volunteering to drive buses to transport community members to the shelter at Primrose Hill School due to Hurricane Irene. The employees were: Beth St. Angelo, Nancy Moura, Ann Marie Canders and Thomas Macedo.

Mr. Guida read aloud a letter he received from Ellen Fisher commending Kerri Payne, PTO President at Nayatt School for her handling of the recent resignation of the Nayatt principal in addition to praising the professionalism of all the Nayatt teachers and administration. Mr. Guida also expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Payne, the entire Nayatt PTO, staff and Nayatt community for their professionalism in dealing with this issue.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the minutes of the 08/25/11 School Committee meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting of 08/25/11 as presented. The motion passed 5-0. It was noted that the minutes were sealed and no votes were taken.

Approval of Financials

No formal financials were available for approval this evening.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/06/11

Information and Proposals

Mr. Joseph Hurley and Mrs. Toni Corry presented an update on the status of the newly implemented Naviance Program and future steps to utilize this initiative. Mrs. Corry, via a power point presentation, shared some of the capabilities of this program. Questions were asked by the Committee regarding various aspects of the program.

Next, there was a discussion of class size with the focus on second grade class sizes at Nayatt and third grade class sizes at Primrose Hill. Dr. McIntyre provided the Committee with the class sizes as of September 6, 2011. Questions were asked by the Committee regarding the rationale for the number of teachers for these grade levels at these schools. Mrs. Kathy Kwolek, a second grade Nayatt teacher expressed her concerns with the large grade two class sizes and the impact it has on student learning and the new teacher evaluation system which will be tied to assessment data. Another member of the audience shared research findings regarding class sizes and possible options as to how to address this issue. Dr. McIntyre indicated he would review the class sizes.

An update took place regarding the revised Strategic Plan with the facilitator of each goal highlighting the focus of their goals for the 2011-2012 school year. Questions were asked by the Committee regarding various aspects of their update. The facilitators for each goal were as follows:

Goal #1: Expand community involvement and engagement to support the excellence of Barrington Public Schools – Joseph Hurley

Goal #2: Employ effective programs that meet the needs of diverse learners – Michael Messoro

Goal #3: Provide a school environment and programs that involve all students in their physical, social and emotional development – Susan Healy Mills

Goal #4: Provide up to date facilities and technology to support our future needs – Ronald Tarro

Goal #5: Strengthen efforts to ensure fair and adequate funding to fulfill the mission of the BPS - Dr. Robert McIntyre

It was noted that the revised document will be available on the District website.

Mrs. Brody suggested administration research the seating configuration of administrators and School Committee to maximize efficiency with regard to discussions to allow the best opportunity for public conversation. Following a discussion regarding this issue and as we look to add a student representative on the School Committee:

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/06/11

Mrs. Brody moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded that administration explore alternative configurations for our School Committee meetings. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Guida noted that an individual who is knowledgeable about alternative school calendar schedules would be in the area in October. He asked if the Committee would be interested in meeting with this individual and include other key individuals in the state in attendance to discuss the feasibility of shorter intervals between schools sessions. Mr. Guida noted that data supports shorter intervals between sessions. He noted that this initiative does not necessarily increase the number of school days per year, but rather reconfigures blocks of times between sessions. A suggested date for this forum was October 26th; however, this date was not confirmed due to a possible conflict with another event on the same date.

General Public Discussion and Information

A member of the audience inquired about the status of the search for a permanent Nayatt School principal. Dr. McIntyre indicated that no decision has been made to date and outlined the two choices administration is presently considering: 1) find a replacement by mid-year, or 2) find another interim principal mid-year and do a search in the spring. Mr. McIntyre noted that once a decision is made, a search committee will be formed comprised of administrators, School Committee members, parents and teachers at Nayatt.

Old Business from School Committee

A brief budget discussion took place focusing on the seriousness of the unfunded liability with respect to pensions and the increase in pension contributions. Dr. McIntyre noted that school aid could also be impacted, but that right now we are scheduled to receive the full amount. Dr. McIntyre stated he would keep the Committee updated on any information he receives from the state as soon as it becomes available.

Mr. Tarro noted that representatives from Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates (SMMA) will present a report on the status of Professional Services – Stage II Construction Application for the Middle School Facilities project at the October 6th School Committee meeting. Questions were asked by the Committee regarding various aspects of this issue

Dr. McIntyre noted that age appropriate recognition of the 10th anniversary of the September 11th tragedy will take place at the schools.

No Old Business from School Committee

No issues were raised at this time.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/06/11

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the request for a leave of absence for Doniell Remington, SO, Special Education. The motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the request for home schooling for Mia (Gr. 11), Osmund (Gr. 11) and Samuel Taromina (Gr. 1). The motion passed 5-0.

New Business from School Committee

No issues were raised at this time.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Suggested topics included: updates on Naviance throughout the year, the strategic plan as a standing item, make up days options due to Hurricane Irene, and an update on CodeRed.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

October 6th 7:30 p.m. Testing (AP/SAT)
NECAP Scores
NESDEC

General Public Discussion and Information

A member of the audience asked for clarification with respect to make up days due to Hurricane Irene.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:35 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 42-46-5(a)(1) and Section 42-46-5(a)(2) specifically for: (a) three Personnel matter, (b) Collective Bargaining discussion with respect to NEAB, BEST and United Steelworkers, and (c) Administrative Evaluation. The motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:50 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:50 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.