

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 10/20/11

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, October 20, 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, Ms. Tietz, Dr. McIntyre, Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Michael Messore led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre commended Mrs. Paula Montesi, the entire Primrose Hill staff, Chief LaCross Chief Bessette and all the fire department staff for their outstanding efforts and caring of the students at the unfortunate incident at Primrose Hill School last week.

Dr. McIntyre expressed his gratitude to the Barrington Education Foundation (BEF) for their energy and enthusiasm in all that they do and mentioned their upcoming event on October 26th in the High School auditorium at 7 p.m. entitled “Where Do We Go From Here?” with keynote speaker Commissioner Deborah Gist and guest speaker, Matt Williams, Knowledge Works.

Dr. McIntyre recognized Mr. George Finn, who was elected to serve our nation’s young people as a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee.

Dr. McIntyre was proud to announce that Mr. Patrick Guida was voted president-elect of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Guida for all he has done for Barrington.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of 10/20/11 as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting of 10/06/11 that started at 7:03 p.m. as presented. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Fuller abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting of 10/06/11 that started at 10:45 p.m. as presented. It was noted that the minutes were sealed and no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0.

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Approval of Financials

Upon review and discussion of the September financial expenditures:

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adopt and approve the monthly expenditures for September in the amount of \$4,607,021.57. The motion passed 5-0.

Information and Proposals

Ms. Peg Votta, Research Specialist at RIDE and one of two possible candidates interviewed as the possible facilitator for our district as we move forward to renew and update our strategic plan, presented an overview of her recommendations, thoughts and ideas regarding this process. Ms. Votta used a power point presentation as the basis of her overview. Much discussion took place regarding various aspects of her presentation.

A presentation took place regarding NECAP Science test results. Power point presentations were used as the basis of reporting the tests results in addition to strategies that have been put in place to help improve test scores. Presenters were Arlene Miguel and Seth Tibbetts from Hampden Meadows; Richard Wheeler and Anthony Borgueta from the Middle School; and Joseph Hurley and Diana Siliezar-Shields from the High School. Much discussion took place regarding various aspects of their outstanding presentations.

Following Mrs. Healy-Mills' overview of the SEAC Bylaws presented to the Committee for formal approval, the Committee asked questions and suggested some changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws will be revised and presented for formal approval at the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. McIntyre stated his efforts to date regarding the district's make up days which resulted from Hurricane Irene. He summarized possible options and noted that he will monitor the situation closely and consider the various options.

A discussion took place regarding changing school start times, focusing on a later start at the high school. Mr. Hurley noted that a committee has been formed to deal with the feasibility of this initiative and finding ways to overcome the challenges that would need to be addressed (e.g. transportation issues, athletic events, etc.). Committee members expressed their hope that this change would be in place by the start of the next school year. A member of the audience noted that a community with similar demographics as Barrington instituted such a change and would be happy to share the logistics they encountered with this initiative.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

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Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. McIntyre noted no information has been received to date regarding retirement figures and that the Committee would be informed as soon as the information is received.

Mr. Tarro updated the Committee on the status of the Middle School facilities noting that he will be meeting with RIDE to review our progress and determine if we are ready to roll out the next stage in the process. Questions were asked by the Committee regarding various aspects of this issue.

A brief discussion took place regarding the selection of the Superintendent Search Committee. It was noted that twenty-five individuals have volunteered to serve on this Search Committee. Mr. Guida and Mrs. Brody will meet with the Superintendent to review the individuals to ensure there is a broad cross section of individuals on the team. It was mentioned that individuals not serving on the main Search Committee could participate on one of the sub committees.

Following a discussion regarding a special meeting to interview and award the Executive Search Consultant Bid, it was determined that the interviews and award of the bid would take place on Wednesday, October 26th starting at 5 p.m.

After reviewing information provided to the Committee regarding optional seating arrangements for the Committee, the Committee requested Mr. Tarro investigate additional seating reconfiguration options. Mr. Ramsden suggested we use existing furniture and reconfigure possible seating options prior to spending money on new furniture.

Old Business from School Committee

The revised Health and Wellness Policy was presented for a second reading.

Dr. Shea was honored to move and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the revised Health and Wellness Policy – IHAMD presented as the last School Committee meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

A brief discussion took place regarding the posting of the School Committee's email addresses on the district website. Mrs. Brody suggested a statement be included with language to address the Open Meetings Law.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Fuller seconded to post School Committee emails on the district website along with a statement to address the Open Meetings Law. The motion passed 5-0.

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New Business from Superintendent and Staff

There were no Personnel items this evening.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the request for use of school facilities for Barrington Youth Basketball Club The motion passed 5-0.

Following Mr. Tarro's overview of the Special Education Bussette Bid:

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to approve the recommendation of Mr. Tarro with respect to the award of the Special Education Bussette Bid to O'Connor Bus Sales in a net amount not to exceed \$22,324.50 which was the lowest qualified evaluated bidder. It was noted that this price includes the trade in of three older buses. The motion passed 5-0.

New Business from School Committee

No issues were raised at this time.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Suggested topics included data on gender gaps in NECAP testing, change of start time at schools, an update on the earth and science tutorial, and approval of SEAC By-Laws.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

October 26th 5:00 p.m. Interviews and Award of Executive Search Consultant Bid

November 3rd 7:30 p.m. Common Core Standards
PARCC

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-5(a)(1), 42-46-5(a)(2) and 42-46-5(a)(5) specifically for: (a) two Personnel matters, (b) Collective Bargaining discussion with respect to NEAB, BEST and United Steelworkers, (c) Administrative Evaluation and discussing conditions of possible real property purchase. The motion passed 5-0.

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Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:30 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

Back in open session, Mr. Guida reported that the Committee voted 5-0 to deny the request to reverse the decision of the Superintendent with regard to a grievance.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:30 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.