

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/01/12

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, November 1, 2012 at the Administration Office. Mr. Guida reconvened the meeting at 7:38 p.m. stating that the School Committee met in Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 42-46-5(a)(9) specifically for hearings on, or discussions of, a grievance filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement and that no votes were taken and the minutes were sealed. Present were Mr. Guida, Mr. Fuller, Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Mr. Ramsden, Ms. Moses, Mr. Messore, Mr. Tarro and Mrs. Dillon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Guida led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Guida noted that beginning with this meeting, the Committee will be using a slightly different agenda format. As a result of their workshop in October, the Committee has agreed to move the consent agenda portion to later in the meeting and attempt to observe each item's time allotment.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore congratulated Barrington High School student Cassidy Laidlaw who has been selected as a contestant for the 2013 national Who Wants to Be a Mathematician contest. The contest will be held on January 10 in San Diego with a top prize of \$5,000. Mr. Messore wished Cassidy the best of luck and noted that Stephen Lamontagne competed two years ago in the same contest.

Mr. Messore congratulated Mr. Guida who will begin his term as president of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) in January. Mr. Guida, vice-chairman of the Board of Regents and Barrington School Committee chair, has served throughout the current year as the association's president-elect.

Mr. Messore recognized the custodial staff, the transportation staff, and the 12-month employees who both weathered Hurricane Sandy and volunteered at the Primrose Hill Red Cross shelter.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore noted that the BPS Spotlight is an opportunity to recognize teaching and learning throughout the district. This first installment ties closely to the development of the science curriculum. Mr. Messore introduced Carrie Clegg, Grade 4 teacher at Hampden Meadows, who presented an overview of the \$6,500 BEF grant from the Audubon Society and the creation of the nature trail. Ms. Clegg highlighted the benefits of outdoor learning for students, their exposure to scientific inquiry through active learning, and how this process has allowed for collaboration with several groups in Barrington.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore recommended that a subcommittee be formed to explore choices, cost and impact of

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school start times for the district. The subcommittee would likely include members of the School Committee, administration and community and would utilize the initial groundwork completed. The Committee agreed to form a subcommittee after the organizational meeting in December.

Mrs. Dillon presented an update on the district's transition to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). The PowerPoint presentation, which included updates on professional development, curriculum writing, training and communication, will be made available on the district website.

General Public Discussion and Information

Paula Dominguez, mother of two and candidate for School Committee, commended the Committee and administration for addressing the important topics of Common Core and PARCC.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Guida reiterated his earlier report on the use of the new agenda format being used by the Committee as a result of discussions held at the Governance Workshop held in October.

The next meeting of the Strategic Plan Committee will be targeted for December, with Mrs. Miller and Mr. Messoro leading the meeting without a facilitator. Mr. Messoro reported that the strategic plan is in the final stages.

The Committee agreed to dispense of the second reading of the Norms and Standards Policy and move forward with a motion. After a brief discussion, the Committee was in agreement to amend the current draft by deleting statement #4 and adopt the amended policy.

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to adopt the School Committee Norms and Standards Policy. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Brody requested that the policy be posted in the central office and every school building. Mr. Guida noted that it should be posted on the website and Mr. Ramsden added that the policy should be read each year at a School Committee meeting early in the school year.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the leave of absence for Jessica McDonnell, SO, Grade 2. The motion passed 5-0.

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Upon review and discussion of the asset list provided for the disposal of school assets:

Mr. Fuller moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the asset list for disposal of school assets as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Tarro reported on the concerns with the current food service program. In response to declining participation, Chartwells is looking into possible opportunities with snack kiosks at the High School and at sporting events, in addition to reducing food costs. Discussion ensued on the concerns for students on edible options and portion sizes while trying to meet state and federal regulations.

New Business from School Committee

Mr. Guida reported on the negotiation structure with the NEAB. The request for proposals for legal counsel to assist in the negotiating process has resulted in three responses. Mr. Guida stressed that the Committee will remain firmly in control of any final decisions regarding the form and content of any contract entered into with all bargaining units. He added that while Mr. Messoro has determined to voluntarily recuse himself from the process and Mr. Tarro has been recognized as bringing valuable experience to the process, the Committee has had no substantive discussion regarding the membership of the team that will be directly involved with the negotiations.

Mr. Tarro reported that the Town of Barrington recently updated their fee structure for the Public use of Facilities Policy. A revised draft of the School Committee policy incorporating the Town's fee structure was presented to the Committee.

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to adopt the revised School Committee Public Use of Facilities Policy. The motion passed 5-0.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to approve the minutes of the 10/18/12 Open Meeting and Executive Session as presented. It was noted that the minutes for the Executive Session were sealed and no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messoro reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee will include an update on technology by Mrs. Miller and a facilities update.

Mrs. Brody asked if the next regular meeting on November 15 should be rescheduled as some members may not be available to meet. After discussion, the Committee agreed to meet on November 8 in executive session to interview the three legal counsel candidates for contract negotiations, and hold the next regular meeting on November 20.

Mrs. Brody asked that policy updates be added as a future agenda item with the possibility of

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moving toward a paperless policy system that would provide archival and historical information. For the Committee's consideration, Mrs. Brody added that eBOARDsolutions offers webinars on policy management.

Mr. Ramsden requested that all communication from the central office staff to the Committee be standardized, to more easily address time sensitive topics.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Mr. Messore noted that the next meeting will include updates on technology and facilities.

General Public Discussion and Information

Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to work on the Strategic Plan with the administration. He feels the plan is truly strategic for the next few years and credits the resident talent on the administration.

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:05 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-5(a)(1) and 42-46-5(a)(2) specifically for Personnel and Collective Bargaining and Litigation with NEAB, United Steelworkers and BEST. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.