

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/06/12

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at the Administration Building. As it was the annual organizational meeting, Mr. Messoro called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Present were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida, Ms. Moses, Mr. Messoro, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro.

Mr. Messoro requested nominations for the Chairperson.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to nominate Dr. Robert Shea as Chairperson. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The gavel was turned over to Dr. Shea.

Dr. Shea thanked his colleagues for their support and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as chairperson. He also thanked Mr. Guida on behalf of the entire community for his commitment and years of service followed by a standing ovation for Mr. Guida.

Dr. Shea requested nominations for the Vice-Chairperson-Clerk.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to nominate Mrs. Kate Brody as Vice-Chairperson-Clerk. The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Guida led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messoro read a statement from Town Council liaison to the School Committee Cynthia Armour Coyne who could not be present at the meeting. In the statement, Mrs. Coyne thanked the Committee for their support of and attendance at the recent Local Government Workshop held on November 28 sponsored by the Town Council. She also thanked videographer Jonathan Loutitt who helped create a record of the training.

The Barrington Middle School Robotics Competition Teams competed at the qualifying tournament on December 1, winning the Champion's Award and the Robot Performance Award. Mr. Messoro congratulated Team #1, captain Eliot Laidlaw, Andrew Cooke, Conor Mc Gartoll, Theenash Kumar, Connor Medeiros and Kyle Villella; and Team #2 captain Haotian Lu, Rayna Mishra, Riddhi Adhiya, Haoran Wen, Christian McElroy, Josephine Kuo, Anna Han and Oskar Schnippering. The RI State Championship will be held on January 12.

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Mr. Messore congratulated Tara Cunningham, 5th Grade teacher at Hampden Meadows, and her 5th graders from last year who were recently awarded the Kids Helping Kids Award at the State House. For the project, the students collected supplies for foster children attending Adoption RI's summer camp program and wrote heart-felt notes to the campers.

Mr. Messore proudly announced that Barrington High School senior Karl Aspelund was selected to serve as one of Rhode Island's two representatives at Washington Week with the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) and senior Rebecca Flikier was named an alternate. A total of 222 Rhode Island students applied, of which six were BHS students. Three of the seven students who advanced to the final interview phase of the application were BHS students.

Dr. Shea officially welcomed Dr. Paula Dominguez as the School Committee's newest member.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced Kevin Blanchard, High School English teacher, who was accompanied by senior Alice Hamblett. Mr. Blanchard chaired the High School's recent 1st Annual BigWig Language & Composition Society Education Conference, where students had the opportunity to participate in a Socratic Seminar. Students were asked to respond to the prompt, "How do our schools meet the goals of a true education" with a five-minute public speaking response. Miss Hamblett read aloud her response entitled, "The Desk". The Committee and administration expressed their appreciation for student perspective on different ways of learning. Discussion and questions followed which included the possibility of opening up AP courses to juniors. The talks from the conference are available for viewing on the Eagle News Network.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore presented an update on the Barrington Educator Evaluation System. He outlined the components of the evaluation criteria, student learning objectives, the evaluation timeline and how the district is moving forward. Discussion ensued on various aspects of the of the evaluation process. The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the district website.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Messore presented the Barrington Public Schools Strategic Plan 2012-2017 for consideration of adoption by the Committee. Mr. Messore summarized the plan's goals, timeline and the smartsheet

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that will track progress, and next steps. Mr. Messore recognized the collaborative effort of the Strategic Planning Committee, School Committee, administration and the community, and thanked Mrs. Katie Miller, Director of Technology, for her efforts in moving the plan forward. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the plan and schedule a School Committee retreat for January to include the formation of subcommittees.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adopt the Strategic Plan as presented and recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The Committee discussed the formation of a policy subcommittee. It was agreed that the Committee would add this subcommittee formation to the January retreat agenda as part of a number of other subcommittees for consideration.

Mr. Messore unveiled the framed banner of the School Committee's Norms and Standards Policy and thanked Middle School teacher Cheryl DelSanto for directing 6th graders Nicholas Loew and Samuel Soares, and 7th graders Harrison Martin, Andrea Kubas-Meyer and Julia Fortin on the frame. Mrs. Brody suggested that the Committee request that Mr. Messore express their appreciation and provide positive feedback to the students for their involvement. Mr. Messore noted that Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, had designed the banner. Mr. Messore and the School Committee shared congratulations and thanks with Mrs. Levesque for her creativity and initiative in the design of the banner that will be permanently installed in the School Committee Room.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mrs. Brody moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the following appointments:

**Mark Bonneau, MS, Head Coach Boys Basketball
Sean Magee, HS, Assistant Coach Wrestling
Bobby Rodericks, MS, Head Coach Wrestling**

The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

School Committee Policy, JLF – Policy on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. The policy will be presented for a second reading and formal approval at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Tarro presented an update on the capital budget that will be submitted on December 7 as required annually to the Town of Barrington as part of the capital project improvement plan. The

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capital budget will include technology and school improvements, as well as the Middle School project as a \$36m line item for FY2016-2017 supported by documentation. The immediate health and safety needs of \$2.4m will be addressed through the capital reserve of which there is currently \$823,000 in the account with an expected additional reimbursement amount of \$200,000 from the Department of Education. As the FY2014 budget is developed, there are no funds available to re-appropriate as surplus and there is a \$200,000 gap on the revenue side at this time. Mr. Tarro added that administrators have been given the directive to build their budgets using a zero-based model.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on professional development for the superintendent. The discussion included the opportunity to network outside the district and the upcoming *Leadership Institute for Superintendents* held by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. While not a directive from the Committee to attend a specific session, the Committee expressed their support for professional development for the superintendent consistent with the district philosophy.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Brody noted for the record that the Executive Session minutes of November 20, 2012 need further review. The Committee agreed to place those minutes on the next meeting's agenda for approval.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the Open Meeting minutes of November 20, 2012. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on December 20 will include an update on data teams.

Mr. Guida reported on the national initiative in effect to improve the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs. Because a portion of the initiative includes closer collaborations between higher education and local school districts, Mr. Guida requested a future agenda item to discuss opportunities. Mr. Messore suggested the topic of higher education collaboration be placed on the April 25 agenda.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

No issues were raised at this time.

General Public Discussion and Information

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Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, thanked the Committee for their commitment to the Strategic Plan and for a being district that is already great having the courage to continue to ask questions on how to be better. Mr. Douglas expressed how proud he is to have been part of the process.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:37 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 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Mr. Fuller seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Mr. Fuller seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:51 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.