

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/07/13

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at the Administration Office. Dr. Shea called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Ms. Moses, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida were not present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore recognized several achievements across the district.

Barrington High School students Juyeon Ha, chorus, and Jacob Greenbery, jazz band, have been accepted into the All-Eastern ensembles. All-Eastern ensembles are made up of only 1% of Rhode Island students, and Barrington will be represented with two students.

Cassidy Laidlaw placed 5th in the nation at the National Who Wants to be a Mathematician Competition on January 10th. He won \$1,000 and as well as \$1,000 for the Barrington High School Math Department.

On January 25th, Barrington High School student Timothy Connor completed his experience as part of the U.S. Senate Page Program and was chosen to give a speech as Student Council President.

Thirteen Barrington High School seniors have been selected as candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. They are: Karl Aspelund, Stuart Finney, Rebecca Flikier, Cassandra Hradil, Shir Kantor, Robert Kellner, Jack Liang, Sophie Luks, Fiona Paine, Veronica Sedivy, Sofia Serrano, Hans Wang and Molly Williams. This program selects students based on their exceptional scores on their SATs as well as participation in YoungArts, demonstrating excellence in the arts. Approximately only 20 females and 20 males are selected from each state.

The Barrington Middle School wrestling team won the state wrestling title on January 27th, completing an undefeated season with an 11-0 record. Three 8th graders took individual state titles: Sam Lundsten, Vasilios Meltsakos and Lucas Dillon.

Other sports achievements in the district include:

- Charlie Ionata, senior track and field athlete, who placed first at the Dartmouth Relays, the East Coast Classic, and was #1 in the nation for the month of January for the Boys Indoor Hammer Throw.
- Boys Indoor Track and Field who placed first in the State Division Track Meet.
- Girls Indoor Track and Field who placed first in the State Division Track Meet and are the 2013 Rhode Island Interscholastic League Medium Class Champions.

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- Emma McMillan, freshman, has been named 2012-2013 Rhode Island Gatorade Cross Country Runner of the Year.

Mr. Messore also congratulated the 2013 Rhode Island Scholastic Art Award winners whose winning artwork was on display January 22nd through February 6th at the Hamilton Gallery at Salve Regina University, and portfolio winners will be exhibited at Gallerie Ellipsis in Newport through February 14th:

- Jenna DeAngelis, BHS – Silver Key – Ceramics
- Cassandra Hradil, BHS – Gold Key – Painting
- Stephanie Langlois, BHS – Silver Key – Ceramics
- Felicia Marcello, BHS – Silver Key – Design
- Allison Neilan, BHS – Silver Key – Painting
- Elizabeth Parant, BHS – Gold Key – Art Portfolio
- Andres Prince-Gonzalez, BHS – Gold Key – Printmaking
- Risa Wan, BHS – Silver Key – Drawing
- Ingrid Kenyon, BMS – Silver Key – Mixed Media
- Paige Nestell, BMS – Gold Key – Mixed Media

Mr. Messore thanked Barrington High School's Mai Donohue, teacher assistant, and Jason Appel, math teacher, who organized a fundraising event on January 31st to benefit the school community of New Dorp High School on Staten Island who were devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Mai and Jason generously donated their time to organize the event to include a raffle and silent auction, and Mai prepared the authentic Vietnamese dinner.

Mr. Messore recognized Dr. Robert Shea, School Committee Chair, and Bryant University's Director of Faculty Development, who has been promoted to Assistant Vice President for Teaching and Learning. Since joining Bryant in 2011, Dr. Shea has made significant contributions to enhance campus culture dedicated to teaching and learning and has played a key role in the development and implementation of several programs including the nationally known First-Year Gateway program.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Tarro presented areas of focus used to help guide with developing the school budget. The PowerPoint presentation, available on the district website, included information on enrollment and needs related to the Strategic Plan, BEP (Basic Education Plan), CCSS (Common Core State Standards) and PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Mr. Tarro reviewed enrollment projections versus actual numbers and the potential changes in total classroom configurations based on class sizes. Mr. Messore noted the necessary indicators to maintain a world-class educational community which include enhancing and preserving quality programs and services, retaining and recruiting high quality educators, and providing adequate resources that support initiatives in the Strategic Plan. The presentation was followed by discussion and several questions by the Committee.

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General Public Discussion and Information

Mrs. Kathryn Cadigan, of 88 Rumstick Road, Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, commented on preserving program quality versus adding new programs, and asked if students taking courses with New England Tech would receive credit at the High School.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, having participated in PTOs at both Hampden Meadows and the Nayatt School, asked if the Committee would explore the opportunity to have a subcommittee look at creative budgeting and utilizing the community as a financial resource for obtaining technology devices.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from School Committee

Dr. Dominguez led the discussion on the Use of School Facilities policy, expressing her concern for the consistency, fairness and reasonableness of the fee schedule adopted by the Committee on November 1, 2012. Dr. Dominguez requested that the Policy Subcommittee review the current policy for consistency and alignment with the Strategic Plan. Dr. Shea and Mrs. Brody agreed that specific criteria for each category of organization would be beneficial, and both noted that the current fee schedule is in alignment with the Town of Barrington's fee structure. Mr. Messore reported that all fees collected are given to the Town of Barrington and noted that any action would need to start with a vote at the next meeting to suspend the current fee schedule. The Committee agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Joel Hellmann, of 13 Richmond Avenue, commented that the fees are prohibitive to those using the facilities. Mr. Hellmann questioned how many groups since November 1 have used the school facilities and then questioned Dr. Dominguez's participation with the board of Arts Alive! Dr. Dominguez reported that she is not serving on the Board of Arts Alive at this time.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointments of Amy Skadberg, Middle School Secretary and Kathryn Tajima, High School Varsity Girls Lacrosse Head Coach. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the requests for leave of absence for Stephanie Nary, Middle School English and Eliza Pyliotis, High School Math. The motion passed 3-0

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with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the resignations of Jared Andreozzi, High School Boys Assistant Volleyball Coach and Thomas Ferdenzi, High School Junior Varsity Baseball Head Coach. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to accept, with regret, the retirement of longtime employee Leah O'Mahony, Middle School Math. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for home schooling for the named individual. The name was not identified publicly. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messoro requested that the review and approval of the School Calendar 2013-2014 be tabled to a future meeting.

In response to a request from the Committee, Mr. Tarro prepared a presentation on the per pupil expenditure calculation and FY2012 audit. Mr. Tarro briefly overviewed that the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is responsible for calculating the per pupil expenditure and there is a process to validate our number by auditors which is tied to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Barrington implemented the Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) in May, 2008 as part of its pilot program in 13 districts and has since gone through multiple data conversions with over 8,000 accounts. Discussion ensued and questions were posed from audience members Mrs. Kathryn Cadigan and Mr. Joel Hellmann regarding possible inconsistencies in the reported numbers among all districts. Mr. Tarro assured the accuracy of the numbers reported by the Barrington Public Schools.

New Business from School Committee

The Committee discussed the current vacancy on the Senior Project Committee. Mrs. Brody expressed her interest in serving and a discussion will be held when all members are present at the next meeting.

The Committee confirmed that they will hold a joint meeting with the Committee on Appropriations on March 14. Mr. Tarro reported that, pending approval by the School Committee at its February 21 meeting, the budget will be submitted to the Committee on Appropriations on February 26. Mrs. Brody noted that the March 14 meeting should include topics discussed at tonight's meeting since not all School Committee members are present.

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Consent Agenda

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Brody requested that at a future meeting the Committee establish charges for the subcommittees as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Brody noted that that at the recent Tri-Council meeting held on January 28th, a discussion was held on an Ad Hoc Budget Forecasting Committee and requested that the School Committee have the opportunity to deliberate on the topic at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Messore noted that the discussion regarding the School Committee vacancy on the Senior Project Committee will continue at the next meeting.

Mr. Messore noted that there are two vacancies on the Building Committee and appointments will need to be confirmed by the School Committee on a future agenda.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Mrs. Brody requested an update be kept on the radar once feedback is received from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) relative to the Two Year Progress Report on Barrington High School. Mr. Messore assured the Committee that once the report is received, an update will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Dr. Shea reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, February 14th will feature continued budget discussion, an update on the Strategic Plan and a presentation on all day kindergarten.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:23 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Personnel; Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for Collective Bargaining and Litigation with NEAB, United Steelworkers and BEST; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion regarding school buildings security issues. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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Dr. Dominguez moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:36 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:37 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion.