

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 05/16/13

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the Administration Building. Dr. Shea called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Present were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida, Ms. Moses, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro.

Pledge of Allegiance

Faith Moses led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business from School Committee

The Committee agreed to move the Student Representative to the School Committee agenda item to begin the meeting. With mixed emotions, Mrs. Brody led the Committee farewell and gift presentation to Faith Moses, Student Representative to the School Committee for the 2012-2013 school year. Each Committee member, along with Mr. Messore, expressed their appreciation to Ms. Moses for her service on the Committee and on the Strategic Planning Committee. Ms. Moses thanked the Committee for the valuable experience.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore recognized several achievements across the district.

On April 20th, the Barrington High School Science Olympiad team placed first at the state competition for the fourth consecutive year. The team placed in 14 out of 21 possible events. Competing team members: Fiona Paine, Nell Klimpert, William Klimpert, Makenna Kobrin, Zachary Chavez, Elijah Sheinkopf, Kassidy O'Donnell, Charles Winner, Emily Modica, Adam Kelly, Samyukta Mallick, Alexa Collins, Ian Sabula, Rohan Chander, Vincent Portelli, Oana Groza, and Olivia Bowen. The team will compete in the National Tournament on May 17-18.

Bridget Kegelman, Hampden Meadows 5th grader, is a winner in the Bristol County Water Authority Poster Contest, and 5th Grader Meghan Spaight is a runner up in the Poster Contest.

The Barrington Middle School Girls and Boys track teams both came in first place on May 6 at the Eastern Division Track Meet. The teams include more than 120 students from all grades and clusters.

On May 1, the Hampden Meadows 5th Grade Chorus traveled to Ponaganset High School to perform at the 2013 Elementary Choral Festival and received a rating of "superior" with a score of 43 out of 45 points. Mr. Messore congratulated Paula Degnan and her students.

The Barrington Middle School 8th Graders placed in the Rhode Island Center for the Book's 2013 Letters About Literature program. Selected as semifinalists were Maxwell Johnson and Mariam

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Mabrouk, and the 2013 Level 2 winner was Elena Serrano. An honorable mention went to Niloy Singh.

The Barrington High School Unified Basketball Team have won the Division 3 State Championship.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced John West, Barrington High School Business Teacher and Eagle News Network Advisor. Mr. West introduced members of the Sunrise Show present at the meeting: Megan Duffy, Heidi Anderson, Cameron Hummel, Julia Soares, and Lindsey Kloc. The Sunrise Show, in its ninth season, gives students the opportunity to experience what it would be like to work in the field of journalism, delivering news on sports, weather and daily high school announcements. Student also have the opportunity to create public service announcements and videos for freshman orientation and other events. Mr. West shared example videos of the Sunrise Show and a recent award winning student-created public service announcement. The Eagle News Network also broadcasts the Barrington High School graduation ceremonies which can be viewed around the world. Videos on the network are available for both live stream and on demand viewing.

Information and Proposals

Mrs. Dillon provided an update on the current Common Core Curriculum for both English Language Arts and Math and next steps to migrate curriculum data into Aspen. Information on the new curriculum standards, including embedded fluency and application in all modules with a strong emphasis on problem solving, has been presented to parents at recent PTO meetings and shared by building principals in their parent newsletters and school websites. Mrs. Dillon noted that kindergarten and first grade have already shifted their progress reports to Common Core and all grades will complete their shift starting in the next academic year.

Mr. Messore provided an update on vocational education options for the district. The administration continues their discussion with MTTI for the ability to access their programs through Barrington High School (BHS) work study programs. The continued partnership with New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) allows BHS students to receive credit for some courses with next steps to align courses offered at BHS with programs at NEIT. The goal is to allow students entering high school a greater opportunity to create a college or career path plan. Ms. Moses asked if the district still worked with the East Bay Collaborative for vocational placement and Mr. Messore noted while some students are placed, there are limited vocational opportunities.

Mr. Messore presented the Strategic Plan SmartSheet, an internal working document used to track the progress of the Strategic Plan priorities and goals for feedback from the Committee. The review of the priorities and updating of this document will continue over the summer months. The monthly newsletter from the Superintendent features updates tied to the Strategic Plan. Next steps

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will include reaching the broader community with these updates through the Communications Plan that will be proposed by the Strategic Communication Subcommittee.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Tarro provided a summary of the district's financials, including a breakdown of the last five year's surplus allocations and the capital reserve-school improvement summary transactions. Following expenditures that include roof replacements at the Nayatt and Primrose Hill schools, new parking lots at the High School and Sowams School, the housing aid reimbursement and interest income, the capital reserve fund totals \$1,006,638. These funds are set aside to address the \$2,464,305 immediate health and safety projects approved by RIDE. Mr. Tarro explained the budget process with regard to the surplus account, noting that there are no placeholders in the budget for reserves. Mr. Joel Hellmann, of 13 Richmond Avenue, questioned the probable surplus amount of \$300,000 and the collective bargaining impact statement. Mr. Tarro explained the breakdown of the projected potential revenue savings and the potential medical plan savings with the new NEAB contract.

Old Business from School Committee (continued)

The Committee continued the All Day Kindergarten discussion held at the May 9 meeting of the School Committee. Dr. Shea reminded all of recommendation of the Superintendent and the charge placed with the All Day Kindergarten Subcommittee. Dr. Shea called for a motion to accept the recommendation of the All Day Subcommittee.

Mrs. Brody moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the All Day Kindergarten Subcommittee, in full support of full day kindergarten, to implement the full day program beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Following discussion, Mr. Guida motioned to implement the full day program this coming year.

Mr. Guida moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to implement a full day kindergarten program for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Messoro noted the amount of work done by the All Day Kindergarten Subcommittee to research projected enrollment, and needs with regard to transportation, facilities and curriculum supports to implement a full day program. He added that without the estimated \$633,000 needed, it is not feasible to implement the program now, but can be placed in the budget the following year as a priority with the full costs. Dr. Dominguez feels strongly that full day kindergarten needs to be

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implemented and that the funds can be found within the current budget. Mr. Fuller read a prepared statement and agrees with the recommendation of the Superintendent for implementation in the 2014-2015 academic year. Mr. Guida is not prepared to allow another kindergarten cohort to go with a full day program, knowing they will be assessed by the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Brody agreed that the district has a responsibility to deliver the curriculum to kindergarten students providing a foundation and there may be a number of opportunities relating to end of year savings that could be considered. Dr. Shea noted that the current motion as it stands could put other programs at risk.

Following discussion, Mr. Guida amended the motion on the floor.

Mr. Guida moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to support the implementation of a full day kindergarten program for the 2013-2014 academic year provided sufficient resources of funding are identified in order to implement a full day program without adversely impacting other programs anticipated to be funded in the FY 2013-2014 operating budget.

Discussion ensued on the feasibility of implementing a full day kindergarten program absent the necessary financial resources. Mr. Guida questioned if the kindergarten students would receive sufficient instruction during the course of the year for the Common Core State Standards, and Mrs. Dillon stated they would not in a half day program. Mrs. Brody asked Mrs. Dillon to clarify the impact on teaching and learning for the students and the impact would be a loss of one hour of instructional time for the students.

The motion passed 3-2 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion and Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller voting against the motion.

The Committee agreed to waive the second reading of the policy on Preparation of the Budget and move forward with a motion.

Mr. Guida moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to waive the requirement for the second reading for the policy on Preparation of the Budget. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adopt the policy on Preparation of the Budget. 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 agreed to waive the second reading of the policy on Transfer of Funds within Budget and move forward with a motion.

Mrs. Brody moved and Mr. Guida seconded to waive the requirement for the second

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reading for the policy on Transfer of Funds within Budget. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adopt the policy on Transfer of Funds within Budget. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to accept the retirement of Diane Hause, NA, Grade 2. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

No issues were raised at this time.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the consent agenda. 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 and General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Mr. Messoro reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, June 6 will feature a presentation college planning, Naviance and exit survey as well as an update on instructional technology.

On June 4, the Committee is scheduled to hold a workshop in open session with Brenda Clark.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Ivy Rollins Milliken thanked the Committee for supporting an all day kindergarten program in the district and noted that there are now 350 signatures on an online petition supporting full day kindergarten in Barrington. Dr. Milliken encouraged those inclined to let their opinion be known.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, noted that the Committees elected by the town should agree to bind in advance for the fairest outcome to the residents of the town, especially at the Financial Town Meeting, to help reduce collateral damage.

Mrs. Patricia Adams, of 17 Wildflower Road, thanked the Committee for voting to implement the all day kindergarten program next year. Her sense is though there are many supporters for the all

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day program, a large part of the community does not have the confidence it can be properly implemented in this short amount of time.

No Executive Session was held.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:05 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.