

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 08/19/13**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Monday, August 19, 2013 at the Administration Building. Dr. Shea reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. after the School Committee met in Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Rhode Island General Law Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Personnel and reported that no votes were taken and the minutes were sealed. Present for the open session were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Connor, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Mr. Guida.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Shea led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mrs. Brody recognized and expressed her appreciation for the School Committee partnership with the Central Office staff, thanking Mr. Tarro for his partnership and immediate response to Committee requests and commending Mrs. Liz Levesque for her immediate incorporation of best practices from the Attorney General's August 2013 Open Government Summit relative to the meeting agenda structure. Mrs. Brody also expressed her appreciation for the district wide calendar, with the capability to sort by building related events, that has been posted on the District website.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. Messore introduced educational consultant, Ms. Brenda Clark, who is once again in District on August 19-20 to provide training for administrators in supporting and sustaining continuous improvement. As a follow-up to Ms. Clark's July 18 presentation to the Committee, Ms. Clark provided an overview of her consulting work since having been awarded the bid for educational leadership consultant services to assist the District implementation of the Lead, Educate, and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) grant awarded by RIDE. Ms. Clark cited the book, Cultures Built to Last, Systemic PLCs at Work by Richard DuFour and Michael Fullan used as a reference guide for the training, and highlighted the following topics: factors that contribute to difficulty of change, parts of a high performing system, keys for building high performing teams, and strategic planning. The presentation was followed by questions from the Committee and discussion regarding strategies and goals for each school with alignment to the District Strategic Plan, Professional Learning Communities, and instructional intervention strategies. In response to a question, Ms. Clark noted that the School Committee may wish to consider defining its mission and goals as a Professional Learning Community.

The Committee discussed and suggested agenda topics to be incorporated into the 2013-2014 academic year meeting schedule. The calendar of meeting dates and topics will be distributed once finalized by Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Mr. Messore.

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**General Public Discussion and Information**

Ms. Amy Morton, of Waseca Avenue, expressed her appreciation for the Committee's recognition of the importance of All Day Kindergarten as identified in the press release.

Mrs. Patricia Adams, of 17 Wildflower Road, requested that the curriculum update for the current Kindergarten class mentioned in the School Committee press release on the All Day Kindergarten Task Force be presented to the community. Mrs. Adams also asked if possible that the Committee not hold a meeting on October 31, Halloween night. Mr. Messore noted that an update on Kindergarten curriculum was presented at the School Committee meeting on June 20 and an update on All Day Kindergarten will be an ongoing agenda item throughout the year. The Committee agreed to move the October 31 meeting to Tuesday, October 29.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

No issues were raised at this time.

**Old Business from School Committee**

As a follow-up to the discussion on contracts for services held at the August 7 meeting, Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with a contract listing that included expiration dates and contract amounts for facilities, student services, professional development, financial, District services and software. Dr. Dominguez noted the importance of reviewing how funds are allocated toward these non-instructional areas. Dr. Dominguez also provided a spreadsheet comparing spending on certain services in Barrington versus the average of all Rhode Island suburban school districts using Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) data. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that further inquiry should be made including with potential contracts with the Town of Barrington and asked Mr. Tarro to provide three years of data for review.

Mr. Messore reported that curriculum for all grade levels has been embedded into Aspen, the District's student information system, and information will be available to all families, including elementary grade levels, after the beginning of the academic year. Mrs. Dillon provided an update on the curriculum, professional development and meetings held with elementary principals and kindergarten teachers to implement a consistent schedule for all kindergarten students that incorporates instructional time, transition time and opportunities for social activity. Mr. Messore, with the initial population of the All Day Kindergarten Task Force (elementary principals and kindergarten teachers), will review facilities, enrollment information from September and October, transportation needs, current curriculum for the half day and a for a future full day program, collect teacher feedback, review special needs and seek parent input. Discussion ensued relative to the identification of and research about high performing districts outside Rhode Island that have implemented a full day kindergarten program and the possibility of a change in the timeline for kindergarten registration.

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Dr. Shea led a follow-up discussion on establishing a date for a Committee Governance Workshop. The televised workshop, facilitated by the Hassenfeld Institute, will be held on a Saturday in open session. Dr. Shea asked Committee members to forward their Saturday availability in the coming weeks to Mrs. Liz Levesque.

**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:**

**Dr. Kathryn Eller, HS, Science  
Kelsey Greineder, MS, English  
Robert Perry, HS, Latin**

**The motion passed 3-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Fuller was not present for the vote.**

**Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for leave of absence for Joseph Pirraglia, MS, English.**

Dr. Shea requested clarification relative to the leave of absence, as Mr. Pirraglia has accepted an administrative position in Coventry. Mr. Messoro will continue to monitor the new state law as it currently states that any educator who pursues an administrative position in another district shall be granted a one to three year leave of absence with the promise that the educator can return to the previously held position in the original district.

**The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller 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:**

**Michael Genetti, HS, Freshman Football Head Coach  
Amy Salomone, HS, Science  
Monica Samolis, MS, Social Studies/English**

**The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

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No issues were raised at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

No items were presented for approval at this time.

**Discussion Future Agenda Items and General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations**

Mrs. Brody requested that a future agenda item include an update on the District Library/Media program.

**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 10:08 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Personnel; Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for Collective Bargaining and Litigation with NEAB, non-union personnel, and administrators; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion regarding school buildings security issues. The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Mrs. Brody moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:46 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Mr. Fuller moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:47 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller voting in the affirmative for the motion.**