

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 06/04/2015

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, June 4, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Tarro. Ms. Schwartz arrived at 9:05 p.m. Absent was Mr. Guida.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Dr. Robert Shea, Dr. Paula Dominguez, and Mr. John Alessandro. Mr. Patrick Guida was absent. Student Representative Lucina Schwartz was expected to arrive later in the evening. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff present: Superintendent Michael Messore, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Paula Dillon, Director of Technology Katie Miller, Director of Administration and Finance Ronald Tarro, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Elizabeth Levesque, and Computer/Network Technician Michael Fallgren.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Jessica Gagnon led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

The team of Barrington High School Senior Matthew Lamontagne and Juniors Vivian Tian and Sahil Mishra finished in eighth place in the Senior Division 3 at the American Computer Science League All Star Competition in Orlando, Florida.

Twenty-nine Barrington High School students competed at the annual Chemistry Competition at the University of Rhode Island. Both the first year team and Advanced Placement (AP) team finished in second place. First year team students were Lauren Grove, Katherine Mayhew, Daniel Zawatskey, Eli Mitnick, Tara Stein, Wanqing Li, Maxwell Johnson, and Andrew Sheinberg. AP team members were Geoffrey Huang, Kimberly Kelly, Nataliya Karashchuk, Julia Forte, Ethan Wold, Samyukta Mallick, Leela Mennillo, and Renee Seto. Instructors for the team were Barrington High School Science teachers Mrs. Amy Nicodemus, Mr. Nicholas McGinn and Mrs. Mary Ann Stiling.

The Hampden Meadows School cast of Seussical Jr. held performances on May 29-30, 2015.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington Education Foundation (BEF) Board members Mrs. Anna Clancy and Mrs. Deb Sullivan who presented event details for the Science Technology Engineering Art Math (STEAM) Connections 2015 program scheduled for November 14, 2015 at Barrington High School. The public event will include networking receptions for high school students with STEAM professionals. Barrington High School Junior Jessica Gagnon, who was also present at the meeting, outlined her Senior Project on the BEF event. Questions from the Committee included Ms. Gagnon's plans to do outreach for the event with her peers at Barrington High School, how the event can be tied into the curriculum and measuring success of the event beyond attendance, and possible internship opportunities.

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Mrs. Miller presented information on the 1:1 technology initiative planned for Barrington High School beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, outlining the areas of communication, policies and procedures, logistics, and professional development and evaluation. Discussion ensued on policies to consider before full implementation of the initiative, the role of the Technology Integration Fellow and the Student Technology Assistance Team (STAT), the process of selection and obtaining the Chromebook devices, and the impact on student learning.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the district process for the evaluation of programs through data analysis that includes evaluation of enrollment, course offerings and assignments, student need, and per pupil expenditures by program. Mr. Messore also overviewed the process to build a program evaluation system into the budget process. Discussion ensued on a more student driven process including student and teacher feedback, how communication on evaluation of programs is articulated at the building level, data collection, and metrics used in the process relative to program recommendations.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the district's Bullying Policy, as outlined in the state regulations, to report on any policy changes and on the number of bullying reports received to date for the year. To maintain confidentiality, no specifics regarding the filed reports were shared at the meeting. Mr. Messore reported that a total of 12 reports have been submitted to date for the current academic year. Mr. Messore noted that there is a process in place for districtwide alignment to support the policy.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mrs. Katharine Killilea, of 19 Martin Avenue, parent of two Barrington Middle School (BMS) students, expressed her concern regarding the implementation of the district's Health and Wellness Policy and distribution of food in the classrooms at BMS because of her son's chronic illness.

Mrs. Cynthia Affronti, of 22 Knapton Street, a Sowams School parent and member of the Health and Wellness Committee, hopes to see a clear policy across the district to address food in schools as her son has severe food allergies.

Mrs. Susan Freel, of 73 Governor Bradford Drive, shared the list of her children's allergies and stressed the importance of listing all allergens in classrooms and not limiting the list to peanuts.

Mrs. Ginger Stabach, of 173 Rumstick Road, parent of three children in the district and volunteer classroom parent, noted that are social emotional implications for when food is offered at a classroom party.

Mr. Messore stated that the Health and Wellness Policy will be reviewed for consistency throughout the district to reinforce a safe environment in schools for all students. Dr. Shea, Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, thanked the parents for bringing this important issue to the School Committee and stated that he would request a future School Committee agenda to include discussion on the Health and Wellness Policy.

Mrs. Ginger Stabach, of 173 Rumstick Road, also a founding executive of Ava Anderson Non Toxic, noted that the health concerns surrounding the installation of an artificial turf field is not worth the risk and that there are alternatives with a natural turf field.

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Mr. Anthony Arico, of 166 Lincoln Avenue, encouraged the Committee to continue a thorough vetting process for a turf field that is informative for the community. Mr. Messoro noted that the Administration is willing to look at further study for a potential turf field as part of its review of future strategic goals.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messoro provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including a strategic plan update for the community this week that includes information on the 1:1 technology initiative and a realtor outreach program meeting next week.

Mr. Tarro reported that the FY2015-2016 budget was approved at the May 27, 2015 Financial Town Meeting. Details on the budget can be found on the district website. Student enrollment will continue to be monitored throughout the summer, including Kindergarten at Primrose Hill and Sowams Schools and Grade 3 at Sowams School; the Administration anticipates that it may be necessary to post a position for an additional Kindergarten teacher at Nayatt School to accommodate a larger student enrollment cohort. . On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Brody thanked Mr. Tarro for the tremendous amount of work on the budget, its transparency, and alignment to the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Dillon provided an update to the Committee on the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) administration in 2015-2016 including the consolidation to one testing window and the reduction of testing time by approximately 90 minutes in all grades. Mrs. Dillon added that test results for this year will be received in the fall, and results next year are anticipated to be received in the summer. Mrs. Dillon will attend the PARCC Educator Leader Cadre in July, 2015 where more information on the test design will be made available at that time.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Tarro reported that the Barrington Middle School Building Committee meeting on May 26, 2015 featured a presentation by Mr. Joseph da Silva, the School Construction Coordinator for the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). The Building Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on June 9, 2015 to draft a contract document for Kaestle Boos Associates, the architectural firm selected for the Barrington Middle School building project. Mr. Michael Carroll, Town Council Liaison to the School Committee, reported on the recent Town Council endorsement of legislation that would allow for subsidized financing of energy related issues to support energy efficiency for new public buildings.

The School Committee policy on Student Data Privacy and Security was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adopt the policy on Student Data Privacy and Security. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messoro announced the leaves of absence for Mrs. Samantha Filippo, HS, Math Intervention Specialist, and Mrs. Karen Fletcher, MS, Science Teacher; the resignations of Mrs. Susan Johnston, Occupational Therapist, and Mr. Martin Ulak, Custodian; and the retirement of Mrs. Carolyn Ahern, HS,

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Guidance Clerk.

Mr. Tarro reported that three bid proposals were received for the floor refinishing of the Barrington High School gym. Information was provided to the Committee for its reference prior to the meeting and it was recommended by the Administration to award the bid to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, O'Keefe Building Maintenance, for an amount not to exceed \$5,678.00.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to award the bid for gym floor refinishing at Barrington High School to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, O'Keefe Building Maintenance, for an amount not to exceed \$5,678.00. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro reported that four bid proposals were received for improvements to the Primrose Hill School parking lot. Information was provided to the Committee for its reference prior to the meeting. Based on the recommendation of Pare Corporation, the engineer hired to develop the plans and specifications for the project, the Administration requested to award the bid to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, D'Ambra Construction Co. Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$603,442.50.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to award the bid for parking lot improvements at Primrose Hill School to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, D'Ambra Construction Co. Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$603,442.50. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro reported that four bid proposals were received for improvements to the Primrose Hill School playground. Information was provided to the Committee for its reference prior to the meeting. Based on the recommendation of Mr. George Gifford, of Gifford Designs, the landscape architecture and environmental planning firm, the Administration requested to award the bid to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Beausoleil Bros., for an amount not to exceed \$80,965.50.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to award the bid for playground improvements at Primrose Hill School to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Beausoleil Bros., for an amount not to exceed \$80,965.50. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro reported that one bid proposal was received for the school-wide physician. Information was provided to the Committee for its reference prior to the meeting and it was recommended by the Administration to award the bid to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Dr. Leonard Parker, at an annual fee of \$18,000 with a contract date of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. Following discussion,

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to award the bid for School Physician to the lowest qualified evaluated bidder, Dr. Leonard Parker, at an annual fee of \$18,000 for five years beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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Mr. Tarro reported that no bid proposals were received for the Solar Renewable Energy bid.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody led the Committee farewell and gift presentation to Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Student Representative to the School Committee for the 2014-2015 academic year. Ms. Schwartz thanked the Committee and Administration for providing the opportunity to participate at School Committee meetings. Each Committee member, along with Mr. Messoro, expressed their appreciation to Ms. Schwartz for her service.

Ms. Schwartz departed the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

The School Committee policy on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. Discussion ensued on support for students who may require additional support and if there is a requirement for listing available credit programs in the policy. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next School Committee meeting.

The School Committee policy revisions to the Graduation Requirements Policy was presented and read aloud by the Committee for a first reading. Questions and discussion included graduation requirement changes, the tiered diploma system, the impact to students with individual learning plans, and including in the policy a communication mechanism. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next School Committee meeting.

Decision Items

No decision items were presented for approval at this time.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Dr. Shea requested that a discussion on the district's Health and Wellness Policy be held at the next meeting.

Mr. Alessandro requested future agenda items include discussions on the artificial turf field and the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) at Primrose Hill School. Regarding the ALP discussion, Mrs. Brody noted that the School Committee does not make program decisions and encouraged a conversation with the Superintendent.

Mr. Alessandro requested expenditure report comparisons, listing for example February 2015 expenditures in comparison to February 2016 expenditures. Mr. Tarro noted that data can be provided, but the ability to offer information on the difference may not be readily available. Mr. Tarro added that historically, budget reports for the past two years are available for review on the district website.

Mrs. Brody announced that the new Student Representative to the School Committee will be introduced by Barrington High School Principal Joseph Hurley at the next School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Brody requested a future agenda item to include a New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) five-year progress report.

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Mrs. Brody requested that a discussion be held at the next School Committee meeting for plans for a summer meeting schedule that may include a policy workshop.

Announcements

Mrs. Brody announced that the Committee will meet on June 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Barrington High School Library for a District Government Program Workshop, and on June 18, 2015 for its next regular meeting.

Mrs. Brody noted that the Barrington High School Graduation will be held on June 7, 2015 with the Friendship Service on June 6, 2015.

Dr. Shea announced that the Barrington Special Education Advisory Committee will hold their annual awards presentation on June 9, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:55 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Superintendent Evaluation. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:10 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:11 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.