

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 08/14/14

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, August 14, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Student Representative Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Mr. Patrick Guida and Dr. Robert Shea. Dr. Paula Dominguez and Mr. Scott Fuller were absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, and Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stephen Cuzner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

General Public Discussion and Information

The Committee heard General Public Discussion and Information out of order on the agenda. Mr. Stephen Cuzner, of 18 Massasoit Avenue, expressed his concern for what seems to be a culture of secrecy and silence in the schools. Mr. Cuzner requested that a future agenda item include a discussion on ways to communicate with parents and the public about significant instances that put schools at risk.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

The Barrington Education Foundation released their video titled *BEF is the Difference*. The entire video was filmed and produced by Class of 2013 Barrington High School Graduate Ryan Sherwood.

Four Barrington School Committee members received recognition at the 2014 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) annual meeting for their leadership with professional development: Mrs. Brody and Mr. Guida - RIASC Master's Academy Members (100+ hours of professional development); Dr. Shea - RIASC Master's Academy Members (50+ hours); and Dr. Dominguez for RIASC Leadership Academy Graduate (15 hours).

Mr. Guida will be awarded the National Association of State Boards of Education's 2014 Distinguished Service Award in October in recognition of his outstanding service to public education.

Mr. Guida has also been named Chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Education's new Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore welcomed Ms. Lucina Schwartz, the new Student Representative to the School Committee. Ms. Schwartz, a Barrington High School senior, thanked the Committee for the opportunity and expressed her interests in policy, local government, responsible and effective use of technology and gifted education. Mrs. Brody welcomed Ms. Schwartz on behalf of the School Committee.

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Mr. Messore provided a summary of the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative, made available to the district through a grant by the Rhode Island Department of Education that focused on building leadership capacity through training teacher leaders and exploring compensation models. Mrs. Dillon presented the LEAPP 2013-2014 report, noting that the report format follows the model discussed at the recent governance workshops. Mrs. Dillon provided an overview of the report including the impact of the initiative, steps to move forward, and budget and policy implications for Committee consideration.

Mrs. Dillon provided a brief overview of the professional development for this academic year focused on writing across content areas and assessment literacy. Professional development opportunities with grant funding were also offered throughout the summer in Math and Science. The district will continue to hold Unconferences throughout the year, continue its focus on technology and the use of Chromebooks, as well as continue its support of teachers through professional development interventions and instructional strategies.

The Committee held a discussion on the tentative meeting dates and topics for the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. Shea requested additional data from the Guidance Department on progress with students. Mr. Guida requested an update on the implementation of the curriculum, with grade level examples. Mrs. Brody requested a policy workshop, a meeting at Barrington Middle School to showcase the current building project status and a District Strategic Plan Retreat in 2015. Mrs. Brody proposed that the School Committee consider a joint municipal/school breakfast meeting with Barrington's legislative delegation in the General Assembly in January, 2015. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to model the tentative dates and topics document on the district website after the Wellesley, Massachusetts Public Schools format.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore reported that full implementation of All Day Kindergarten (ADK) is set to begin on the first day of school. There are three kindergarten classes each at the Nayatt, Primrose Hill, and Sowams schools, and each with an average class size of 18 students. Mr. Messore provided an overview of the specific building locations of and investment in new furniture for the new kindergarten classrooms as well as the status of hiring personnel and transportation needs.

Mr. Messore provided updates relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. There will be increased communication with parents and the community through forums relating to curriculum, budget and technology. Student forums will continue to be held at Barrington High School and will begin at Barrington Middle School during the upcoming academic year. Ms. Schwartz suggested that student forums be held earlier in the academic year and include the topics of technology and student stress at Barrington High School. Mrs. Brody would also like to bring forward the process for communication with other groups, starting with the Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs).

Old Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on School Committee: Role of the Chair was read aloud for a second reading.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy on School Committee: Role of the Chair. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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The School Committee policy on School Committee: Process for Addressing Violations was read aloud for a second reading.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy on School Committee: Process for Addressing Violations. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Alison Burrows, MS/HM, Math Instructional Coach/Interventionist. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Brian DeLaire, HS/MS, Allied Arts Curriculum Leader. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Rebecca Henderson, MS, Robotics. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the resignation of Diane Burke, HS, Girls Varsity Tennis Coach. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the resignation of Stephen Turgeon, HS, Girls Indoor and Outdoor Track Coach, and, MS, Cross Country Coach. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro reported that under the State of Rhode Island Master Price Agreement (MPA) #337 multiple proposals from approved vendors were received for a lease purchase of 12 photocopiers and maintenance agreement. A memo and tabulation sheet were provided to the Committee prior to the meeting and it was recommended by the administration to award the bid to the lowest, evaluated, and qualified bidder, Axion, Cranston, Rhode Island, for a 48-month tax exempt lease purchase (\$1 buyout) with a monthly payment of \$2,360.80 (annualized \$28,330) and a maintenance contract at \$.0031 per page.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to award the lease purchase of 12 photocopiers and maintenance agreement to the lowest, evaluated, and qualified bidder, Axion, Cranston, Rhode Island. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the requests for home schooling for the named individuals. The student names were not identified publicly. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody, as a follow up to the District Governance Program work on General Public Discussion Guidelines, presented the following two documents for consideration relative to format: the Pewaukee, Wisconsin School District (2013 Baldrige Award in Education recipient) Board of Education Meeting Welcome brochure and the Wellesley, Massachusetts School Committee policy on Public Participation in Committee meetings. Following discussion, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea agreed it is a good idea to consider guidelines for General Public Discussion but would like more time to review the format options. Mrs. Brody requested that feedback and input from the Committee and the public be shared through Mr. Messor.

Decision Items

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

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Tarro provided information on the pension lawsuit in which Rhode Island Superior Court Judge Sarah Taft-Carter has moved to include a number of municipalities. The impact on and role of the Town of Barrington has yet to be determined pending the final decision. Mr. Tarro has met with Barrington Town Manager, Mr. Peter DeAngelis, to discuss the potential financial impact on the community.

Mr. Guida, in recognizing the request of the member of the public relative to communication with parents and the public in open session, suggested that the Committee review current policy. Mrs. Brody and Mr. Messor will coordinate availability options for a policy workshop in September.

Announcements

The next regular School Committee meeting, originally scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. due to a lack of a quorum for September 4.

New teacher orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 and Opening Day for all staff is on Wednesday, August 20, 2014. School Committee members are welcome to attend on both dates.

The first day of school for students is Monday, August 25, 2014.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:37 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.