

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/09/2014**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, September 9, 2014, in the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 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, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Schwartz led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Mr. Steven Pickford, Barrington High School Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair, and longtime Girls Soccer Coach, has been named the 2014 District Teacher of the Teacher.

Barrington High School is ranked number one on the High School Report Card by Rhode Island Monthly in their September 2014 issue.

Barrington High School is ranked number 200 on Newsweek's 2014 list of America's Top High Schools.

The Barrington Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team achieved high marks on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Assessment.

**BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mrs. Dillon introduced Mrs. Kristen Matthes, Literacy Coordinator, who provided information on the Rhode Island Integrating Practices Project for Math and Science. The project included a summer institute attended by 20 Barrington Public Schools educators, representing all schools and all grades. Mrs. Matthes shared information on the project goals that aim to deepen understanding and weave Math and Science practices. Next steps for the project include follow-up sessions, professional learning opportunities, and online modules. Mr. Guida asked about participation in relation to other districts.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. George Finn, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, provided an update on athletics and student activities for the last academic year and what is planned for this year. Mr. Finn highlighted the athletic teams and individual accomplishments, as well the 37 clubs and activities. Mr. Finn shared information on the newly renovated Barrington High School Fitness Center through support of the

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/09/2014**

Booster Club including support for position for a new Strength and Conditioning Coach at Barrington High School, the district plan to hire a part time Athletic Trainer at Barrington Middle School as a follow up to discussions last spring, and the plan for communication about these resources with parents of student-athletes. Mr. Finn also highlighted the newly formed Unified Theater program that will begin in December. Dr. Shea thanked Mr. Finn for his leadership with regard to the hiring of the Athletic Trainer at Barrington Middle School, and was delighted about the Unified Theater program opportunity for students. Ms. Schwartz asked about the availability for student use of the Fitness Center. Mrs. Brody asked about communication plan for students on the availability of the Fitness Center.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the All Day Kindergarten program, noting the positive transition process through his visits with building administrators and Kindergarten teachers. Mr. Messore shared the common schedule used in all Kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Guida noted the concern expressed in the last academic year with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and its relation to the district curriculum, and suggested there be an opportunity to identify a handful of standards implemented this year that align to the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Dillon stated that the curriculum is shared with parents at Open House, on Aspen pages, and through parent letters. Math Night for Grades K-12 will be held on October 15. Mrs. Brody asked about the feedback cycle for parents, to which Mrs. Dillon noted that parents have the opportunity to provide feedback directly on the curriculum Weebly webpage.

Mrs. Dillon provided an overview of the recent change to graduation requirements and the impact to current Barrington High School juniors and seniors, as the General Assembly has recently voted to delay implementation of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) requirement from 2014 until 2017. Mrs. Dillon led the discussion on possible amendment to the current district policy. Mr. Guida provided information on the current transition in requirements, noting that final determination may not come until later this year or in early 2015. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to consider the policy amendment for discussion at the Policy Workshop scheduled for September 30, 2014.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Mr. Stephen Cuzner, of 18 Massasoit Avenue, who spoke at the last School Committee meeting and requested a discussion on ways to communicate with parents and the public about significant instances that put schools at risk, expressed disappointment at the lack of this agenda item. Mr. Messore stated that the policy on release of information of sensitive matters to the public may be a topic of discussion at the Committee's Policy Workshop. Mr. Guida suggested that there may be a way to explain in a generic way the limitations under law with respect to a personnel matter to alleviate public frustration.

Mrs. Debby Perugini, of 6 Ferncliff Road, asked about the changing field trip policy and the requirement for School Committee approval for field trips farther than 150 miles, and how would parents know if a field trip is on a School Committee agenda for approval. Mr. Messore clarified that the required School Committee approval is for all overnight field trips, and that it is not based on distance of the trip.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore provided an update relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. School Committee Briefs will soon be made available to the parent community through email. A press release will follow with information to also allow members of the general public community to receive the

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/09/2014**

School Committee Briefs via email. Mrs. Brody noted that the principle behind the School Committee Briefs is to facilitate reciprocal communications, and that each Brief, released the day following the School Committee meeting, will note upcoming meetings and topics. Mr. Messore also noted that the district website is under review to help better streamline information.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Prior to the meeting, general public discussion guidelines were distributed to the Committee. Mrs. Brody welcomed edits and feedback from the Committee. Once finalized, the document will be made available on the district website and will be made available at every School Committee meeting.

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore recommended Mr. Gino Sangiuliano for the position of Assistant Principal at Hampden Meadows School. Mr. Sangiuliano has more than 18 years of experience at Barrington Public Schools, most recently serving as Enrichment Specialist/Literacy Coach at Primrose Hill School, and previously as an Induction Coach for the Rhode Island Department of Education for two years. Every member of the Committee congratulated Mr. Sangiuliano. Mr. Sangiuliano thanked the Committee and Administration for the opportunity to serve as Assistant Principal at Hampden Meadows School.

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Gino Sangiuliano, HM, Assistant Principal. 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 leave of absence for Jessica Melo, PH, Grade 3. 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 leave of absence for Gino Sangiuliano, PH, Enrichment Specialist/Literacy Coach. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore noted that new regulations allow newly hired administrators to request up to three years leave of absence from their teaching position.

Following discussion on the district's current food service program and review of the memo distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting,

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the transfer of a total amount not to exceed \$67,960.07 from the operating account to the Food Service account to cover the FY2013 actual shortage and FY2014 estimated lost. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Tarro reported that the contract with the electricity provider, Direct Energy will expire in December, 2014. Following discussion on the projected increase in energy costs as outlined in the memo distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting,

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/09/2014**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to confirm a three-year contract with Direct Energy at the kilowatt-hour rate of \$.0909 to be purchased through the efforts of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). 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.**

**New Business from School Committee**

No new business from the School Committee was presented at this time.

**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.**

Mr. Tarro noted that the Administration continues to monitor out of district tuition costs as there may be a potential increase to that account of approximately \$100,000.

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting on October 2, 2014 will feature updates on the Strategic Plan, Student Social Emotional Needs Support, and the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education School Accountability.

Dr. Shea reported that the Health and Wellness Committee will meet on September 10, 2014 and agenda items include updates from Chartwells and the BAY Team, as well as a discussion on school start times.

Mrs. Brody reported that the Committee will hold a Policy Workshop on September 30, 2014.

**Announcements**

Mrs. Brody reported that the School Committee and members of the Administration have been invited to a tour of St. Andrew's School on October 1 at 7:30 a.m.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Mr. Stephen Cuzner, of 18 Massasoit Avenue, asked if the School Committee Policy Workshop on September 30, 2014 will be open to the public. Mr. Guida noted that the meeting is open to the public, but that the agenda is not usually set up for public comment. Mrs. Brody added that the Committee will consider the format for that workshop.

Dr. Scott Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road, applauded the increased community communication efforts by

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/09/2014**  
the Committee and Administration.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:22 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for a personnel matter involving a probationary teacher whose contract was not renewed after the 2012-2013 school year; and Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for litigation before the Department of Education involving a student who has challenged denial of diploma for failure to satisfy graduation requirements.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. and to seal the minutes. 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 return to open session at 10:42 p.m. 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 regard to the non-renewal of a probationary teacher based on the belief that a more qualified teacher could be found. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative.**

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:43 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative.**