

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/13/2014

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 in the Barrington Middle School Library. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:32 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

Mr. John Alessandro Jr., School Committee member elect, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington High School Junior Emma McMillan won the Individual Girls Cross Country State Championship for the third year in a row. The Girls Cross Country team placed second overall; the Boys Cross Country team is Class B Champion; the Girls Junior Varsity Tennis team is State Champion; and the Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball team is Division 2 State Champion.

Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander, K-12 English Language Learners Specialist, and Department Coordinator, has been selected by the Educational Testing Service to serve as Rhode Island's representative to the English as a Second Language Praxis National Advisory Committee.

The Barrington High School Math Team recorded a perfect score of 30 points at its first New England Math Competition on October 14, 2014. Team members included Adam Kelly, Harrison Kraus, Eliot Laidlaw, Matthew Lamontagne, Teddy Ni, Isabelle Rea, Vivian Tian, and Haley Wohlever.

Barrington High School's D Team placed first at the Rhode Island Math League meet on October 22, 2014. Team members included Quentin Duyck, Gerald Guerrieri, Wanqing Li, Robert Sasse, and Andrew Sheinberg. Barrington's B Team placed second, and Barrington's A Team placed third. Students Teddy Ni and Robert Sasse led all Barrington scorers with perfect scores, and students William Yao, Kieran Mc Gartoll, and Haley Wohlever made valuable contributions at the competition.

Mr. Mark Davis, Barrington High School Reading Specialist, presented at a roundtable session for the Northeastern Educational Research Association conference on his proposal entitled "Measuring the Impact of Reading Comprehension on Traditional Paper- and Computer-based Testing Environments" and received high marks from a scholarly peer review.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mrs. Dillon introduced Mrs. Megan Medeiros, Barrington Middle School (BMS) Grade 8 Math Teacher and Curriculum Leader, who provided a brief presentation on the Barrington Education Foundation grant supported initiative for 36 iPads shared by all BMS Math teachers for the implementation of Math standards,

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/13/2014

intervention and enrichment. Mrs. Medeiros shared a video of student work utilizing the iPads.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Tarro reported on the progress of the Barrington Middle School building project, providing a timeline on the history of the project to date, and an overview of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) school construction application process. Next steps include advertising Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for architectural services due in mid-December, 2014, and the Building Committee will meet in early January, 2015 to evaluate the RFPs, identify qualified firms, and submit recommendations to the School Committee. Mr. Tarro highlighted several factors, including enrollment projections and square footage determined by the RIDE Construction Regulation, that are taken into consideration with all new building construction. Committee questions and discussion related to the anticipated number of recommended firms, request for new current data and figures, and the importance of incorporating language in the RFP relative to the expectation for public forums and broad based community communication. Mrs. Brody opened the floor for questions from the public. Mr. Bill Oehlkers, of 80 Rogers Avenue, asked about the district vision for the instructional program for the new building, in addition to the current focus on the building structure. Mr. Messoro and Mrs. Dillon shared the district goals for delivering a 21st century education, and plans for flexible classroom space, blended learning, and technology to increase collaboration. Mrs. Pamela Lauria, of 56 Martin Avenue, asked if the district was leaning toward new construction, location of the new school, and an anticipated date of completion for the project. Mr. Tarro noted that the Building Committee's recommendation to the School Committee was for consideration of the following two options: new construction and gut renovation and addition. Mr. Tarro noted that there are several factors involved in the process, including the current moratorium on new school construction, the timeline for the approval process, funding sources including bonds and the status of housing aid before beginning the estimated 18-20 months of construction work. Mr. Guida, Co-Chair of the Building Committee, noted the likelihood of the building of a new school on the existing property although the Building Committee has not made a recommendation to the School Committee at this time. Mr. Oehlkers requested that instructional program information be shared with the community, and that the Committee look for architects that have experience with this type of project. Mr. Tarro noted that construction work on the Nayatt and Primrose Hill parking lot projects is expected to begin in June, 2015.

Mr. Joseph Hurley, Barrington High School Principal, provided an update on the 2010 New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) report and the steps for submission of a status report to NEASC in March, 2015. Mr. Hurley detailed the highlighted and secondary recommendations on the report, plans for completion, and also continuation of items embedded in the report such as professional development, individual learning plans, and a school wide data team. Questions from the Committee included the timeline for the draft internal document, whether the report includes a reflective essay section, and the specific implementation of individual learning plan recommendations. Discussion ensued on student input as a component of a NEASC recommendation that Barrington High School reach out to a larger constituency of students for input in the decision making process.

Mrs. Toni Corry, Guidance Department Chair, provided an update on the Guidance Curriculum for Grades 4-12 as well as Barrington High School (BHS) Naviance data. Naviance is the web-based planning and advising system used by the Barrington High School Guidance Department. Mrs. Corry's overview included the program's usage by students as well as Guidance events and initiatives. Mrs. Corry distributed copies of the recently launched BHS Guidance Newsletter. Ms. Schwartz provided insight on the pros and cons of Naviance, and the overall helpfulness of the Guidance Department in meeting student needs during the college application process.

General Public Discussion and Information

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/13/2014

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, and introduced a tutorial video for elementary school parents on the step-by-step use of and access to Aspen, the district's student information system, and provided an overview of the various links that are currently available to parents of students at the secondary level. The new tutorial video will be shared with elementary parents via email from the building principals.

Old Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Schools was read aloud for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy on Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Schools. 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 Ms. Rania Milman, SO, Kindergarten Intern. 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 Ms. Julie Myszak, HM, Grade 4 Teacher. 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 Ms. Dayna Safran, HM, Grade 4 Teacher. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced the resignations of Mr. Frank D'Orsi, HS, Junior Varsity Boys Tennis Coach, and Ms. Johanna Marcel, HS, Gymnastics Head Coach.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for home schooling for the named individual. 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

Mrs. Brody related information on the November 4, 2014 election outcome of the Town Charter Review Ballot questions relative to the School Committee. The ballot questions included proposed changes to the Charter relating to budget deadlines, salaries of School Committee members, performance review timeline for the Superintendent, and maintenance of school property.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 11/13/2014

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on the plan for proposal of a Legislative Breakfast in January 2015 in collaboration with the Town Council and municipal leaders. The Committee was in agreement to explore the opportunity and Mrs. Brody will attend the Town Council meeting in December to introduce the proposal for school and municipal collaboration.

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. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting on November 20, 2014 will feature updates on school improvement plans, technology and blended learning.

Mr. Guida requested an update on Science NECAP scores as they become available, and also information with respect to the administration of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing as it becomes available.

Mrs. Brody requested an update from the Superintendent on the pension litigation issue, if available, at the next meeting.

Mrs. Brody noted that a Strategic Plan Retreat will be scheduled in 2015.

Mr. Guida requested continued discussion, with an update from the Superintendent, on school field trips.

Announcements

School Committee members will attend the Rhode Island Association of School Committees session entitled School Committee 101 on November 22, 2014.

School Committee members have been invited to attend the Barrington High School Interscholastic Athletic Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Barrington Boosters, on the evening of November 22, 2014.

General Public Discussion and Information

Ms. Amalie Flynn thanked the Committee for the approval of the home schooling request for her son.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, inquired as to when there would be a public update on school start times. Mr. Messore reported that initial discussions have been held in district, and at recent Health and Wellness Committee meetings. An update will be available at the next School Committee meeting, following the November 19, 2014 Health and Wellness Committee meeting. Mr. Guida requested that hard copies of the August 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on delaying school start times be made available for the public at the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:35 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.