

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/18/2014

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, December 18, 2014 in the Administration Building. As it was the Annual Organizational Meeting, Mr. Messoro called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Messoro, and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Mrs. Dillon.

Mr. Messoro requested nominations for School Committee Chair.

Dr. Shea moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to nominate Mrs. Kate Brody as School Committee Chair. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The gavel was turned over to Mrs. Brody.

Mrs. Brody requested nominations for School Committee Vice-Chair.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to nominate Dr. Paula Dominguez as School Committee Vice-Chair. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody requested to defer the agenda item of Adoption of School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols 2014-2015 to the Committee's next Governance Workshop.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Student Representative Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea, Dr. Paula Dominguez, and Mr. John Alessandro. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messoro, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque. Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was absent.

Mrs. Brody welcomed back Dr. Dominguez, a 2014 Fulbright Scholar, who recently returned from several months in India where she worked with state policy makers to plan and implement a new approach to community college education.

Mrs. Brody congratulated Ms. Schwartz on the news of her college acceptance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Dominguez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messoro congratulated Barrington High School, recently recognized as a 2014 Commended School, the highest Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) classification. The Commended Schools celebration took place on December 11, 2014 at the Rhode Island State House.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Tarro reported on the district enrollment data including the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) report on historical district enrollment and projected enrollment and noted the need for caution

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/18/2014

relative to the reliability of enrollment data projections beyond five (5) years. Areas of focus for the FY2015-2016 budget development process include the monitoring and review of class sizes for year two of All Day Kindergarten, class size for Grade 1, and the possibility of a reduction of two elementary teachers based on the current projected enrollment. Kindergarten Registration Week, typically held in March, will be held during the week of February 2-6, 2015 in an effort to have projected enrollment numbers earlier in the current academic year. Mr. Alessandro asked about looking to local preschools for possible enrollment in our schools. Mr. Tarro responded that principals are currently conducting this research. Mrs. Brody asked for the actual enrollment for the district as of October 1, 2014. Later in the meeting, Mr. Tarro provided the actual enrollment on October 1, 2014 to be 3,264 students.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the Educator Evaluation process in district for both the professional teacher evaluation and professional support personnel evaluation, and reported teacher evaluation data at the state level. Mr. Messore also explained the process for the cyclical evaluation of teachers with highly effective and effective ratings. All administrators have been trained in the state model to perform evaluation of teachers. Questions and discussion ensued on the support provided to administrators for the evaluation process, advantages to the cyclical evaluations and the continuous improvement process through the Lead, Educate & Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, expressed her opposition to eliminating the February break in response to the recent school calendar survey shared with parents that included school calendar options that would either eliminate the February recess or keep the traditional academic calendar.

Mr. Michael Carroll, Town Council Liaison to the School Committee, of 24 Third Street, asked for clarification on the start date of cyclical evaluations for educators. Mr. Messore provided further explanation.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, reporting that safety training for volunteers will continue through Mrs. Tracey Orchard, the district's Volunteer Coordinator, and building administrators. Parents have been invited to participate in a survey on the 2015-2016 school calendar with two calendar options; one revising the February vacation to include a two day break for students and the other retaining the current traditional academic calendar. Staff and students will also have the opportunity to participate in the survey, and all feedback will be provided to the School Committee in January for consideration.

Mr. Messore reported on the progress of the School Start Times Task Force and the research on logistics gathered from other districts that have implemented new school start times. Next steps include meeting with outside transportation scheduling consultants and weighing possible budget implications, bringing research to the Health and Wellness Committee for further discussion, and providing the School Committee with an updated report in January. Members of the Committee encouraged the Administration to move this process forward.

Mr. Messore provided a preliminary update on the recently released 2014 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science scores, noting the plans for both RIDE and district communication with parents when reviewing the decline in scores. The Rhode Island Department of Education has all district NECAP report available on its website. A more in-depth district presentation will be made at a future School Committee meeting. Discussion ensued on the topics tested in Grade 8, the impact of how questions were

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/18/2014

written relative to growth and developmental levels for students, and the alignment of the Science curriculum to the Next Generation Science Standards.

Old Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Administrative Leave was read aloud for a second reading.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adopt the policy on Administrative Leave. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that a companion policy, on Learning Environment, will be introduced for a first reading at a future meeting.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for November in the amount of \$3,468,276.89.

Mr. Tarro reported that the overall budget is on target, including transportation, salary, benefits, and out of district tuition. Items that continue to be monitored include legal fees, pension contributions, and e-book purchases which may be offset by the decrease in textbook purchases. Mr. Tarro also noted the credit expected, and not yet applied, for the overcharge on wireless charges.

The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro provided a memo to the Committee prior to the meeting and requested the Committee's confirmation of the FY2014 capital budget audit adjustment. Following the FY2014 annual audit, the auditor has recommended that the \$275,000 technology allocation pass-through the operating budget as revenue from local taxes and then as a transfer-out to the capital reserve fund. All expenditures for the capital reserve will be reported in the appropriate section of the audited financials.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to confirm the capital budget audit adjustment as presented. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody led the School Committee welcome of newly appointed Town Council member and Town Council Liaison to the School Committee, Mr. Michael Carroll. Mr. Carroll, also a parent of students in the school district, thanked the Committee and noted that he will also serve on the Building Committee.

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on School Committee interest in serving on the Budget Forecasting Committee that includes two Town Council members, two School Committee members, and two Committee on Appropriations members, as well as Mr. Tarro and the Town's Finance Director, Ms. Kathy Raposa. Mr. Alessandro expressed his willingness to serve on the committee. Pending additional information relative to the meeting schedule, Dr. Dominguez or Mrs. Brody will join Mr. Alessandro on the Budget Forecasting Committee.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/18/2014

Mrs. Brody attended the recent Town Council meeting held on December 15, 2014 to propose a joint Town of Barrington and Barrington Public Schools legislative breakfast to be held in early 2015 with Representative Joy Hearn, Representative Jan Malik and Senator-elect Cynthia Armour Coyne. The Town Council embraced the proposal. Mr. Guida suggested agenda items to include focus on keeping the community informed on progress of particular areas and discussion of community forum ideas. Mrs. Brody suggested that the School Funding Formula, Moratorium on school construction and Barrington Middle School Building Project be included as agenda items and requested that additional input on agenda items be forwarded to Mr. Messore. Dates for the breakfast will be circulated for Committee input.

Mr. Messore reported on the donation to the district's Art Department of art supplies from Ms. Judy Mintzer including decorative and die cut papers, hand silkscreened paper, silk flowers, fabric enclosures, Swarovski crystals and beads, paper boards and boxes, decorative paper fills and tinsel, organizing storage drawer unit, and 200-300 rolls of hand-dyed imported silk and fabric ribbon.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the donation by Mrs. Judy Mintzer of several art supplies to the Art Department. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Decision Items

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Brody noted that the list of current School Committee future agenda item topics has been made available to the Committee. A policy adoption discussion will be held at a future meeting.

Mr. Guida requested that the agenda item topics relating to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers (PARCC) and the nation's report card for public schools remain as a focus to aid in managing expectations. Mr. Guida also requested a future discussion on Common Core State Standards to measure its progress and how it may evolve over the next few years.

Mr. Alessandro requested that the successful implementation impact of All Day Kindergarten be stressed and discussed at future meetings.

Ms. Schwartz relayed feedback received from some students at Barrington High School regarding the 1:1 technology devices initiative, and thought it to be useful to hear more student voices for that initiative.

Mrs. Brody asked if the already scheduled district PARCC nights for parents would be an opportunity to start the process relative to managing expectations for the assessments.

Announcements

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for January 15, 2015 will feature the framework for the 2015-2016 proposed budget and a curriculum presentation for the Library, Science, and World Languages departments.

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/18/2014

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, thanked the Committee and Administration for the continued discussion on school start times.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:12 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) pertaining to Rhode Island Pension Litigation; Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for collective bargaining or litigation with BEST; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:36 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, 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 9:37 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.