

**School Committee
Barrington Public Schools
Barrington School Committee**

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 10/20/16

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the School Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Student Representative Mr. Eli Shea, Mr. Messore, Ms. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Messore, Superintendent, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Paula Dillon was invited to serve as a Practice Fellow on the New England Secondary Schools Consortium Council for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Barrington Public Schools received national recognition from the 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program as a P21 Exemplar District, 2016-2017.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) released its 2016 school classifications, with 22 schools named as Commended Schools, the highest classification representing 7.7% of schools in Rhode Island. Four of the 22 Commended Schools, recognized for high levels of achievement and for closing learning gaps, are in Barrington. Barrington High School, Barrington Middle School, Hampden Meadows School and Nayatt School have been named Commended Schools. Barrington Middle School was named a Commended School for the second consecutive year.

Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Hampden Meadows Principal Ms. Tracey McGee, Hampden Meadows School Assistant Principal Mr. Gino Sangiuliano, Hampden Meadows School Grade 4 Teacher Ms. Dayna Safran, and Hampden Meadows School Art Teacher Ms. Tiffany Mendez introduced the Committee to the Makerspaces and Edventures curricula as inquiry driven, project based learning for students. The Committee had an opportunity for hands on learning with the products. Ms. McGee expressed appreciation to the Barrington Education Foundation and the Hampden Meadows School PTO for providing grant funding to support this learning and to the District for its investment on behalf of all students at Hampden Meadows School. Hampden Meadows School is taking the lead on this initiative; it provides an opportunity for students to play, grow and learn with cross curricular products that reach all students and promotes innovative thinking. Dr. Shea inquired about and received clarification relative to the methods of assessment, reflection and metacognition. Mrs. Clancy inquired about the level of involvement for Hampden Meadows students; Ms. Mendez noted that she will be introducing the products to all students through workshops. Mrs. Brody requested that the Committee have an opportunity to visit Hampden Meadows School to witness the project based learning curricula in action.

Mr. Sanguliano noted that this is opportunity to be a leader in the state and offered to return in the spring to provide the Committee with an update.

Information and proposals

Mr. Messore provided a report on the October 18 Community Forum and multiple outreach sessions that have been held as part of the community engagement process for the Barrington Middle School Building Project. Mr. Tarro announced that the next Building Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Barrington Middle School library; agenda topics will include a discussion relative to construction models and a proposed timeline for the project.

Ms. Dillon provided an overview of the districtwide Deeper Learning initiative. Ms. Dillon noted that due to the departure of Dr. Monica Martinez from Stanford University, there will be a change in the collaborative work on deeper learning competencies with suburban districts. The Barrington Public Schools will now engage in collaborative work with the Business Innovation Factory on metric development for deeper learning competencies and will be joined by an urban district; the work will begin with a cohort at Barrington High School and will expand to districtwide over a three year period of time. Ms. Dillon noted that the design thinking protocol is iterative and interactive with a focus on incorporation of the voices of teachers and students.

Ms. Dillon provided a report on the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) Initiative for 2015-2016, with a professional development focus on Visible Learning with John Hattie and Instructional Coaching with Peter DeWitt. The leadership initiative for teachers and administration is focused on opening classroom doors with learning walk troughs and it continues to develop LEAPP coaches in every building. The district will continue its Professional Learning Community (PLC) /Solution Tree partnership with Middletown and Portsmouth for year four in 2016-2017; PLC coaching training will be expanded to bring the coaching cohort to scale and measure, coach and support growth. Barrington High School teacher Mr. Jason Appel is continuing his work on technology integration in authentic learning with the Research, Development and Instruction (RDI) Team. Ms. Dillon responded to a question from Mrs. Clancy relative to clarification of a specific example of the initiative and explained that classrooms have strategic learning goals, visible data on walls, and individual data for students to keep track of their progress toward meeting individual learning goals.

Mr. Messore provided a synopsis of the International Baccalaureate Program Workshop that had been conducted in June, 2016. He noted the current district focus on and investment in K-12 teaching and learning initiatives including further engagement, expansion and refocus on PLC cohorts, Deeper Learning, Authentic Learning, and LEAPP. Mr. Messore stated that consideration of a revision to the Master Schedule at Barrington High School is a priority and that his focus is on how decisions enhance and impact all students. It is his recommendation that consideration of the International Baccalaureate Program, including evaluation of its financial impact, be postponed at this time pending its prioritization in the development of the 2017-2022 District Strategic Plan to allow for the appropriate allocation of resources. Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea expressed disappointment with the plans to delay implementation of the International Baccalaureate program.

General Public Discussion and Information

Ms. Gina Pine, of 479 New Meadow Road, stated that there are no public schools in Rhode Island that offer the International Baccalaureate program and that she had reached out to another private school with an International Baccalaureate Program.

Dr. Lisa Daft, of 5 Robbins Drive, expressed concern relative to the timeline and work of the School Start Time (SST) Ad Hoc Advisory Committee; she noted the lack of communication with students and parents, and the absence to date of a forum and a survey.

Ms. Sherry Moss, of 5 Laurelwood in East Greenwich, and member of the East Greenwich Avengers Boosters Club, shared her experience and perspective relative to the implementation of the recent change in school start times in the East Greenwich Public Schools. She provided anecdotal reports relative to the negative impact on transportation, athletic schedules and the operating budget due to a change in anticipated transportation needs and recommended that Barrington consider all aspects of the change in school start times as it relates to the implementation plan.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided a progress report on the 2016-2017 change in school start times. He announced that the SST Ad Hoc Advisory Committee has been meeting weekly and noted that Athletic Director Mr. George Finn continues his ongoing work to address specific facility and schedule challenges for Hockey, Swim, and Winter Track and Field teams. The SST Ad Hoc Committee is exploring options, without district expense, for a public-private partnership relative to before and after school care. Mr. Messore reported on the communications effort, including his attendance at Town Meetings with students at Barrington Middle School and his appearance on the Sunrise Show at Barrington High School. Mr. Messore announced plans for administration of a survey and that a School Start Times Information Night will be held on October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Barrington High School. Mr. Alessandro commended Barrington High School students on their School Start Time protest, noted that he is not in favor of a change in school start time and requested that challenges, solutions and costs be addressed in the final report to the School Committee. Mrs. Clancy noted that there has been very little student representation at the SST Ad Hoc Committee meetings and that she would like to see more participation; she hopes to work together and collaborate on this change. Mr. Eli Shea shared his perception that there is a large student opposition to the change in school start times and that students are not well informed about the topic. He noted that students have not been given an opportunity to share feedback and noted that the survey may provide that opportunity for students; with regard to the student protest, he does recall a message from administration but does not recall anyone who received the message as scolding. Mr. Guida recognized that the change in school start time will cause disruption, but that it is the right thing to do in the interests of what is best for students. Dr. Shea agreed with Mr. Alessandro in that students were well within rights to make voice heard and should exercise their free speech and free assembly; he understands the opposition among the students yet remains committed to the change in school start times. Mrs. Brody agreed that the student protest was respectful and peaceful and reaffirmed her commitment to the change in school start time as the right decision.

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to transportation, including the continued challenges due to the impact of changing traffic patterns on the bus schedules. Mr. Tarro noted that the Administration will continue its ongoing analysis of transportation data in consultation with Ocean State Transit and will continue to ensure timely and accurate communication with families relative to the schedule; he anticipates the need for another two week timeline for data analysis.

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the implementation of the new Homework Policy and stated that the staff has embraced the policy. Ms. Dillon noted that the feedback thus far from parents has been positive due to the impact of less stress on students. In response to a question from Mrs. Brody, Ms. Dillon noted that there were parent engagement opportunities at all Open Houses and that students and parents will have opportunities to provide feedback at the middle and end of the academic year. Mr. Alessandro commented that teachers may offer to tailor extra work for students whose parents would like more work for their children.

Old Business from School Committee

There was no Old Business from School Committee.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Amy Nicodemus, Co-Advisor, Science Olympiad, Barrington High School. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Danamarie Ingram, Co-Chair, Yearbook Advisor and Chairperson, Response to Intervention (RTI), Hampden Meadows School. Ms. Dillon noted a correction for the title of Chairperson, RTI to Chairperson, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS.) Dr. Shea amended the motion to reflect the correction. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Kayla Toman, Co-Chair, Yearbook Advisor, Hampden Meadows School. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Ms. Kristen Matthes, K-12 Literacy Coordinator.

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence of Ms. Kristen Matthes, Special Education Teacher.
Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence of Ms. Allyn Grantham, Special Education Teacher.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for August, 2016 in the amount of \$2,187,990.88. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for September, 2016 for the amount of \$3,719,658.52. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida 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 request for home schooling for the named individual. The student name was not identified in public session. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs.

Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to award the bid for the Gymnasium Bleachers, Barrington High School, to the lowest, qualified, evaluated bidder, Hussey Seating Company of North Berwick, Maine, for an amount not to exceed \$19,673.00. Mrs. Clancy requested clarification relative to the purpose (repair or replacement) of the bid; Mr. Tarro provided clarification that bid award is for necessary repair and maintenance, not replacement, of the bleachers. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The League of Innovative Schools Partnership topic was deferred to the November 3, 2016 School Committee meeting.

New Business from School Committee

Mr. Alessandro, Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, reported on the first organizational meeting of the academic year. The Health and Wellness Committee will hold its meetings at alternate times and in alternate locations as a pilot to increase opportunities for student involvement. Ms. Dillon noted that the Health and Wellness Policy will require an update to reflect the membership and incorporate current metrics as defined by the Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition. Mr. Alessandro clarified that the timeline for the policy revision will be December, 2016 or January, 2017.

Student Representative to the School Committee, Mr. Eli Shea, provided a report relative to the inaugural meeting of the Commissioner's Student Advisory Action Group that was held on October 19, 2016. The discussion topics included new graduation requirements, improving statewide equity for advanced course work, and a new program, created at Yale University, entitled Survey Works that is designed to provide a more national scale for school survey analysis. The group will meet on a quarterly basis during the academic year.

The Evidence Based Leadership Criteria discussion will be deferred to the November 3, 2016 School Committee meeting agenda, as the Superintendent has received no criteria for discussion.

Decision Items

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

Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore proposed the following changes for future agendas: table Graduation Requirements to a date TBD pending clarification from RIDE, table the District Survey Report to a date TBD, move Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Update to the November 3 meeting agenda, and move the Progress Report: Barrington High School Challenge Success Survey Data Action Plan to the November 17 meeting agenda. Mrs. Brody requested that Advanced Course Work be added to the November 17 agenda. The consensus of the Committee and Administration was to accommodate all requests.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced that, for the second consecutive year, Ms. Dillon and Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley will be giving a presentation at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Conference in Washington DC on October 22-23, 2016. Mr. Tarro announced that members of the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee will be meeting with National Grid to address energy related topics for the proposal. Mr. Tarro announced that there will be a Joint School Committee and BMS Building Committee meeting on Monday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Barrington Middle School library.

General Public Discussion and Information

Ms. Gina Pine of 479 New Meadow Road, expressed her concern for the change in school start time and the financial pressure on parents to find affordable childcare.

Dr. Lisa Daft of 5 Robbins Drive, stated that the five days advance notice for the information forum relative to the change in school start times is unacceptable and requested that public forums be posted one week in advance to allow planning for participation.

Mr. Jason Leigh of 8 Roberta Drive, questioned the timeline for administration of the survey relative to the change in school start time and the ability to address challenges and present a comprehensive report. He suggested that the Administration and the Committee learn from districts that have decided not to implement a change in school start time and consider a contingency plan including multiple factors.

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard St, expressed his concerns relative to the change in school start time, including the impact on athletic programs, transportation and consideration of the need for a traffic impact study; he requested clarification of the process relative to the operating budget if allocated transportation resources are not used in 2016-2017.

Mr. Jason Leigh of 8 Roberta Drive, expressed concerns relative to child care capacity issues with the change in school start time.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr., Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:50 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.