

**Barrington Public Schools  
Barrington School Committee  
Meeting Minutes 11/17/16**

A regular meeting of the Barrington Public School Committee was held on Thursday, November 17, 2016. School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Anna Clancy, Dr. Robert Shea, Mr. John Alessandro, Student Representative Mr. Eli Shea, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Michael B. Messore, III, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Ms. Paula Dillon, and Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald D. Tarro. Mr. Patrick Guida arrived at 7:07 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Shea led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District:

Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley and Barrington High School English Department Chair Mr. Kevin Blanchard, on behalf of Barrington High School, received the National Blue Ribbon School Award at a recent ceremony at the United States Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

The Barrington High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team won the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Division 1 State Championship.

The Barrington High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team won the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Division 1 Championship.

Members of the Barrington High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club volunteered at Touch A Person In Need (TAPIN) where student volunteers sorted over 1,600 pounds of food.

**Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mrs. Dillon introduced the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Team, a new K-12 team of students, teachers and administrators created to leverage student and teacher voice to elevate the Barrington Public Schools to be a leader in Design Thinking. The committee brings bright thinkers to the table to promote teaching and learning. RDI members Barrington Middle School Grade 7 student Ms. Anastasia Dornback and Barrington High School junior Mr. Christopher Sarli provided the Committee with an overview of students' perspectives. Mr. Sarli identified a sense of passion based learning and a sense of power to want to learn with student centered choice; he does not feel as though test taking alone touches upon the many skills that students can be tapping into such as project based learning and internships. Ms. Dornback stated that RDI teaches skills that promote hands-on learning with retention of the information. Mrs. Brody commended the students for their presentation and noted that it was important that the principals were present to witness the passion expressed by the students, as it relates to the district focus on excellence in teaching and learning. Mr. Messore thanked the students for being there. Dr. Shea thanked students for being there and wondered how feedback translates into projects; Mrs. Dillon explained that teachers are volunteers and are very motivated to be a part of the RDI Team and that the principals provide support including creating planning times for teachers and opportunities for students. Ms. Dillon noted that both teachers and students have shown a great deal of excitement

about the work of the RDI Team and that the RDI Team will be featured by the P21 Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning organization in the near future.

Mr. Guida commended the students for a job well done and giving such a well-spoken presentation.

Mr. Alessandro asked if there is a goal to get a metric or best practice to see that helps a child learn best.

Mrs. Dillon explained that the RDI Team explores different practices to increase empowerment and student voice with movement away from lecture based learning.

## **Information and Proposal**

Mr. Tarro announced that the November 14 Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee meeting was cancelled as the Owner's Project Manager needed more time to look at cost estimates. The Administration met with the building design team today and the next Barrington Middle School Building Committee meeting will be held on November 28, at which time he anticipates a discussion relative to the project timeline and the process for securing resources.

Mr. Guida thanked the Barrington community for its help in the process, recognized the valuable contributions of the Building Committee, and stated that he is excited to move forward with the project.

Mrs. Clancy thanked the community based group for its work to advocate in support of the bond referendum.

Mrs. Brody recognized the work of the Administration and commended the investment in educating the community about the substantive content of the project. She noted that the research relative to the strategic process for successful bond referendum outcomes had been validated by the experience with the BMS bond referendum.

Mrs. Brody reported that during a meeting with the Park and Recreation Commission as part of the BMS community engagement process, the Park and Recreation Commission had introduced a proposal to construct an Outdoor Performance Stage on the new BMS campus. She requested that the Building Committee schedule time on the agenda for its next meeting to have Mr. R. Michael Seward, Chair, Park and Recreation Commission, present the proposal for consideration by the Building Committee.

Mr. Messoré agreed that the outdoor theater would be a great addition to the community, thanked the School Committee and community and shared that the teachers and students are very excited about the new building. Mr. Tarro stated that air quality tests had been conducted at Barrington Middle School, at a cost of \$20,000-\$25,000 and that good reports were confirmed after some remediation.

Mrs. Brody requested clarification relative to the source of funding for the unexpected testing and remediation costs; Mr. Tarro confirmed that the current operating budget was the funding source.

## **Student Achievement Data**

Ms. Dillon announced that the school principals were in attendance to discuss the Student Achievement Data and present data driven goals organized according to the needs identified by the data base at the individual schools. She noted that the districtwide focus to revitalize Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work has incorporated the following additional PLC pillar question: How will we instruct them (the students)?

Ms. Patricia Tolento, Principal of Primrose Hill School, discussed the collaborative work on Growth Mindsets and academic growth in the classroom. She identified the following three goals for Primrose Hill School: 1) Reading/Literacy for Grades 2 and 3, noting the expansion of the work on foundational skills with an Instructional Coach and deep enrichment for teachers on strategies and structures to differentiate learning for students, 2) Informational Writing, including work with an Instructional Coach on evidence based constructive responses, and 3) the Social Emotional Goal of kindness, including

collaborative work with the social work professionals on a new Mind Up curriculum and ongoing data assessment conducted by the Primrose Positive Action Committee (PPAC) relative to anecdotal collegial feedback around progress on social emotional goals and the introduction of a new Mind Up curriculum.

Ms. Tracey Whitehead, Principal of Nayatt School, identified the following three goals for Nayatt School: 1) Written Expression for Grades 2 and 3, noting the ongoing work with Instructional Coaches on narrative prompts and writing responses, 2) Literacy with a focus on comprehension of informational text and Claims, Evidence and Responses (CER) in ongoing work with Instructional Coaches, and 3) the Social Emotional Goal of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) with a focus on PBIS in unstructured settings during the school day and including a parent engagement program, entitled Beat Out Bullying, funded by grant from the Nayatt School PTO.

Mr. James Callahan, Principal of Sowams School, identified the following three goals for Sowams School: 1) Reading for Kindergarten and Grade 1 including progress monitoring, 2) Informational Writing for Grades 2 and 3 and 3) the Social Emotional Goal of ongoing close analysis of Schoolwide Information System (SWIS) student behavior data to inform decision making, including the Check In, Check Out (CICO) behavior intervention plan.

Ms. Tracey McGee, Principal of Hampden Meadows School, identified the following three goals for Hampden Meadows School: 1) Literacy with a focus on Response to Literature with Text Evidence to address achievement gap closure for collective cohort and individual scores, 2) Mathematics with a focus on proficiency on priority standards and achievement gap closure and 3) the Social Emotional Goal of Emotional Regulation, including a Parent Information Night and collaborative work on training with a strategy based goal of the development and demonstration of self-awareness and self-management skills.

Dr. Andrew Anderson, Principal of Barrington Middle School, identified the following three goals for Barrington Middle School: 1) Literacy with a focus on force field analysis at all three grade levels to define strategies for rigorous work to achieve growth and close achievement gaps, including ongoing evaluation of the need to re-operationalize services with students needing services, 2) Mathematics with a force field analysis as articulated for Literacy goals and 3) the Social Emotional Goal of Student Stress, including ongoing research based work with the Child and Adolescent Mindfulness Measure (CAMM) on high level Mindfulness, the introduction of Mindful Mondays in collaboration with the Guidance Department, and the introduction of BMS 101 for Grade 6 students to facilitate learning relative to the development of Executive Function Strategies.

Mr. Joseph Hurley, Principal of Barrington High School, identified the following three goals for Barrington High School: 1) Literacy with a focus on closure of the achievement gap for Grade 9, 2) Mathematics with a focus on closure of the achievement gap for Grade 9, and 3) the Social Emotional Goal of Student Stress, including evaluation of the impact of interventions as identified by the March, 2016 Challenge Success Survey data.

Mr. Hurley introduced the Progress Report: Challenge Success Survey Data Action Plan. Mr. Shea reported on a recent student led forum on student stress that included eight students per grade at BHS who were invited to participate and had no prior experience with participation in a student forum. Mr. Shea noted that the forum discussions included the identification of stressors for students, strategies (both healthy and unhealthy) for dealing with student stress, realistic and unrealistic potential solutions to address the problem of student stress, and opportunities for BHS to take action to help students deal with stress. Mr. Shea highlighted the following discussion topics: homework policy, make up policy for missed student work, and the concussion protocol. Mr. Hurley stated that, based on student feedback from the forum, an area of focus for the BHS School Improvement Team and for BHS Department Heads

will be to develop strategies to ensure the fidelity of implementation of the August, 2016 adoption of the new Homework Policy.

Mr. Messore commended the work of the Administration, the district administrative leadership team and noted the significant contributions of Ms. Dillon for her leadership on the foundational work with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC).

### **General Public Discussion**

No issues were raised at this time.

### **Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Tarro provided the following information relative to the transportation update: data analysis confirms the fact that the elementary tier has the slowest bus loading time, some K-3 bus run times are at the 40 minute mark, the Administration continues its ongoing evaluation of data, including the need for additional modifications and the district return on investment, and there is a need for close analysis of the transportation timeline and schedule for Special Education students to ensure equity. Mr. Messore noted that, if necessary, the Administration would not make any changes in the transportation schedule until January, 2017 to ensure comprehensive communication with families prior to implementation of a schedule change based on enrollment data potential concern relative to equity in the transportation schedule for Special Education.

### **Old Business from School Committee**

Mr. Messore provided the Committee with an opportunity to clarify questions relative to its analysis of the School Start Time (SST) Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Report. He stated that the next meeting will be held in December, that the SST Committee continues its evaluation of solutions relative to challenges with athletics and childcare, and that the next piece to be considered will be the budget for next year. Mr. Messore assured the Committee that they will have access to the questions asked at the meeting. Mr. Guida stated that he recognizes that cost of the SST initiative is a concern, and encouraged the Committee to look for every opportunity to economize on cost in order to monitor and reduce costs. He reaffirmed his belief that the change in school start time is the right thing to do for the students. Dr. Shea noted the substantial cost of the initiative and concurred with Mr. Guida relative to the need for further cost reductions, and stated that the submission of the SST Ad Hoc Committee report does not indicate the end of the work on the initiative. Mr. Messore noted that the Administration will clarify both current and projected transportation costs with the transportation consultant.

### **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. Denise Flores, Department Head Nurse. 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 Mr. Jason Shively, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, 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 Mr. Kevin Blanchard, Talon Advisor, 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 Mr. Gregory Carrara, Mock Trial Advisor, 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 Dr. Laura Turner, Speech and Debate Advisor, 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. Melissa Bento, Student Yearbook Advisor, Barrington Middle 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 leave of absence of Ms. Dana DeLory, Grade 4 Teacher, Hampden Meadows School.

Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with a budget update, including the following information: the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Audit is substantially complete at this time with a projected surplus within 1.1% of the operating budget, the FY2017 budget is on track at this time, and that December 15 is the due date for submission of the proposed building level budgets to the Administration. Mr. Tarro provided an overview of the identified needs for the Capital Budget and will request School Committee approval of the Capital Budget at the December 1 School Committee meeting.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for October, 2016 in the amount of \$3,871,467.03. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

### **New Business from School Committee**

Mr. Alessandro, Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, reported that the discussion at the November meeting included a report from the BAY Team relative to a Heroin Addiction Awareness Program sponsored by the Rhode Island Attorney General, consideration of a Concussion Protocol for Barrington Middle School students, and mindfulness strategies to support students in managing post-election anxiety and concerns. Mr. Alessandro announced that next month's meeting will be held on December 7 at 4:30 p.m. at Barrington High School as an afternoon meeting, with the hope that the meeting time later in the day may to drive up attendance. Mr. Alessandro requested help from Mr. Hurley with the communication effort at Barrington High School to share the news of the meeting date and location.

**Mr. Guida moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the Field Trip for the Barrington High School Music Department to Washington D.C. on March 23, 2017. 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 introduced the Evidence Based Leadership Criteria for the November 2016 Request for Proposal topic and stated that he has received input from members of the School Committee. He noted that the Administration is in the process of reviewing the input, evaluating the potential associated impact on the operating budget, and will develop a draft Request for Proposal for consideration by the Committee at the December 1 meeting. Next steps include the development of a timeline and rubric for the evaluation of identified criteria during the bid award process.

Mrs. Brody and Mr. Alessandro requested input from Dr. Shea and Mr. Guida at the December 1 meeting; Mrs. Brody stated that no action will until after the Swearing In Ceremony for the School Committee Members Elect.

Mrs. Brody congratulated School Committee member Mrs. Anna Clancy upon her reelection and School Committee Members Elect Dr. Megan P. Douglas and Ms. Gina Pine; the Swearing In Ceremony will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

#### **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 Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore requested that the Maker Movement: Maker Spaces agenda item be moved to a future meeting date. Mr. Eli Shea requested that, moving forward, an update from the Student Representative to the School Committee be included as a standing agenda item. Mr. Messore noted that the Bullying Policy Report, Evaluation of Programs, Master Facilities Plan and Advanced Course Work will be agenda items at the next regular School Committee meeting on December 1. Mr. Guida requested that the School Committee revisit the International Baccalaureate Program as a meeting agenda topic next year.

#### **Announcements**

Mr. Messore made the following announcements: Holiday Concerts for elementary school students and Barrington Middle School students will be held at the State House on various dates in December beginning on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, Barrington High School Theatre students will be performing Guys and Dolls at Barrington High School on November 18-20, the Barrington High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team will be playing in the Division I State Championship Final game on Saturday, November 19 at Rhode Island College, and the next BMS Building Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 28, 2016. Mrs. Brody announced that the Barrington Education Foundation will be hosting a community event, a screening of the documentary film entitled "Most Likely to Succeed" on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the John Gray Auditorium at Barrington High School. Mr. Alessandro commended Mr. Messore on his recent communication, described as "amazing" to all district schools regarding support for students who had expressed concern relative to the outcome of the presidential election. Mr. Alessandro stated that he had received positive feedback from many parents relative to the communication from the Superintendent.

### **General Public Discussion and Information**

Ms. Sarah O'Brien of 88 Boyce Avenue, stated that the school start time of 8:30 a.m. was decided upon by the School Committee and that the budget is not an excuse to back out since the decision has been made for next year. Ms. O'Brien would also like the extra bus to be used this year and feels there is still room for improvements in the transportation schedule.

Dr. Megan Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road, inquired about the requirements for bus monitors and asked if there is any way to get more information on Evidence Based Leadership in advance of the new School Committee members taking their seat.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:44 p.m. The motion passed with 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**