

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/15/16

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, December 15, 2016 in the Administration Building. Superintendent Mr. Messore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mrs. Pine, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Messore, and Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro. Absent was Ms. Dillon.

Annual Organizational Meeting

Mr. Messore requested nominations for School Committee Chair.

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

The gavel was turned over to Mrs. Brody.

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

Mr. Alessandro moved and Mrs. Douglas seconded to nominate Mrs. Anna Clancy as School Committee Chair. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Clancy, Mrs. Pine and Dr. Douglas led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements throughout the District:

Barrington High School Computer Club members Eliot Laidlaw, Andrew Sheinberg, Will Yao and Conor McGartoll placed first at the Fitchburg State High School Programming Competition.

Barrington High School students Haotian Lu, Zijun Weng, Shiyuan Huang and Hoaran Wen have been recognized by Congressman David Cicilline as having the only winning entry in the Congressional App Challenge in Rhode Island.

Barrington Middle School teacher Ms. Meg Crossman was invited to participate in the 2017 Downcity Design Innovative Educator Program.

The Barrington School Committee received recognition from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees for having had all members present at the School Committee 101: Essential Knowledge for Effective Governance professional development program.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Tarro announced that the Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee meeting that was scheduled for January 9th has been re-scheduled to January 11th at 7:00 PM in the Middle School Library. The Building Committee will be presenting to the Town Council at its January 9th meeting. The Town Council will vote whether to allow an increase in the municipal tax rate of greater than 4% in order to accommodate the issuance of bonds for the building of a new Middle School. If the Town Council approves this increase, which requires a 4/5ths vote in the affirmative, it will also consider a Special Financial Town Meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 16th, at which voters will also be asked to approve the increase. There is also a meeting with RIDE tentatively scheduled for December 21st. Mr. Tarro explained that the next step in the process will be to secure the bonds. Mrs. Brody inquired if there was anything that the School Committee would need to do to prepare for the January 9th Town Council meeting, and Mr. Tarro asked that they be prepared to explain the need to move forward as this is time sensitive in reference to the bonds, and for cash flow purposes. Mr. Tarro also explained that the co-chairs, Building Committee, Architects and Administrators will be present at the meeting.

Mr. Tarro delivered a presentation on the projected enrollment data for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as a projection for the next 10 years. The 10-year projections included the impact of a new Middle School and of a number of new housing developments currently in the planning phases. Mr. Tarro explained that the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) prepares enrollment projections based on such factors as the economy, housing market, and birth rates. Barrington's consistent in-migration throughout the year makes it difficult to budget precisely at this point. Overall, enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is projected to increase based on NESDEC estimates, particularly at the High School and Primrose Hill School. Mr. Tarro explained that there may be a need for an additional 3rd-grade class at Primrose Hill, and perhaps an additional 2nd and/or 3rd grade class at Nayatt due to increasing class sizes. The Administration will be talking with building Principals about this possibility.

Mr. George Finn, Activities Director presented an overview of the athletics and activities programs year-to-date. Mr. Finn would like to explore the possibility of supporting short-term, interest-based groups on an interim basis, to see if there is enough interest to create a full-fledged club. Mr. Finn also spoke on the plan to create an Athletic Advisory Council at Barrington High School as well as the ongoing work to review the Athletics and Student Activities Handbook. Mrs. Clancy asked whether there was a timeline for this work, and expressed her hope that it happen soon, along with a review of the district mission statement for athletics and extracurriculars. Mrs. Brody inquired about certification for coaches and Mr. Finn explained that several courses are required in order to be certified in the state of Rhode Island, including a background check. Mrs. Pine inquired about whether a survey is taken by students and parents to evaluate coaches and their experience in the athletics program. Mr. Finn explained that there is no formal process for input from students and parents, but that they are encouraged to bring any concerns to the coaches or to Mr. Finn. Members of the School Committee expressed their interest in having a routine evaluation process, to include a formalized opportunity for student and parent input that would capture positive as well as negative feedback. Mr. Messore thanked Mr. Finn for his work and agreed with the School Committee that gaining feedback is constructive and would be used to improve upon areas of the program.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Lisa Daft of 5 Robbins Drive, asked the School Committee not to put students' safety in jeopardy when planning for the new school start times. Bus Monitors are needed, and Dr. Daft wants safety to be the top priority. She asked that this be kept in mind as the budget season is approaching.

Mr. Patrick Guida of 1 Old Forge Road, wished both the new School Committee members and Student Representative, Mr. Eli Shea, the best of luck.

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street, announced that the Boosters meet on the second Wednesday of each month. He asked Mr. Tarro what the anticipated increase in the interest rate for the Middle School bond, to approximately 3%, would mean over the course of the bond's 25 year term. Mr. Tarro stated that he would have to look at the numbers as he did not know off hand what this increase, from the previously anticipated rate of 2.85%, would be. Mr. Rimoshytus also asked how much the \$68.4M bond would cost over its full term, including interest. Mr. Tarro stated that interest payments will be approximately \$2.9M annually for 25 years. With regards to the evaluation of coaches, Mr. Rimoshytus does not think any change is needed. He believes students should be able to talk to coaches on their own behalf. Mr. Rimoshytus asked if the previously presented enrollment projections considered that older residents, without children, may have to leave town, and that younger families with students may move in. Mr. Tarro responded that they did, but that he would have to look into the NESDEC projections to quantify it. Mr. Rimoshytus would like the Town Council to consider asking the towns' voters to vote on the school start time changes at the Special Financial Town Meeting proposed for March 16th.

Ms. Michele Weber of 273 Maple Ave, stated that the Building Committee had been conservative in its earlier estimate of the bond interest rate at 3.4%, so feels comfortable with the current projection of 3%.

Ms. Pam Lewis of 3 Ridgewood Road, suggested that there be more structure in the opportunities for feedback from students and families regarding athletics and extracurriculars. Ms. Lewis also expressed interest in having the change in school start times put to a town-wide vote. She also asked if all issues resulting from the start time changes have been ironed out.

Mr. Tarro responded to Mr. Rimoshytus' question regarding projected school enrollment, and stated that people moving out of town as well as retirement was factored into the NESDEC projections.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore announced that Ocean State Transportation is in the process of securing an extra bus for the afternoon runs and hopes to have it in place by the New Year. Mr. Messore explained that there is a higher level of parent drop offs in the morning and less pick-ups in the afternoon, which is the reason for needing the additional afternoon bus. Mr. Tarro stated that there would be a communication regarding this change prior to the winter recess. Mr. Tarro announced that Ocean State will be visiting the schools to look at safety protocols and traffic patterns.

Old Business from School Committee

There was no Old Business from the School Committee.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Eli Shea, Student Representative to the School Committee, began his update by welcoming the new School Committee members. He reported that there was a Student Action Advisory Group meeting held on December 14, but that he was unable to attend. Mr. Shea has made inquiries of his peers at the High School as to what they are most concerned about. The most common response was the change in school start times, which there is significant student opposition to. Students' main concern with the start time change is the effect it will have on athletics. Mr. Shea also noted that there are students in favor of the change, but that those students seem to be less vocal. In regards to the new Homework Policy, a lot of students would like more education about the policy, as many students feel they continue to be overloaded with homework. Mr. Shea would welcome a communication with students educating them about the policy. Students are also stressed about college applications and admission decisions. There have also been concerns over an increase in drug use. Mrs. Brody asked Mr. Messore to comment on the issue of drugs. Mr. Messore acknowledged that he was aware of the concerns about both the Homework Policy and drug use. He stated that drug use needs to be addressed and that prevention programs will be explored, especially in light of the effect Massachusetts' legalization of marijuana may have on surrounding Rhode Island communities. Mr. Messore would like Mr. Shea to talk to the share what he's learned with High School administrators, and thanked Mr. Shea for the useful observations. Mrs. Brody agreed that Mr. Shea should share his ideas with the administration and thanked Mr. Shea for his update.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded the rescission of the previous recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Terri Couto, Building Mentor Liaison, Hampden Meadows School. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore explained that his earlier recommendation and the subsequent rescission was due to an assignment error only.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Alison Burke, Building Mentor Liaison, Hampden Meadows School. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Terrie Kovolyan, Building Mentor Liaison, Nayatt School. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the monthly expenditures for November, 2016 in the amount of \$3,848,430.47. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced that the School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee met on December 13th, and that the Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis to provide the Administration with valuable feedback and input. The Committee's role moving forward will be as an advisory team to Mr. Messore. The Committee has reviewed concerns regarding the start time change, which include the

associated costs associated, and expects that these costs will be fine-tuned by January. Transportation and child care concerns were also discussed, as were responses to the surveys taken by students, faculty and families. The students on the Committee will create FAQs to be distributed to fellow students to open a dialogue with Administration, and to clarify misperceptions. Educators will also create FAQs for their colleagues. Sports, including ice hockey, indoor track and swim, were also discussed. Mr. Messore stated that Mr. Finn will report back in January with an update on practice times for these sports. These topics will be revisited at the next School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee meeting. There was substantial discussion regarding the membership, charge, and title of the Ad Hoc Committee going forward, given that its original charge has been fulfilled. Mr. Messore stated that he would leave it to the School Committee to decide if a School Committee member should continue as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee. It was reiterated that this committee serves in an advisory, not policy making, role. Mrs. Brody assured the School Committee that it will continue to be a part of conversations regarding implementation of the start time change, and that the function of the Ad Hoc Committee will now be that of an advisory “task force”, under Mr. Messore’s supervision. Mr. Messore also noted that the website will be kept up to date and that times and dates will continue to be posted for the meetings.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded the dissolution of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore stated that he would like to move the process along as quickly as possible for the Evidence Based Leadership Request for Qualifications, and that he will report back on progress at the next School Committee meeting. Mr. Alessandro requested that we cast a wide net when soliciting proposals from vendors for these consultant services.

Mr. Messore stated that a district-wide announcement has been sent out in an effort to get residents to sign up for the Rhode Island Energy Challenge called “Find Your Four”. This challenge provides a cash incentive to communities for reaching a registration goal, and is a collaborative effort on the part of our legislators, the Town, and the District.

New Business from School Committee

Mr. Alessandro provided a report on the Health and Wellness Committee and noted that drug use was a major topic at the meeting, and that work needs to be done to educate the students in light of Massachusetts’ legalization of marijuana. The BAY team is continuing to produce their videos regarding drug use. The last Health & Wellness Committee meeting, held at 4:30pm at the High School, did not produce the attendance the Committee had hoped for. The Committee will next be meeting on January 4th at 8:30am at the Middle School. A number of Boy Scouts who are Middle School students have indicated an interest in attending this meeting. Mr. Alessandro reported that Chartwells has been providing cooking classes at Hampden Meadows School which focus on a different food group each time. Mr. Alessandro also gave an update on the Concussion protocol and reported that the school nurses would like to see a more uniform “return to school/return to play” form for use in the schools. Mrs. Brody asked if there is additional cost associated with implementation of baseline concussion testing for athletes at the Middle School. Dr. Douglas clarified is that this testing is already done, so there is not. Mrs. Brody also suggested that any communications sent out regarding concussion testing be done so under the direction of the Health and Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Brody announced that, because Mr. Guida is no longer a School Committee member, there is a vacancy in the leadership of the Middle School Building Committee. The charge of the Committee calls for Co-Chairs to be a community member and a School Committee member. Mrs. Clancy expressed her

interest in becoming the School Committee Co-Chair of the Building Committee, with Mr. Zawatsky and Mr. Guida continuing as community member Co-Chairs.

Mr. Alessandro moved and Mrs. Pine seconded approval of Mrs. Clancy as School Committee Co-Chair of the Middle School Building Committee. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody stated that the purpose of looking at the Montgomery County, Maryland Bullying Policy is to consider whether the School Committee would like to explore incorporating a narrative, specific to our district, that would augment the State bullying policy, and that would affirm our District's commitment to a culture free of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Mrs. Brody noted that the Policy Committee, consisting of Mrs. Brody, Mr. Messore, and Mrs. Dillon would work on augmenting our existing policy and welcomed the input of other School Committee members. All members agreed that the Montgomery County Policy was a good starting point to work from, and Dr. Douglas expressed interest in joining the Policy Committee. Each school's handbook would operationalize the resulting policy.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the adoption of School Committee and Superintendent Protocols for 2016-2017. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Alessandro opposed the motion.

Mrs. Brody suggested consideration of a sign-in form at all meetings for any members of the public who wish to address the School Committee, consistent with a review of the Open Meetings Act that had been conducted at the School Committee 101 session on December 5, 2016. This document would include the name, signature, and address of a speaker, and the topic he or she would like to discuss with the Committee and would become a reference document. Dr. Douglas suggested having this form available at a table at the Meeting Room entrance. Dr. Douglas suggested consideration of a change in language from "General Public Discussion and Information" to "Public Comment". All members of the School Committee agree on this change in procedure and the new language will be considered at the next meeting.

The Deselection Policy for Instructional Resources Second Reading and Approval will be deferred to the next School Committee Meeting. Mr. Messore explained that this is an opportunity to make improvements in the existing policy.

Mrs. Brody introduced the topic of the 2017 Joint Legislative Breakfast to continue an initiative that was introduced in 2015 as an opportunity to engage in a collaborative dialogue with our Barrington legislative delegation about important municipal and public education issues. She requested that the availability of School Committee members be determined to coordinate a mutually convenient date for the Joint Breakfast with the Town Council, Town Manager, Town Finance Director, Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Messore, and Mr. Tarro.

Decision Items

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Alessandro voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore announced the topics to be addressed at the January 5th School Committee meeting. Mrs. Brody requested that data regarding the number of students whose second language is English be included in enrollment information, as this affects the allocation of resources reflected in the proposed budget now being prepared. Mr. Messore stated that the district currently has two full-time and one part-time teachers who service English Language Learners.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced the upcoming winter break.

General Public Discussion and Information

Ms. Pam Lewis of 3 Ridgewood Road suggested informing the police of known drug use spots. She asked Mr. Shea whether, when he spoke of drug use, he referred to alcohol and marijuana, and Mr. Shea responded that he has heard of both drugs and alcohol being used. Ms. Lewis also noted that the timing of Senior Projects relative to college applications causes much stress for students. She also asked if there is a “plan B” with regard to the change in school start times. Ms. Lewis suggested this change be put to a town-wide vote as it involves everyone. She inquired about membership of the Athletic Advisory Council, and Mr. Messore answered that he will look into whether it will be open to members of the public.

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street asked why the District wants to offer students who aren’t athletes the concussion screening. Mr. Alessandro explained that it was a precautionary measure for students who might play sports outside of school. Mr. Rimoshytus would also like the School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee’s minutes to be more visible. He also expressed his disappointment in the dissolution of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and thinks it should be kept intact.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn of the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m. and to go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5 (a) (2) for work session pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation with Barrington Education Support Team (BEST.) The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mrs. Pine and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:10 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:11 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.