

BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES 2/16/17

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, February 16, 2017, in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Vice Chair Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Mrs. Pine, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Eli Shea led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Achievement Recognitions**

Mr. Messore announced the following Achievement Recognitions in the District:

Barrington High School won the Rhode Island Verizon Learning App Challenge. This app is called Silent 911. This app benefits a person who is being attacked/abused in a relationship by alerting authorities without making the perpetrator aware.

Barrington High School Scholastic Gold and Silver Key Winners: Luis Solley, Noelle Cooke, and Ingrid Kenyon. Luisa Solley's Gold Key Scholastic Award also won an American Visions Nomination; only 5 students are chosen statewide for this honor.

Scholastic Runners up: Venna Huang, Max Johnson, Linda Jia, Taryn DeMeillon, Jenny Smith, Erin Abbot.

Barrington High School Robotics Team 10847 competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship. Team 10847 won both the 3rd Place Award in a field of 31 competing teams and the Control Award, - given to the Best Autonomous Program.

Barrington High School Robotics Team 654 - Uppercut Bots – won the Third Place Connect Award Which is given to the Team That Most Connects with Their Local Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Community at the FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship.

Lindsay Anne Daugherty is the recipient of the 2017 Heart of the Arts Award given by the National Federation of High School Associations. This award recognizes those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the Positive Heart of the Arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities.

The following Barrington High School students have been nominated as 2017 Presidential Scholar candidates: Mikaela Boone, Richard F. Carolan, Youvin M. Chung, Lindsay A. Daugherty, Ingrid J. Kenyon, Molly T. Littman, Elena D. Serrano, William Y. Yao.

Mrs. Mitchell's Hampden Meadows Class was thanked by Hasbro Children's Hospital for their gifts of handmade mittens, blankets and hats for patients and families during the 2016 holiday season.

## **Information and Proposals**

### School Start Time Change 2017-2018 Update

Mr. Messore stated that Athletic Director, Mr. George Finn, is reasonably certain that he has secured most of the ice time for next year's hockey team; Mr. Finn is exploring opportunities for ice time at a new location in Attleboro, MA. Mr. Finn has secured indoor track times at Brown University facilities, which will allow indoor training during the winter months. The Bayside YMCA anticipates that it will have afternoon and evening practice times available for the BHS Swim Team and will revisit its schedule availability. A letter of intent has been signed with an East Providence facility to hold lanes as a potential practice site option for the 2017-2018 academic year. Discussions continue with a private agency relative to child care options for morning and afternoon, consistent with the facilities use policy, and the Bayside YMCA will revisit its cost and services for child care programs. February 28 will be the next meeting of the School Start Time Advisory Committee at the Middle School and the Bayside YMCA will present an update on its child care programs at that meeting. The elementary building principals have created tentative schedules for the new transportation times. Mr. Alessandro inquired about the impact of the change in school start times on the Golf Team. Mr. Messore explained that there will be a limited impact; if Golf is changed to a Fall sport, as is under consideration by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League at this time, any impact would require reconsideration. Mrs. Pine expressed her concern relative to adequate practice options for the BHS Swim Team; Mr. Messore stated that he will reexamine the details and report back to the School Committee.

### Proposed FY18 Operating Budget

Mr. Tarro presented the School Committee with the proposed FY18 operating budget. The Administration reexamined all aspects of the proposed budget based on the feedback shared by the School Committee at the February 2 Budget Workshop. Mr. Tarro noted that some of the known factors that affect the budget are enrollment, pension rate, and a pending increase in medical insurance. Mr. Tarro provided clarification relative to transportation as follows: seven bus monitors will remain in district, three bus monitors will be outsourced as contracted services with Ocean State Transportation, there is no need for an additional Special Education bus as the district is not at capacity, and student transportation is on time with ongoing evaluation of routing efficiencies. He stated that, consistent with the planned replacement cycle, the district has requested the purchase of additional replacement bus in the FY18 capital budget. The proposed operating budget, reflects a 3.14% increase with an increase in expenditures of \$1,504,495. The impact to taxpayers, including the FY18 loss in estimated State Aid and Categorical Funds for High Cost Special Education (\$53,808) is a 3.25% increase.

The Administration introduced a transportation schedule with bus routes for a change in school start times with a zero cost for the initiative as follows: 8:15a start for Barrington High School, 8:25a start time for Barrington Middle School, 8:40a start time for the K-3 schools and 9:30a start time for Hampden Meadows School. Mrs. Pine stated her concern for Hampden Meadows School proposed dismissal time. Mr. Alessandro and Dr. Douglas would like to see a comparison in transportation schedules relative to current and the proposed option. Dr. Douglas stated that the later dismissal time is a safety concern.

Mrs. Clancy stated that she also wants to look at the times more closely.

Mrs. Brody requested comparative transportation schedule data and requested that the Administration revisit the feasibility of a 9:15am start time and 3:40p dismissal at Hampden Meadows School, consistent with the model as presented in 2016.

Mr. Messore explained that it may cut down instructional times and that the Administration would need to look into that option. Mr. Tarro stated that the goal was to keep the start time as a priority and at the same time be fiscally responsible in developing the proposed operating budget.

Mrs. Brody thanked the Administration for the transportation data and recognized the significant investment of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee in its development of an Implementation Plan. She stated that a number of external factors that were not predictable, including unanticipated 5-8% increases in medical insurance premiums after historical trends without increases, and changes in anticipated revenue including a change in State Aid, have changed the landscape in education during the last twelve months.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Brody explained the new Public Comment agenda topic, replacing the previous General Public Discussion and Information agenda topic; the consensus of the School Committee was to approve additional time for Public Comment at this meeting.

Dr. Lisa Daft of 5 Robbins Drive asked the Committee to remove the School Start Time updates from agenda. She provided the Committee with a published article and requested that the initiative be put on hold at this time.

Ms. Pam Lauria of 56 Martin Avenue requested that the Committee go forward with its commitment to the 8:30am start time and suggested consideration of a 9:00am start time at Barrington High School.

Ms. Debbie Jaffe of 17 Woodland Road stated her concerns with the change in school start time decision, including safety concerns relative to the dismissal time for Hampden Meadow School students.

Ms. Erica Severson of 48 Chapel Road thanked the School Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee and requested a commitment to health and wellness as well as creative solutions to make initiative work.

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street requested clarification of practice times for swimming and hockey. Mr. Messoro stated that hockey practice times shouldn't change drastically and that he anticipates that swim practice times may be 2 nights, 2 afternoons and 1 evening.

Mr. Rimoshytus also requested consideration of an 8am start time at Barrington High School, and that the Administration address bus efficiencies.

Dr. Scott Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road noted the district history with implementation of initiatives and feels that the 8:30am start time is the optimal solution for what is best for the students.

Mr. Nahum Mitnik of 187 New Meadow Road stated that most of the initiatives will benefit students, with the exception of the cost neutral School Start Time initiative. He stated that the Hampden Meadows dismissal at 4pm is a safety concern and feels that an adjustment is needed in the transportation system.

Ms. Meenal Gogte of 23 Mason Road expressed his concern for the Hampden Meadows students getting out late with the school time change and thinks that the initiative should be held off as it is fine how it is.

Ms. Liana Cassar of 2 Hope Court stated that the community is better than the process and that the School Committee should implement the 8:30 start time. She stated that there has been divisive rhetoric associated with the change in school start time topic, that serious commitment to the issues is required by

the Committee as opposed to its falling to the challenge of public pressure and that not following through on the change in school start time would be a failure to fulfill the commitment made by the Committee.

Ms. Jamie Burke of 219 Promenade Street thanked the School Committee, Ad Hoc Committee and Mr. Messoro for their hard work, noted her appreciation for believing in health and wellness, and urged continuation of the implementation plan for the change in school start time. She stated that sidewalks on walking routes to schools are covered in snow and she requested enforcement of the shoveling ordinance during the winter months.

Ms. Rachel Baldwin of 35 Primrose Hill Road stated that she is a member of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Advisory Committee; she is a pediatric neuropsychologist and expressed concerns about the disrespectful dialogue about the issue; she is passionate about the change in school start time initiative.

Dr. Michael Johnson of 28 Old Chimney Road thanked everyone for their work, stated that science shows that students sleep more with a later school start time and that it is a misconception that kids will go to bed later if the start time gets pushed back to a later time. He stated that the lack of sleep contributes to stress and anxiety, that more sleep yields better outcomes for students and that you cannot change the science of circadian rhythms that support the beneficial effects of a later start time for students.

Ms. Kim Jacobs of 5 Massachusetts Avenue stated that her review of the research indicates that studies are not science based but observation based, that data from 800 schools nationwide is a minority of schools, that the process was not inclusive for the change in school start time initiative and that the voters should be asked about the topic.

Mr. Alex Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street would like to see data on student tardiness on Common Planning Time (CPT) days at Barrington High School, and stated that once the students reach college, their schedules will not conform to their sleep needs.

Ms. Babs Baker stated that in New Zealand, school times were between 8:45am-3:25pm and for elementary schools from 9am-3pm, where many more students walk to school.

Ms. Ann Merlino of 15 Mallard Cove Way does not think it is safe for younger kids to leave in the morning or come home in the afternoon to be out in dark; she is concerned about the negative impact on health and wellness for younger students.

Ms. Cassandra Thayer of 5 Indigo Rd stated that she is uncomfortable with the divisive nature of the school start time change issue and that she was initially disappointed in the decision to postpone the implementation for a year but realized that it was wise to do; she stated that she feels that the process was fair and trusts that the process will produce a good plan

Ms. Meenal Gogte is a health instructor and stated that she is concerned about anxiety and stress for students, and that it is important for students to learn about mindfulness and resiliency to develop skills and build confidence through the awareness of practices through the health curriculum.

Ms. Laura Pippitt of 14 Terrace Drive stated that she is saddened by the divisiveness of the time change discussion and wants the School Committee to stay with its commitment to later school start times as she thinks it will benefit every child, whether or not parents support the 8:30a start time.

Ms. Chris Barton of 29 Meadowbrook Drive requested consideration of follow-up studies to evaluate the benefits of the change in school start time and to measure the success of the initiative.

Ms. Margaret Codola of 16 Joann Drive expressed concern about the change in school start time, especially for single parents and two working parent homes; She wants it to be thought through as it is contributing to stress for parents and kids. She also stated that she does not support the elimination of the Honor Roll at Barrington Middle School.

Ms. Kristen Kreuzkamp of 10 Agawam Road spoke of the benefits of the later start time for her children on CPT days.

Dr. Peter Bilderback of 260 Sowams Road thanked the Administration and School Committee for their work. He explained that, due to biology, his son is struggling with sleep and needs the later school start time; he urged the Committee to stay the course with implementation of the initiative.

Ms. Maura McCrann of 4 Woodford Rd stated that she is a member of the Ad Hoc School Start Time Advisory Committee, and that as a college mental health professional, she recognizes the challenges and feels as though the solutions made regarding sports should put to rest some stress. She also stated that she wants to do what is best for the community.

Ms. Rachel Baldwin of 35 Primrose Hill Road reported on the survey results relative to the change in school start time.

Ms. LouAnn Diehl of 11 Driscoll Lane stated that she thinks kids are sacrificing sleep to electronics and thinks a later start time will give the kids more time to be on their electronics and not sleep.

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street inquired about the tax increase.

Dr. Lisa Daft of 5 Robbins Drive requested clarification on the survey.

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

#### **Barrington Middle School (BMS) Building Committee Report**

Mr. Tarro explained that there was a Building Committee meeting on Monday evening and that KBA has moved forward with design development plan. They have been looking at cost effective options and smaller square footage. He has been having weekly meetings with the architects and reporting to the Building Committee in a timely manner. Mrs. Clancy noted that there will be a town meeting on March 16 and the Committee is working on FAQs that will be sent out. There will also be an information session in regards to the Middle School building project on March 7 6:30pm. Mrs. Clancy explained that there will be one topic on agenda.

Mr. Tarro responded to Mr. Rimoshytus' question and explained that it is unknown as budget has not been finalized or submitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

### Strategic Planning

Mr. Messore explained that the Administration is in the process of working on schedule logistics for the interview process. The Committee will proceed if there is a quorum on the selected dates and will move forward with the process.

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

There was no new business from the School Committee.

## **New Business**

### Student Representative to the School Committee Update

Student Representative, Mr. Eli Shea, stated that school culture has been a topic of discussion during the past two advisory meetings; concerns presented included that there is too much stress and too much emphasis on achievement and not enough emphasis on student health. The Advisory Groups will be presenting options for students to introduce initiatives to positively impact school culture. Mr. Shea stated that some students don't feel that their feedback is taken seriously and nothing is done, as forums have been held about students stress but initiatives do not last for long periods of time.

Mr. Shea also stated that the students he has talked to do not think the homework policy is working for them and there were concerns about homework given over vacation.

Mr. Messore stated that the administration will follow up with building principals regarding the homework policy.

### New Business from the Superintendent and Staff

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Mike Katz, Assistant Coach, Indoor Track and Field, Barrington High 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 to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Scott Leonard, Wrestling Coach, Barrington Middle 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 to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Johanna Marcel, Interim Gymnastics Coach, Barrington High 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 the motion to approve the Leave of Absence for Ms. Margaret Lofaro, Grade 4 Teacher, 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 the motion to approve the Leave of Absence for Ms. Stephanie Hines, Reading Specialist, 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 announced the Retirement of Ms. Susan Wood, Guidance Clerk, Barrington High School. Mr. Messore thanked Susan for her service and the Committee extended its appreciation and congratulations to Ms. Wood.

Mr. Messore announced the Retirement of Ms. Ann-Marie D. Canders, Bus Driver, Barrington Public Schools.

Mr. Messore announced the Retirement of Elizabeth St. Angelo, Transportation Coordinator, Barrington Public Schools. Mr. Messore thanked Beth for all her years of service and work.

Mr. Messore announced the Retirement of Ms. Bonnie M Olchowski, Grade 8 English Teacher, Barrington Middle School. Mr. Messore thanked Bonnie for her work and the Committee extended its appreciation and congratulations to Ms. Olchowski.

Mr. Messore announced the Retirement of Ms. Nancy Maura, Bus Driver, Barrington Public Schools.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Ms. Michelle O’Kane, Gymnastics Coach, Barrington High School.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Ms. Amanda Greenway, Spanish Teacher, Barrington High School.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Mr. Michael Gesmondi, Head Freshman Football Coach/Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Barrington High School.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Ms. Michaela George, Girls Junior Varsity Soccer Coach, Barrington High School.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for January, 2017 in the amount of \$3,762,316.23. 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. Tarro stated that there are no budget concerns and that he projects the district will end out the year in the black.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro 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, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

#### New Business from School Committee

Mr. Alessandro reported that Mrs. Lisa Davis, gave a SMART (Secure, Model, Ask, Recognize, Tell) gun safety presentation at the last meeting of the Health and Wellness Committee; suicide prevention and student stress levels were also topics of discussion. The next meeting will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in Hampden Meadows School and Chartwells will be bringing flavored water.

Mrs. Dillon, in response to a question from Mrs. Pine, clarified questions about the posting of suicide prevention flyers near the nurses’ office, guidance office, and the student assistance area. Mrs. Pine would like to see additional flyers posted in highly visible areas and Mrs. Dillon stated that would not be a problem.

Mrs. Brody provided an update on the Third Annual Joint Legislative Breakfast that was held on January 23 with the Town Council and the Barrington legislative delegation, including Representative Joy Hearn

(D-66), Representative Jason Knight, (D-67) and Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne (D-32.) Town Council President Michael W. Carroll presented municipal advocacy issues and members provided additional concerns. Mrs. Brody has introduced school advocacy issues and members provided additional topics of concern for public education. Mrs. Brody noted that details of the discussion are reflected in the minutes of the Joint Legislative Breakfast. Mrs. Brody stated that the consensus of the group was that it would be beneficial to hold a second joint legislative breakfast in late April, 2017.

Mrs. Brody provided an overview of the role and membership of the Budget Forecast Committee and noted that she and Mr. Alessandro have served as the School Committee representatives on that collaborative committee. She noted that since the School Committee now has new members, it is important to discuss the level of interest in participation on the Budget Forecast Committee. Mr. Alessandro and Dr. Douglas expressed interest in serving on the Budget Forecast Committee and Mrs. Brody welcomed the opportunity to have Dr. Douglas replace her as a member of that committee.

The Committee conducted the second reading of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy. Mrs. Dillon introduced the posters created by students, consistent with the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy that describe how to report child abuse and neglect.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy with the identified minor editing revisions. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

The Committee conducted the second reading of the Health and Wellness Policy.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the Health and Wellness Policy with the identified minor editing revisions. 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 thanked Mrs. Dillon for her work relative to updating the Health and Wellness Policy.

#### **Decision Items**

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

#### **Discussion Items**

The K-12 Student Achievement Data is scheduled as the topic of the next School Committee meeting; however, due to the ambitious agenda, the K-5 Student Achievement Data will be presented on March 2 and the Grades 6-12 Student Achievement Data will be presented on March 22. The 2017-18 proposed school calendar will be introduced at the March 2 School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Brody requested that Mr. Finn be present to provide an update at the March 22 School Committee meeting.

Dr. Douglas stated that the BAY Team Prevention Coalition needs a School Committee representative; Mrs. Brody stated that it will be placed on the agenda for the March 2 School Committee meeting.

**Announcements**

The next meeting of the School Start Time Advisory Committee will take place on February 28, 2017.

Mrs. Brody stated that the next School Committee meeting will begin at 7:30pm, due to the fact that the Administration, Barrington Middle School Building Committee Co-Chairs and School Committee Chair will be attending the 5:30pm meeting of the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation in Providence.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street requested clarification of the estimated budget surplus for FY17 and inquired as to the status of a grief support group for students at Barrington High School and Barrington Middle School.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:43p.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.**