

**BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES 4/12/17**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Vice Chair Mrs. Clancy, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and, Mr. Tarro. Mrs. Pine arrived at 8:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Julia Althof, mother of Dr. Megan Douglas, and former member of the Mill Valley, California School Board, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognitions

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements throughout the district:

The Barrington High School Math Team won its third straight University of Rhode Island (URI) Calculus Bowl.

Barrington High School has been featured in The Global Learning Network's release of new video case studies entitled "America Achieves." These videos highlight the ways in which schools are preparing students for college and career success in the 21st Century economy through innovative classroom instruction and district and school-level policy.

The LifeSmarts team from Barrington High School has earned top honors in the National Consumers League's premier consumer literacy competition, that which focuses on real-world topics relevant to all teens. The team was awarded the 2017 Rhode Island State Championship for its excellent performance in the competition and will represent Rhode Island at the 2017 National LifeSmarts Championship in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in late April. Student Representative to the School Committee Eli Shea is Captain of the team that includes members Katherine Hilty, Michael Lamontagne, Andrew Sheinberg and Daniel Sheinberg. Barrington High School Mathematics faculty member Mr. Samuel Schachter is Coach of the LifeSmarts Team.

Congratulations to the BHS Girls Basketball Team members who earned the following recognition

Alex Marinelli: Division 1 Central Honorable Mention

Olivia Middleton: Division 1 Central Third Team and Division 1 All Class Honorable mention

Andrea Kubas-Meyer: Division 1 Central Second and Team Division 1 All Class Third Team

Glory Ellison: Division 1 Central First Team, Division 1 All Class Second Team, First Team All-State: Coaches Association and Providence Journal

Grace Coutu: Division 1 Central First Team, Division 1 All Class - First Team, and First Team All-State: Coaches Association and Providence Journal

Congratulations to the BHS Boys Basketball Team members who earned the following recognition:

Michael Coogan: RI Boys Coaches Association - Division 2 East First Team All-State

Will Rywolt: RI Boys Coaches Association - Division 2 East Second Team All-State

Barrington High School Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Stephen Lenz was named Division I Coach of the Year.

Information and Proposals

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Messore stated that he has a planning meeting scheduled with Dr. Melissa Matarazzo of Studer Education. He would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Administration and the School Committee for a Strategic Planning Workshop to define a proposed a timeline for and present an outline of the Studer Group work with the Barrington Public Schools. The Committee requested that materials be provided in advance for review prior to the workshop.

District Communication Plan and District Website Update

Mr. Messore stated that he has been working with Chris Horan of Horan Communications regarding the process for and execution of district communications. Dave Burrows, Director of Technology, provided an overview of the process for the analysis of a new district website and stated with the direction had been to consider options at virtually no cost and ensure an increase in the navigation capacity for mobile devices. He and Dr. Dillon considered website development and associated costs and selected the Weebly platform for the first round structure and design conversion; the platform will provide search options on any mobile device. Mr. Burrows clarified that the responsibility for website administration will be assumed by himself, the building administrators and the administrative assistants.

The discussion included the search ability and format of the site, options for use of the same templates for all school and district calendars, usability of the site, options for tutorials for use of the new website, expanded access to district curriculum and an assessment of the district capacity for execution of the website development process in light of district operations. Mr. Burrows provided an overview of the timeline for the website conversion, including the completion of the district website by the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, to be followed by the conversion of all district schools, with an optimistic projection of complete system wide conversion by Fall, 2017. The Committee expressed its strong interest in the execution of the District Communication Plan, including a process for expanded opportunities for stakeholder engagement and a focus on work with the communications consultant to evaluate the district capacity for the execution and long term sustainability of the communication plan.

Progress Report: School Start Times Change 2017-2018

Mr. Messore explained that the advisory committee met on Tuesday and are looking at the next steps. He has also been speaking with the YMCA and Springboard regarding child care. Mr. Messore stated that he will be setting up meetings with the administration to walk through the facilities to look at facility use fees. Mr. Messore also explained that a group of parents have worked on a transportation proposal and assessed the transport times. He will regroup with the parent group as well as Ocean State Transport to see what they think about the evaluation, and if rerouting is possible. GPS Data will be looked at after spring break and new drivers have been hired which has helped in some efficiencies. The district is interviewing for special ed bus drivers and has been reevaluating special education transport for next year. Mr. Messore stated that finding a new transportation person is critical. He also explained that the sports schedule will be kept for next year.

Mrs. Clancy asked if we looking at making changes in the school start time this fall, to which Mr. Messore explained that it would not.

Mr. Alessandro thanked the administration for their work. He also stated that while he appreciated the parents transportation feedback, but wants to know where it is coming from as it was not solicited and

could be a slippery slope. He explained that he does not want to start precedent with people submitting information.

Mr. Messore explained that the parent body who presented brainstormed with him were members of the school start time committee with whom he worked with for months and he does not consider it unsolicited. Mr. Messore stated that no decisions will be made without being transparent and all proposals will be presented to the School Committee.

Mrs. Brody noted that Mr. Messore had asked to continue to work with committee as well as the public in open session. Mrs. Brody stated that it is important to look at the data provided and to make responsible decisions as well as to allow people to share their opinions with the School Committee. Mrs. Brody clarified that the School Committee has not yet voted on the school start time and asked that Mr. Messore consider a date to address this matter at a future School Committee meeting.

Public Comment

Dr. Scott Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road explained that the transparency has been part of the process for the work of the School Start Time Advisory committee members for the past 18 months. He provided an overview of the breakthrough gains on obstacles, cited an evaluation of low and no cost transportation options, and requested that the Administration and transportation company review the transportation data in comparison with current GPS data.

Dr. Lisa Daft of 5 Robbins Drive requested clarification of the school schedules for next year and clarification of the timeline for the licensing process for daycare providers. She stated her concerns relative to the perceived micromanagement of data by parents.

Ms. Maura McCrann of 4 Woodford Road thanked Mr. Messore for his work with the School Start Time Advisory Committee to solve challenges. She stated that she resents the implication that the school start time committee is being less than transparent and clarified that the agenda for ongoing work remains that of a focus on the needs of the students and community.

Ms. Pamela Lauria of 56 Martin Avenue feels that the school start time decision has been made for an 8:30am start for Barrington High School and requested clarification relative to funding for a bus. She identified a concern relative to budget support for teachers for classroom supplies.

Ms. Karen Rasnick of 9 Meadow Circle, parent of Barrington High School graduates, requested clarification for the rationale for changing the school start time; Mr. Messore suggested that she explore the School Start Time initiative on the district website to view the history of the process.

Mrs. Clancy stated that she had served on the School Start Time Advisory Committee and recognizes the value of the work presented by the parent group; she requested clarification from Mr. Messore relative to the source of the transportation data and was advised by Mr. Messore that the data had been resented by some members of the advisory group.

Ms. Liana Cassar of 2 Hope Court requested that the Administration ensure that teachers have the supplies that they need as she feels that teachers are struggling with classroom supplies. She requested clarification of the budget reduction for a bus and of the plan for the egress road at Barrington High School.

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street suggested that the Administration review the plan for the egress road at Barrington High School, as it had been a topic of discussion in the 1970s; he requested follow up from the Administration relative to his previous request that the Administration consult with bus drivers

about bus route efficiencies; he requested that the school start time initiative be abandoned as there is no room in the budget for its implementation with a projected tax increase of 9.1%.

Dr. Paul O'Brien of 88 Boyce Avenue reiterated the community support, both in November and in March, for the bond and financing for the new Barrington Middle School and stated his opposition to slashing the school budget, as it does it a disservice to the students.

Dr. Michael Johnson of 28 Old Chimney Road provided a synopsis of the timeline for the School Start Time initiative for the past year and reiterated his support for changing the school start time to do what is best for students.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

FY18 Proposed Operating Budget Update

Mr. Tarro stated that the Administration presented the revised FY18 proposed operating budget, including reductions as discussed at the April 6 School Committee meeting, at the Committee on Appropriations (COA) meeting on April 11. Mr. Tarro noted that the COA had had a lengthy discussion relative to Capital projects; the proposed egress road at Barrington High School was discussed as an opportunity for efficiency and safety improvements; it will improve access for emergency fire and rescue vehicles. Mr. Tarro expects the cost estimate to be between \$75,000 and \$ 100,000; the project will be funded through the Capital Reserve budget, has been on the list of Health and Safety projects since FY11 and will be eligible for Housing Aid reimbursement. The timeline for the project may be coordinated with Department of Public Works projects to capture an opportunity to realize cost savings for the project. Mr. Messore stated that the budget reductions were made with the intent to have the least negative impact on programs and teaching and learning and to ensure the provision of a safe environment for students and teachers. He noted that any further reductions to the revised FY18 proposed operating budget will have a negative impact on teaching and learning. Mr. Alessandro reported that at its April 11 meeting, the COA had communicated that the Administration is doing a good job with budget reductions; Mr. Alessandro believes that we are proposing a responsible budget with level services. The Committee discussion included clarification relative to specifics about the egress road plans, the School Improvement Capital Reserve Account and the Fund Balance/Spending Policy, and the impact of anticipated summer enrollment on projected class sizes at the elementary level.

Old Business from School Committee

There was no Old Business from the School Committee.

New Business

Student Representative to the School Committee Update

Mr. Shea shared the data relative to a LifeSmarts audit on food waste that was recently performed at Barrington High School. (BHS.) National statistics reflect that approximately 40% of purchased high school cafeteria food is wasted; the BHS statistic reflects approximately 10% food waste. At BHS, by category, the most wasted food was fruit, at 20% of fruit purchased being wasted; students are considering proposals to decrease the fruit waste.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Mr. Tarro stated that it is his projection that the year will end in the black. Mrs. Brody requested clarification of the pest control cost for March; Mr. Tarro stated that the source of the significant increase in that line item in the budget was a now resolved problem with a bat at Primrose Hill School.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for March 2017 in the amount of \$3,959,731.26. 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

Discussion and Vote: FY18 Proposed Operating Budget

The Committee requested clarification relative to the Administration's advance planning process for budget development and clarification of line items in the budget, including classroom supplies. Mr. Tarro stated that budget decisions for classroom supplies are made by building Administrators; he affirmed that the Administration would not have presented a budget that included a reduction in classroom supplies with a resulting negative impact on teaching and learning. Mr. Messori stated that he will reach out to the building administrators to clarify the disconnect relative to the budget line item for classroom supplies. Mrs. Clancy noted that the line item for classroom supplies has unused funds at this point in the academic year. Mr. Tarro confirmed that there has been no change in the revised proposed operating budget since it was introduced to the Committee on April 6.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget in the amount of \$49,168,846. The motion passed 4-1 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion. Dr. Douglas voted in the opposition.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adopt a 2017-2018 Capital Budget of \$291,250. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Douglas requested clarification of the reduction in the Capital Budget for Technology as a one-time reduction for FY18; Mr. Messori confirmed that statement.

Major Illness Bank Committee Membership

Mrs. Brody proposed that, consistent with past practice and to ensure the confidentiality of employee health information, the School Committee appoint the Superintendent and Director of Finance and Administration as its designees.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to appoint the Superintendent and the Director of Administration and Finance as its designees for the Major Illness Bank 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.

Health and Wellness Committee Report

Mr. Alessandro thanked Dr. Anderson for hosting the last Health and Wellness Committee meeting at Barrington Middle School. The next meeting will be held on May 3 at 6:30pm at Primrose Hill School, in collaboration with the Primrose Hill PTO meeting. Mr. Alessandro asked to defer the Health and Wellness Committee report to the next School Committee meeting.

Joint Legislative Breakfast Spring 2017

Mrs. Brody stated that Ms. DiPrizio is working with her municipal colleagues to explore availability of all participants for a May 3 date for the Spring Joint Legislative Breakfast.

Decision Items

Mrs. Brody stated that the Consent Agenda will be deferred to the next meeting due to the short timeline for review of the draft minutes by the Vice Chair. Mrs. Brody stated that the draft minutes will be available in the Administration Office.

Discussion Items

Discussion of Future Agenda Items

April 27 will be the next BAY team meeting

A Barrington Middle School Building Project meeting will be held on April 13.

April 24th will be the next regular meeting of the Building Committee

It will be determined at the April 27 School Committee meeting if the School Committee will need to vote on anything from the Building Committee meeting

Mr. Messoro asked what the School Committee would like to hear from the guidance department at the next meeting. The School Committee expressed they want more communication between guidance and families.

Announcements

The Volunteer Breakfast will be held on April 25th at 9am in the Town Council Chambers in the Town Hall.

Mr. Alessandro thanked Primrose Hill School for his invitation to participate in Reading Week.

Public Comment

Dr. Scott Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road inquired if school start time would be put to a vote. Mrs. Brody stated that a vote on the 2017-2018 School Start Time change will be on the April 27 School Committee meeting agenda. Dr. Douglas requested that the Committee consider the following four questions: Where do you stand on the science? Where do you stand on the Challenge Success Survey data? Where do you stand on the budget priorities? Where is the school start time initiative in the strategic plan?

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street asked if the Special Education bus is included in the Capital Budget; Mr. Tarro provided clarification that \$31,250 is identified in the Capital Budget for the bus. Mr. Rimoshytus requested clarification relative to the Health and Safety projects that have been approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and asked that the Administration consider an initiative to relieve student stress as a substitute for the school start time initiative.

Mr. Alex Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street stated his support for the preservation of the current school start times and suggested that time management skills be incorporated in the Health curriculum.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded adjourn the regular meeting at 10:20 p.m. and to convene in 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) 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, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at

10:50 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 stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:51pm. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.