

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 08/07/2017**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Monday, August 7, 2017 in the School Committee Room. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Mrs. Pine.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Denise Tarro, Special Guest, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition of Ronald D. Tarro, Director of Administration and Finance**

The Committee recognized the career and contributions of Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald D. Tarro upon his retirement from the Barrington Public Schools, effective August 11, 2017.

Mr. Alessandro read the Resolution of the Barrington Town Council Honoring Ronald D. Tarro, adopted 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2017.

Members of the School Committee and Administration staff individually paid tribute to Mr. Tarro for his service to Barrington Public Schools. Mrs. Brody, on behalf of the School Committee, presented a plaque inscribed: "with deepest gratitude to Ronald D. Tarro for your commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, your impeccable integrity and relentless focus on superior administration and financial management, and your dedication to the students, faculty and staff of the Barrington Public Schools 2001-2017". The Committee recognized Mrs. Denise Tarro for her support of Mr. Tarro and his work with the Barrington Public Schools, and presented her with flowers. Mr. Tarro thanked members of the Administration and the School Committee for their support and professionalism through the years.

**Information and Proposals**

**FY18 Operating Budget Update**

Mr. Tarro provided an update on the FY18 operating budget that included confirmation of restoration of Education Aid funds after the recent resolution of the FY18 budget impasse by the General Assembly, with a favorable variance of \$17,000, with a net of \$53,000 less in State Aid for education. He stated the Administration will work to fill the vacant positions of Guidance Counselor at Hampden Meadows School, Math Specialist at the High School, and a Social Studies teacher at the Middle School. These positions were included in the original FY18 operating budget for Barrington Public Schools, but hiring for these positions had been put on hold in response to the uncertainty of State funding. Mr. Messore noted that the Administration is reviewing the position of Guidance Counselor at Hampden Meadows School, as the position is not mandated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE.) The Assistant Principal at Hampden Meadows School has assumed responsibility for the administration of assessments, and there may be an opportunity to provide additional support for the social emotional needs of students through the reallocation of personnel with specific areas of expertise.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

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**Old Business**

**Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro presented the current District Enrollment Data, as of August 7, 2017, with the comparative projected and actual enrollment at the elementary, Middle and High schools. They stated that the Administration will continue to monitor enrollment, and class size. There was a discussion relative to the benchmark data, areas of potential concern that may have an impact on class size, reallocation of full time equivalent (FTE) personnel positions for Pre-K and K-3 schools, and the adult-to-student ratio. Mr. Messore reported that the Administration's goal is to review the open position for Guidance Counselor at Hampden Meadows School, and fill the positions for Math Specialist at the Middle School, and a Social Studies teacher at the Middle School by the start of the 2017-2018 school year. At this time there are no further recommendations to the Committee for changes in staff. He stated that personnel decisions will need to be made in the next week so that announcements can be made and District administrators can prepare for the start of school.

Mr. Messore reported on the ongoing Strategic Planning process and on a phone conference he had with Studer Education facilitator, Dr. Melissa Matarazzo and School Committee Chair, Kate Brody, to confirm the agenda for the August 15-16 Strategic Planning sessions. He stated that the two sessions with District Administrators will include a review of the past two years' annual improvement plans for each building, a discussion regarding two-way communication with staff and the community related to the strategic planning process, and a review of management strategies that may be useful when discussing district initiatives and start-of-school concerns with staff and the families. The first Steering Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Barrington High School Library. This session will include a discussion of the findings of the facilitator's environmental scan, and opportunities for the identification of important stakeholder groups for participation in multiple focus group sessions to be facilitated by Studer Education in October.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the status of child care options at Hampden Meadows School. The Administration is awaiting confirmation of required documentation from two interested vendors relative to compliance with State regulations. He reported that there is the potential for child care options at Hampden Meadows School and, with at least one vendor, the possibility of expansion to include the K-3 schools. The Administration will notify parents/families in the District about developments regarding child care options, as it is a time sensitive matter given the impending start of the 2017-2018 school year. A discussion ensued regarding communication with parents/families. Mr. Messore stated that he intends to share information with the community as soon as possible.

**School Committee**

Dr. Douglas provided the second reading of the Educator Absence Policy. The Committee discussed a minor revision in the structure of one sentence relative to the scope of responsibility.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adopt the Educator Absence Policy with an immaterial, minor revision. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody,**

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

Mrs. Clancy provided the second reading of the first two pages of the Field Trip Policy. The Committee discussed a minor revision to the format.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adopt the Field Trip Policy with an immaterial, minor revision. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Alessandro provided the second reading of the Naming of School Facilities Policy. The Committee made no revisions to the policy.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adopt the Naming of School Facilities Policy. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mrs. Brody requested clarification that it is the Superintendent's role to determine if a nomination for naming of a school facility will be recommended to the Committee, and Mr. Messoro confirmed that it is. Mr. Messoro reported he has received a letter of nomination and will make a recommendation to the Committee at the next School Committee meeting.

**New Business**

**Superintendent and Staff**

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Kate Adams, Special Education Teacher Assistant II, Nayatt School. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas 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. Jeff Blanchet, Math Curriculum Leader, Barrington Middle School. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messoro stated that he had a revision to the appointment as noted on the agenda relative to his recommendation for the appointment of Ms. Tamar Chobanyan, Science Teacher, Barrington Middle School. He stated that Ms. Chobanyan has dual certification in Science and Social Studies, and that his recommendation for her appointment includes both subjects.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Tamar Chobanyan, Science and Social Studies Teacher, Barrington Middle School. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Jocelyn Gillam, General Office Clerk Part-Time, Barrington High School. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas 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. Melissa Resendes, Transportation Coordinator, Barrington Public Schools. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

A brief discussion ensued on the Transportation Coordinator position and the importance of its role with families and the community.

**Retirement**

Mr. Messore announced the retirement of Mr. Alan MacMillan, Science Teacher, Barrington Middle School after 17 years of dedicated service. The School Committee extended an invitation to Mr. MacMillan to attend next year's School Committee meeting at which retirees are recognized.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the status of the search for a Director of Administration and Finance. The posting has been closed to new applicants and time is of the essence. He reported that a Screening Committee has been formed and includes School Committee members Mr. Alessandro and Dr. Douglas, four members from Central Office administration, one elementary administrator, one secondary administrator, and one consultant who is a member of the Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials (RIASBO.) The responsibility of this Committee is to identify and confirm a plan for the candidate screening selection and interview process. Mr. Messore stated that there will be a Screening Committee meeting held within the week to discuss the process and desired candidate qualifications, review the candidates' applications, and set times for initial interviews. He will update the School Committee on the Committee's progress at the next School Committee meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the process and the time frame within which initial interviews will be conducted.

**Confirmation of Contract Awards**

Mr. Tarro explained that he has locked in a favorable rate via a "blend and extend" contract for the District's electricity that was negotiated with Direct Energy through a collaborative purchasing agreement with the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). He noted that this 15.85% decrease in the electricity supply charge will result in an annual cost of \$35,800 and will take effect in January, 2018; the decrease in cost to be realized for the FY18 operating budget is approximately \$17,900. This contract requires only confirmation by the Committee.

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**Mrs. Clancy moved, and Mr. Alessandro seconded the motion to confirm the renewal of a three -year contract with Direct Energy at a kilowatt hour (kwh) rate of .07649. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Tarro provided an overview of the contract for the High School bus access road that was awarded, by the Barrington Town Council, to J.H. Lynch & Sons. This contract requires only confirmation by the Committee. The cost of \$121,878.50 is included in the total bid price for the roadway resurfacing project for the Town and is part of a joint bid process with the Town. Mr. Tarro recognized and thanked Barrington Department of Public Works Director Mr. Joseph Piccerilli for his collaborative work to reduce the cost to taxpayers. The Barrington Public Schools will reimburse the Town of Barrington for the cost of the project that will be funded from the School Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. This expenditure is eligible for 35% Housing Aid reimbursement. Mr. Tarro confirmed that the contract award is all inclusive for fencing, including rail and post protection for the walkway, and that the project will be completed within two weeks and prior to the start of the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Mrs. Clancy moved, and Mr. Alessandro seconded the motion to confirm the Barrington Town Council award of a contract for the bus access road at the High School to J.H. Lynch & Sons, in the amount of \$121,878.50. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

School Committee

Discussion of School Committee 2017-2018 Meeting Agendas and Tentative Dates and Topics

Mrs. Brody reported that it is the responsibility of the School Committee Chair and District Superintendent to develop a schedule of meetings for the year and to post this schedule on Barrington Public Schools' and the Rhode Island Secretary of State's websites. These meetings are then individually posted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date. Ms. Brody stated that there has been ongoing discussion, as relates to improving our District's governance through more efficient agendas and management of Committee meetings. This will be an agenda item at the next School Committee meeting to provide the Committee with opportunity for input and discussion. Mrs. Brody informed the Committee of the decision to include Dr. Melissa Matarazzo of Studer Education in this process; Dr. Matarazzo will provide input to support the close alignment of Committee work with the District Strategic Plan and with individual schools' School Improvement Plan goals. Mrs. Brody will share feedback from Dr. Matarazzo at the next School Committee meeting and noted that agenda items for the coming year will be tied to the fully-developed Strategic Plan and may require revisions over the course of the academic year. A discussion ensued regarding the School Committee meeting agenda items for the 2017-2018 school year. It was proposed that the next School Committee meeting be scheduled after the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

**Decision Items**

Consent Agenda

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**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Items**

**Discussion of Future Agenda Items**

Recommendation for the Naming of School Facilities  
Update on Enrollment  
Feedback on Strategic Planning Workshop  
Progress on Hiring Director of Administration and Finance  
Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Read on High School Graduation Policy  
Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Read on Internet Filtering  
Budget Forecasting Meeting Update  
Middle School Building Committee Update  
Update on Status of Child Care Options for Hampden Meadows School

Mrs. Brody stated that future School Committee meeting agendas will include a Student Representative Report and an update from the Barrington Middle School Building Committee as standard items.

A discussion ensued regarding possible dates for the next School Committee meeting. It was decided that this meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

**Announcements**

Dr. Dillion announced the following upcoming events: Continuing the District's work with Northeastern University, Dr. Unger will be visiting the District tomorrow, August 8, 2017, to continue work with the Administration and a number of teachers around our District vision to expand experiential deeper learning. There will be an exciting announcement for the District tomorrow as well. Dr. Dillon asked the Committee to be looking for this in media outlets. Rhode Island TeacherFest 2017, will be held tomorrow, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 9, at Narragansett High School.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:57 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.**