

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 1/11/2018

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 in the School Committee Room. School Committee Chair Ms. Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Pine, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon and Ms. Matthes. Arriving late was Dr. Douglas at 7:14 p.m. Absent were Mr. Alessandro and Mr. Fiore.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Denise Miller, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District.

Barrington High School Model UN Team members Emily Gorman, Alexander Perugini and Stephanie Wang received awards at the Wheeler High School Model UN Conference, and Taryn DeMeillon and Kevin Zhu received awards at the Brown University Model UN Conference.

The following Barrington Middle School students participated in the CS4RI (Computer Science for RI) Summit on December 13th: Grade 6 students Christopher Chwalk, Elizabeth Dunn, Ali Lo and Megan McCrann; Grade 7 students Samuel Spector and Grey Vachon; and Grade 8 students Morgan Alverson and Eva Brieger. Computer Science Teacher, Mark Davis, STEAM Studio Teacher, Rebecca Henderson, and Entrepreneurship Teacher, Kelly Polando also participated.

Barrington Public Schools participated in the Rhode Island State House Holiday Music Celebration with performances by Nayatt School Grade 3 Chorus under the direction of Mark Vadnais, Barrington Middle School Grade 8 Chorus under the direction of Kerri Thurber and Barrington Middle School Jazz Band under the direction of Dail Bienkiewicz.

Barrington High School Field Hockey seniors Claudia Kriz, Clare Gaffney, Molly West and Lillyanne Dunphy were named to the Rhode Island All-Academic team.

Barrington High School Girls' Track and Field Weight Team members, Annika Kelly, Faith Polando, Sydney Polando and Coach Bob Gourley won the Rhode Island Classic TA Invitational.

Barrington Middle School STEAM Teacher, Rebecca Henderson, was selected to participate in DownCity Design's 2018 Innovative Educator Program.

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Barrington Middle School will host a “Schools in Action” visit on Deeper Learning and Project Based Learning on March 2, 2018.

Barrington High School Mathematics Teacher, Jason Appel, and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Paula Dillon, were selected by the Rhode Island Department of Education and RI Office of Innovation as Ed Prep Design Fellows.

Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson and Ms. Camila DiMarco, Adaptive Physical Education teacher, introduced the Barrington Middle School “BMS Buddies” program. This program involves buddies (student mentors) and friends (students receiving support) in activities designed to support students in developing peer-to-peer relationships, and assists in students’ transition from Grade 5 to Grade 6. Dr. Anderson stated that the program is an opportunity for students to engage in self-exploration. Ms. Di Marco provided a synopsis of the Buddy Cafe. Events have been held for Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Holidays, and upcoming events are planned for Valentine’s Day, Saint Patrick’s Day, spring and summer. Dr. Anderson stated that they will be extending the program to all grade levels with monthly events.

Ms. Brody announced that Ms. DiMarco was recognized at the Special Education Educator Awards Program, and thanked her on behalf of the School Committee for investing in the students.

Ms. Brody requested a change in the order of an agenda item under “New Business, School Committee” to address a field trip request.

Mr. Hurley introduced the Barrington High School Olympiad Team field trip to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Science Olympiad Tournament on January 19-20, 2018. Ms. Brody inquired about fundraising for the field trip. Mr. Hurley confirmed fundraising for \$100 per student to attend.

Ms. Clancy moved and Dr. Douglas seconded approval of the Barrington High School Olympiad Team field trip to MIT on January 19-20, 2018. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore reported on the Barrington Middle School Building Project, including the upcoming bid opening on January 19. BMS Building Committee Co-Chairs, Ms. Anna Clancy and Mr.

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Patrick Guida, School Committee Chair, Ms. Kate Brody, and Superintendent, Mr. Michael Messore met earlier today with Rhode Island General Treasurer, Seth Magaziner, and staff to advocate in support of the recommendation of the Rhode Island School Building Task Force to incorporate the extend "State Share Bonuses" to projects that were previously approved but have not yet broken ground by January 1, 2018. Mr. Messore reported that the BMS Project website has been updated to include information regarding project phasing. He confirmed that the Bid Opening for the BMS project will be held at 10:00 am on January 19, 2018. Mr. Messore stated that next steps in the process include the selection of the contractor and contract finalization in February with groundbreaking in March. The BMS Building Committee will hold a joint meeting with the School Committee on Monday, January 29 at 7:00 pm in the Barrington Middle School Library. Discussion ensued on the bid opening process and the joint Building Committee and School Committee meeting.

Mr. Messore provided an overview of the Framework for the Proposed FY19 Operating Budget, including the philosophy behind the budget, the concept of return on investment, internal and external influences, and FY05-FY19 state aid history. He stated that the Administration uses a zero-based budgeting approach, that they continually monitor enrollment, strive to communicate effectively with the community and provide opportunities for feedback, looks for efficient reallocation of resources, and incorporates town, state and federal financial indicators. Mr. Messore reported that, at the next School Committee meeting on January 18, the building principals will present their budgets to the Committee, and will identify potential future plans for each building. Discussion ensued regarding AP courses, class trends and student stress, increased engagement for students outside of AP courses, accuracy of per-pupil expenditures, collaboration on resource savings, and objective metrics to evaluate programs.

Dr. Dillon and Ms. Matthes presented the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) update, including an overview of the three-tiered model of student supports, evidenced based interventions, teams to support MTSS, and types of intervention models. A question and answer session ensued, including discussion regarding the posting of RTI plans on Aspen, "Zeros are Not Permitted", cross pollination between general education and special education programs, and professional development on co-teaching strategies, differential instruction, and universal designs for learning.

Ms. Matthes provided the Pupil Personnel Report. She reviewed District enrollment data for students with disabilities, disability categories, and identified action steps to accelerate student growth to close achievement gaps. Discussion ensued on PARCC Data for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), the increased number of students with autism, the transition to high school for students with IEPs, student-teacher ratio for students with IEPs, class size, Teacher Assistant training, and a survey to solicit feedback regarding IEP family meetings. Ms. Brody recognized Ms. Matthes for her leadership. Mr. Messore commented on

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the systematic approach to special education including IEPs, in-house training, monitoring, recordkeeping, use of personnel, and the integration of students into core classrooms.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business

Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update on the Barrington Public Schools participation in the Barrington and Bristol Solar Initiative, including the final recommendation by CES to the Town Council of a Virtual Net Metering (VNM) solar project. He reported that the Town Council had voted to approve the Town Manager's execution of a letter of intent for a 25-year VNM agreement, and a \$7500 payment to CES to finalize a contract with NuGen Capital. Mr. Messore stated that the letter of intent is being reviewed by Barrington Public Schools' legal counsel. Discussion ensued on VNM solar project. Ms. Brody requested the Administration provide an update at the next School Committee meeting to be held on January 18.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the implementation of the Communications Policy, and regarding plans to release a public survey requesting input about the district website.

Mr. Messore reported on the Strategic Planning Process, including that Studer Education had facilitated ongoing leadership development work with the administrative team. He noted that a survey regarding the draft Strategic Plan had been released to the community, families, students and staff, and that the next Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting will be held on January 25, at which the hope is to finalize the draft plan. Discussion ensued on the survey, including notice given, questions, participation, and possible extension of the closing date. Mr. Messore will ask Studer Education to extend the survey close date, and provide an update to the Committee on corrective communications.

Mr. Messore provided an update on transportation including anecdotal ridership information, pick-up and run-time data, and ongoing data analysis by the District Transportation Coordinator. He reported that the Administration is evaluating options for an independent review of transportation data, and will provide additional information at the January 18 School Committee meeting. Discussion ensued on ridership and an external assessment.

School Committee

Dr. Douglas conducted the second reading of the Internet Filtering Policy.

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Ms. Clancy moved and Ms. Pine seconded adoption of the School Internet Filtering Policy. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

New Business

Student Representative to the School Committee Update

Mr. Sarli provided the following information in his Student Representative update: Barrington High School students collected over 500 pounds of food to be donated to TAP-IN during the Holiday Food Drive that was coordinated by Ms. Joy Hearn, BHS Library Assistant; the Young Politicians Club will host a candidate for Governor at its meeting in late January; the Student Representative is working with the BHS School Improvement Team to analyze data and identify trends from the Forum on Student Stress that was held in November, 2017. Discussion ensued on the Student Stress Forum trends and potential actions. Mr. Sarli will provide an update to the School Committee on actions from the Student Stress Forum.

Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore announced the retirement of Ms. Cheryl McCarty, Office Manager, Barrington Public Schools, after 23 years of dedicated service. He stated that she has been an integral part of the school district and that she will not be easily replaced. Ms. Brody, on behalf of the School Committee, recognized Ms. McCarty's dedication and congratulated her on this new chapter in her life.

Mr. Messore provided an update regarding cafeteria trays at Barrington Middle School. Grade 6 students had raised concerns about the environmental impact of styrofoam trays after a field trip to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Center. He reported on a pilot program using biodegradable trays as a substitute for the styrofoam trays, and potential expansion to Barrington High School. Discussion ensued on the potential impact of the biodegradable trays to school budgets, the need for a time study for stacking and unstacking trays, and on the environmental impact.

Mr. Messore explained that the Director of Administration and Finance has locked in a favorable rate via a "blend and extend" contract for the District's natural gas. This rate was negotiated with Direct Energy through a collaborative purchasing agreement with the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). He noted that this 1.177% decrease in the natural gas rate will result in an annual cost savings of approximately \$30,000 based on historical consumption. Ms. Brody requested confirmation that the contract does not require action by the School Committee. Mr. Messore confirmed no action was required.

Mr. Messore and Dr. Dillon introduced the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) Virtual Instructional Day Guidelines. Dr. Dillon reported that

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guidance documents from RIDE reveal a significant number of areas that will need to be addressed prior to submitting a plan. She recommended that the School Committee establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review the guidelines and determine the feasibility of moving forward with a virtual instructional day policy. She has developed an application form for administrators, educators and parents interested in participating in the Ad Hoc Committee.

School Committee

Ms. Clancy moved and Ms. Pine seconded approval of the requests for Homeschooling for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Dr. Douglas provided the Budget Forecast Committee report, including the announcement of its approval of the information resource document that will be introduced at a Joint Meeting of the Budget Forecast Committee, the Committee of Appropriations, School Committee and Town Council to be held on January 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

Dr. Douglas provided the Health and Wellness Committee report, including an update on meeting structure and plans to incorporate topics for discussion. Dr. Dillon reported that the recently released Health Curriculum survey has had responses from 100 parents to date and is due to close in mid-January. The next Health and Wellness Committee meeting will be held on February 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at Barrington Middle School.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Decision Items

Ms. Clancy moved and Ms. Pine seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Discussion Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next School Committee meeting on January 18 will provide opportunities for input on the FY19 Operating Budget Input from Principals, the School Committee, and the public, as well as the School Resource Officer Report.

Ms. Clancy inquired if the School Resource Officer Report is mandated. Mr. Messore stated it is not.

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Ms. Brody requested that School Start Times be added to the Information and Proposal topics in order to provide a historical perspective and update. There was consensus of the Committee regarding this request.

Ms. Brody requested that Ms. Miller update the 2017-2018 Tentative Dates and Topics to add the Approval of the Strategic Plan to the February 8 meeting.

Ms. Brody requested an update on the audit report.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced High School student exams will run from January 16 – 19, and that Congressman Cicilline will be visiting classrooms on January 23.

Dr. Dillon announced that Rachel's Challenge will be held at the High School on January 23.

Ms. Brody announced the NSBA Conference in San Antonio, April 9.

Ms. Brody announced the ASCD Conference in Boston, March 24 – 26.

Ms. Clancy moved and Dr. Douglas seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 10:42 p.m., and to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws: Section 42-46-5 (a) (2) for sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, and Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws: 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 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Clancy moved and Ms. Pine seconded adjournment of the Executive Session at 10:54 p.m., and sealing of the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Brody reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Ms. Clancy moved and Dr. Douglas seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 10:55 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

The next regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room, 283 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806.