

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 1/18/2018**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, January 18, 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, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon and Mr. Fiore. Arriving late was Ms. Pine at 7:31 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Josh Mello, School Resource Officer, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District.

Barrington High School students Andrew Cooke, Matthew Zeleznik, Magdalena Riendeau and Angela Zheng received Gold Key; Madeline Gravelle, Jessica Wan and Samuel Wohlever received Silver Key; and Paige Nestell received Gold Key and American Visions Nominee at the Rhode Island 2018 Scholastic Art Awards.

Barrington High School Robotics Team, "The Robo Eagles", consisting of team members Andrew Cooke, Conor McGartoll, Eliot Laidlaw, Sam Wohlever, William Kaon, Callan Whitney, Drake Van Ness, Rayna Mishra, William McConnell, Alexandra Maddock-Mark, Kelly Gorman and Ariadne Dulchinos participated in the Rhode Island FIRST Tech Robotics Challenge at New England Institute of Technology and received the 1<sup>st</sup> place Inspire Award and Winning Alliance Award; the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Innovative Award; the 3<sup>rd</sup> place Control Award; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place Think Award.

Barrington High School and Hampden Meadows School Choruses performed at the Providence Bruins game on January 7.

Barrington High School student Maile Somera is the 2017-2018 Gatorade Rhode Island Volleyball Player of the Year. Maile was also named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State by the Providence Journal and Rhode Island Volleyball Coaches Association.

Barrington High School Football athletes Thomas Kelleher, Liam McManus, Zach Newburg and Nicholas Rimoshytus were named to the All-Division I-B 1<sup>st</sup> team, and Jacob Nutter, Samuel Read and Colby Watson were named to the All-Division I-B 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

Barrington High School Girls Field Hockey athletes Madelyn Cox, Caleigh Durkin, Claudia Kriz and Elizabeth Lewis were named to the All-State and All Division I 1<sup>st</sup> team; and Alexy Carolan and Lillyanne Dunphy were named to the All-State and All-Division I 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

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Barrington High School Girls Tennis athlete Caroline Maher was named to the All-State and Division I Met-A 1<sup>st</sup> team; and Hope Robertson, Abigail Walters, Jillian Walters and Elizabeth Wang were named to the All-State and Division I Met-A 2<sup>nd</sup> team award.

Barrington High School Cross Country athletes received awards: Eliot Laidlaw, Boys 1<sup>st</sup> Team Class B; Caroline Livingston, Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State; Caroline Livingston and Kate Zitzmann, Girls 1<sup>st</sup> Team Class A; Stephanie Chun and Tess Gagliano Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Class A.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. Messore and Mr. Fiore introduced the framework and timeline for development of the FY19 Operating Budget, including goals, evaluation of programs, challenges, responses to challenges, timeline, Return On Investment (ROI), and major competitive grant funding. Nayatt School Principal, Ms. Tracey Whitehead, Primrose Hill School Principal, Ms. Patricia Tolento, Sowams School Principal, Mr. James Callahan, Hampden Meadows School Principal, Ms. Tracey McGee, Barrington Middle School Principal, Dr. Andrew Anderson and Barrington High School Principal, Mr. Joseph Hurley, presented an overview of their school budgets, including budget requests, ideas for long-term planning, future budget considerations, ongoing monitoring needs and connections to the Strategic Plan. Mr. Messore reported on a number of accomplishments throughout the District relative to the budget. He provided a summary of moving targets which may require adjustment during the budget process, including enrollment, mandated requirements and the resources necessary to meet these requirements. Mr. Fiore reported on additional budget accelerators and challenges to future budgets. The School Committee asked a number of questions of the Administration regarding development of the budget. Topics included the renewal of six-year eTextbook contracts, professional development for Teacher Assistants, the addition of a social worker to support students' social-emotional needs, , additional supports for students with special needs, enrollment's impact on the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) program, and the timing of program evaluation to meet student needs.

Mr. Messore announced that tonight's meeting is being recorded but will not be live due to a video malfunction. The video will be posted to the website for viewing.

Mr. Messore introduced Officer Josh Melo, the School Resource Officer (SRO). Officer Melo reported that he has spent 24 days (2 days per week) in the Barrington Public Schools since the start of the academic year, he has taken 21 incident reports, has made 6 arrests, and has been able to help educate students in 35 classes relative to bike safety, social media, dating violence, driver's licenses and driving responsibly, and the consequences of breaking the law. He reported on his outreach efforts including participation in freshman orientation and at schools' Open Houses. Officer Melo explained his role at the elementary schools has been sporadic due to time limitations and he recommended the role be expanded. Mr. Messore confirmed there is not enough opportunity for the SRO to spend time at the elementary schools and build important early relationships with the students. Ms. Brody requested that Barrington High School Principal, Mr. Joseph Hurley, provide his perspective on the School Resource Officer's impact at the school. Mr. Hurley reported that Officer Melo has had a positive impact on the culture of the high school learning community. The School Committee asked a number of questions of Officer Melo regarding prior years' incident reports, vaping, an increase in theft, and truancy interventions.

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Ms. Brody, on behalf of the School Committee, recognized the Barrington Police department for providing Officer Melo the flexibility required to meet the needs of the Barrington Public School students, and thanked Officer Melo for his efforts. Mr. Messore recognized Chief John LaCross for his initiative in providing additional support at Barrington High School, and for his continued advocacy of the SRO program.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the School Start Time Initiative, including the ongoing work to address facility issues required for licensing of child care program options as proposed by vendors, and improvements to the transportation system. The Superintendent made a recommendation to embed the change in school start time initiative in the 2018-2023 District Strategic Plan, and to not change the school start times for the 2018-2019 school year. Discussion ensued on safety issues relative to the child care options, a potential state mandate regarding school start times, and the prioritizing of strategic planning initiatives.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus of 1 Howard Street provided an update on the renaming of the Barrington High School Gymnasium in honor of Coach Frank Murgo. He reported that a dedication ceremony had taken place at the High School football game on Thanksgiving Day, and that work on the actual signage identification of the gymnasium had been suspended until June, when it would not disrupt day-to-day operations at the High School. He expressed his appreciation for the Committee's support.

Ms. Erika Sevetson of 48 Chapel Road, expressed her displeasure with the Committee's decision to put off a change in school start times. She asked the School Committee to follow through with start time changes for the health and wellness of our students.

Mr. Jason Leigh of 8 Roberta Drive, shared his concerns regarding a change in school start times. He stated that he was encouraged to hear Ms. Brody talk about a process for evaluating the return on investment of any change.

Ms. Cassandra Thayer of 5 Indigo Road, expressed disappointment with the lack of action on the School Start Time initiative after what she believes was School Committee approval of this initiative last year.

Dr. Scott Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road, commented on the school start time initiative emphasizing his concern for our students well-being. He expressed his frustration with the process and with the lack of a clear plan for implementation. He encouraged the School Committee to adopt a new strategic plan that rigorously prioritizes initiatives, that states challenges and defines a timetable for progress.

Dr. Lisa Daft of 5 Robbins Drive, recognized Officer Josh Melo and the assistance he has given to the administrative team and the schools, and encouraged expanding his work to the elementary schools by making the SRO a full-time position.

Dr. Carla Martin of 28 Old Chimney Road, expressed her support for later school start times commenting that there is evidence that delaying start times to no earlier than 8:30 a.m. improves students' health.

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Ms. Jennifer Boylan of 140 Lincoln Avenue, expressed disappointment with the update regarding the school start time initiative and the delay in implementation.

Ms. Pam Lauria of 56 Martin Avenue, expressed displeasure with the update on the school start time initiative, and stated that she believes the strategic planning process was used as a calculated effort to delay this initiative. She also expressed her disappointment in the draft strategic plan.

Mr. Patrick McCrann of 4 Woodford Road, stated that he is in favor of later school start times as “an opportunity to do something right for our students”.

Ms. Sarah O’Brien of 88 Boyce Avenue, expressed her displeasure with the delay to later school start times and asked the School Committee to move forward with their implementation.

Mr. Anthony Arico, Jr. of 166 Lincoln Avenue, applauded Officer Mello and expressed his support for the work of the School Committee and Superintendent.

Ms. Anne Merlino of 15 Mallard Cove Way, applauded the decision to delay later school start times, noting that there are better ways to apply the money.

**Old Business**

**Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messoro provided an update on the Strategic Planning process. He reported that Studer Education had facilitated leadership development work with the administrative team and the School Committee. He also confirmed that the deadline for the draft strategic plan had been extended to allow for community input via a survey. There have been 343 responses to this survey to date. He reported that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will review the draft strategic plan and prepare a revised and updated final version at its next meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 4-6 p.m. at the Barrington High School Library. Discussion ensued relative to survey questions, incomplete surveys and the timing of Studer Education’s compilation of the results.

Mr. Fiore provided an update on transportation. He reported that there have been discussions with the District transportation team, as well as with external sources with expertise relative to the schools’ transportation system, and that the Administration has confirmed the need for a comprehensive review of the District’s transportation system. There was consensus to move forward with a comprehensive external review. Discussion ensued on the objectives of such a review, and regarding potential requirements for selecting a vendor. Ms. Brody inquired as to the next steps for this process. Mr. Fiore reported that the Administration will prepare and issue a Request for Proposals for an independent, external review of the District’s transportation system. He anticipates it will take approximately 10 weeks to complete the process of selecting a provider and completing the scope of work.

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School Committee

Dr. Dillon recommended that the School Committee establish an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) Virtual Instructional Day Guidelines. The committee would be comprised of an educator and parent from each of the grade levels (K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12), a district administrator, a School Committee member, one student from grades 6-8, and one student from grades 9-12. It is anticipated that this committee would meet three times to review the documents and guidelines, and to develop a recommendation to the School Committee regarding the implementation of Virtual Instructional Day Guidelines. Discussion ensued. Ms. Brody asked the Committee for a volunteer to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Pine volunteered her time.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent to establish an Ad Hoc Committee for evaluation of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) Virtual Instructional Day Guidelines. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

**New Business**

Student Representative to the School Committee Update

Mr. Sarli reported that it is exam week for students at Barrington High School.

Superintendent and Staff

Personnel

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Denise Miller, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Barrington Public Schools. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

Mr. Fiore provided an overview of the Monthly Expenditures for December, 2017 in the amount of \$5,718,526.00, reporting that the Administration is satisfied with year-to-date expenditures, and that all line items, with the exception of Teacher Assistants, are on target. Mr. Alessandro inquired about the higher than normal monthly expenditures for December. Mr. Fiore responded that there was an extra pay period in this month.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of monthly expenditures for December, 2017 in the amount of \$5,718,526.00. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

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School Committee

Dr. Dillon introduced a draft of the new Barrington Public Schools' Criminal Records/Background Checks Policy. She explained that the draft better defines the criminal background check for volunteers and third-party service providers.

Dr. Douglas, Mr. Sarli and Mr. Alessandro read the draft of the Barrington Public Schools Criminal Records/Background Checks Policy.

The Committee and Administration provided input relative to clarification and edits prior to the second reading and approval of the policy at the next School Committee meeting.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Tom Rimoshytus commented on the first reading of the Barrington Public Schools Criminal Records/Background Checks Policy relative to background checks for volunteers. He requested that federal background checks be required. Mr. Messore responded that the Attorney General only requires a state BCI check for volunteers. He stated that he will ask legal counsel about national checks.

**Decision Items**

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.**

**Discussion Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting, scheduled for February 1, will include a Barrington Middle School Building Project update and an FY19 Operating Budget workshop.

Ms. Brody requested a Communications Update at the February 1 School Committee meeting.

Ms. Brody inquired about a review of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY17 for the next School Committee meeting, scheduled for February 1. Mr. Fiore will provide information on the report for discussion at the February 1 School Committee meeting.

**Announcements**

Mr. Messore announced that bids for construction of the new Barrington Middle School will be opened at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, January 19, at Barrington Public Schools, School Committee Room. Ms. Clancy announced the bids received at this time will be tabulated immediately and made available to the public. The Building Committee will make a recommendation to the School Committee regarding selection of a general contractor at the February 1 or February 8 School Committee meeting.

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Mr. Messore announced that the next Building Committee meeting will be a Joint Building Committee and School Committee meeting. This meeting will be held on January 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Barrington Middle School.

Dr. Douglas announced the Joint Budget Forecasting Committee, Committee on Appropriations, School Committee, and Town Council meeting will be held on January 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Dr. Douglas seconded adjournment of the meeting at 10:22 p.m.  
The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms.  
Pine voting in the affirmative.**