

**BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806**

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING - April 30, 2020

Present at the meeting were Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Erika Sevetson, Anna Clancy, Patrick McCrann, Michael Messore, Paula Dillon, and Douglas Fiore.

Ms. Bae called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Ms. Bae informed the community that during the public comment the attendees will raise their hands, at which time, Ms. Bae will unmute and also turn on the video. Those attendees on the phone will be unmuted.

The votes tonight will be done in a rolling call format to make it clear who is voting and the resulting vote count.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

FY21 Budget Update

The District is waiting to hear back from the COA regarding another meeting. Mr. Fiore shared that the first FEMA reimbursement was due to the Town. The District had asked for approximately \$40,000 to support the acquisition of chromebooks for distance learning.

The Committee discussed whether there has been any guidance on determining a budget for the following year. Mr. Fiore stated that there has not been any guidance to date.

Review and Approval of Financial Update - March Expenditures

Mr. Fiore presented the March expenditures to the Committee. There will be savings with not having to utilize the transportation since March. There are also some savings in the substitute and therapist lines. However, Mr. Fiore did caution that even though there have been savings to this year's budget the District could see some budget lines go up for next year.

Mr. Fiore confirmed that any savings that the school incurs will be put into the Capital Budget after the 1% fund balance reserve is met.

Dr. Douglas made a motion to approve the March expenditures of \$4,478,843.70. Ms. Sevetson seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Sevetson and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

Transportation Update

Mr. Fiore stated that the District had the transportation bid opening today at 4:00 pm. The bid that was received was within what the District had budgeted for at a 12% increase. This is a 5-

year offer with increases in year 2 thru 5 of 4%. Mr. Fiore stated that in looking at other districts this is a very favorable offer given that our costs were already well under industry averages. Mr. Fiore is working with a consultant in reviewing all the components of the bid and will report back to the Committee on a recommendation at a later date.

Bid Approval - #20005 East Bay Educational Collaborative - Health & Training Supplies

Mr. Fiore presented the bid for the Health & Training Supplies to the Committee. This is the District's yearly bid for these supplies. There were two vendors who had submitted a bid. Mr. Fiore stated that the District will be utilizing both vendors from this bid process, which have been deemed to be the lowest evaluated qualified bidders, and asked for the Committee to approve the bid which has been presented. Mr. Fiore shared with the Committee that the District will be putting together a supplement bid for the items that were not included in the original bid but are now needed in the district with regard to the pandemic, including PPE.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approved Bid #20005 - East Bay Education Collaborative - Health & Training Supplies bid. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

Distance Learning

Mr. Messoro shared that there are approximately 7 weeks left of school. The District has built schedules that will be sustained for the rest of the school year. The District has been engaged with the teachers, curriculum leaders, department leaders and the principals on a daily basis. It has been a huge undertaking for all involved, especially the teachers with regard to engaging their students and developing lesson plans and Dr. Dillon who has been in daily communication with the teachers and principals. Dr. Dillon has been working with each of the grade levels on a weekly basis looking at the curriculum and seeing how the curriculum is working and how the students are doing. They are looking at the grading/evaluation structure for the last quarter or trimester of the year and how the District will report this progress to parents and students. This information will help to create some summer program that students might need and to help create some curriculum decisions for the fall. The District will be sending out communication to the community next week on the plans for grading and assessments.

The school counselors, school psychologist, school social workers and teachers are embedding the work through RULER in their daily activities, as well as working with small groups of students and some families. Mr. Messoro shared that he gets an update from Kristen Matthes, Director of Pupil Personnel, weekly on the level of need for our students and families.

Mr. Messoro discussed the work that is getting done for the end of the year programs. Orientation for the middle school and high school will be live streamed with questions and answers. All administrators are working on plans to recognize students who are transitioning to another school, including the 3rd, 5th and 8th graders. Mr. Messoro shared that the high school will be live streaming awards night and that Mr. Hurley is still working on graduation for the seniors. The District recognizes that this is a special time for the seniors and are looking into

several avenues to recognize all seniors. Graduation and other celebrations will also be based on RIDOH/RIDE guidelines.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Student Representative Update to the School Committee

Ms. Kaon gave the Committee an update on the RIDE Student Advisory Committee. The students in the committee have begun designing master classes for the summer and how they will be presenting them to the Commissioner of Education. Kelly also shared with the Committee the Step Up Summit that she attended. Four students from high school all over RI were invited to attend. The students gave their opinions on how students were doing and a panel of students defined what college readiness meant to each student.

Kelly updated the Committee regarding the Culturally Relevant Committee. The Committee met on April 21st and discussed broadening their network outside of Barrington, continuing to memorialize the Barrington website and continue recruiting more members from all grade levels to the committee.

Kelly brought the attention of the School Committee a petition regarding graduation put forward by members of the senior class.

Also, Kelly has been working with Mr. Hurley on the next student representative to the School Committee and will begin interviews in May.

Approval: Revised 2019-2020 School Calendar

Mr. Messore shared with the Committee that the Governor and Commissioner are both concerned about sustainability working virtual. They offered a revised calendar for the 2019-2020 school year incorporating some professional development days and an added day off. The new calendar would have May 6th, May 20th and June 1st as professional development days for teachers and May 15th as a declared school holiday. The last day of schools will remain June 18th.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the revised 2019-2020 school calendar. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Sevetson and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

Discuss 2020-2021 School Calendar and proposed February Break

Mr. Messore stated that there was a request from NEA-B president, Mary Roberts, to reconsider the calendar for next year and look to bring back the February break with a focus on past experience and the need for a longer break at that time of the year. The Committee discussed how to possibly add the days back into the calendar and what the calendar would look like, as well as a discussion about decision-making processes and the understanding that next year's calendar will likely be different given the realities of the pandemic, with the exception of the starting day for the school year which will not be moved up from the current

start. The Committee decided to hold on a decision and to have further discussion at a later date when more information may be available.

Discuss and Act on Field Trip Policy

Mr. Messoro discussed drafting an amendment to the field trip policy to outline an exemption to the policy for a one time exemption to reimburse families the money that they have contributed to the two Middle School field trips. He understands that would not change field trip policy regarding any money that is collected for any field trips would go into a fund for future trips, however, during this pandemic he feels that this would be a good opportunity for a one-time exemption to the policy. After discussion, the committee members did not feel that an amendment would be needed but that rather that the administration could develop a plan for this exceptional situation and present it to the School Committee for review at the next meeting. A draft proposal will be developed and presented to the School Committee at the next meeting.

Discuss and Act on Fund Balance/Spending Policy

Mr. Messoro stated that the District has some concerns on where the students will be when the school year ends and their readiness for the academic year next year. The District runs a summer program for students that have been identified as not having met proficiency, as well as an extended school year for special education students. The principals have been working with the educational leaders in the building assessing whether the students are going to be ready academically for the next school year. The District feels that the needs may go beyond what is budgeted for the summer school to make sure that all students are academically ready for next year.

The Policy Committee looked at the Fund Balance/Spending Policy as a way of supporting one time expenditures. The current policy limits the situations allowing for an emergency draw on the fund balance, and limits the amount to 1%. Mr. Fiore advises expanding the criteria for access to accommodate costs that may arise out of management of the pandemic, as well as raising the amount to at least 2% to more adequately fund the emergencies. Discussion ensued. The School Committee and the administration agreed that the Policy Committee will revisit the policy and come up with a new draft for the School Committee to consider later this month.

Discuss and Act on Resolution Honoring Pride Month

Ms. Sevetson shared that Councilman Brier got a group of community members together to draft a Town Council resolution to celebrate Pride Month every June by flying the pride flag. Ms. Sevetson presented the draft resolution and asked if the School Committee would like to draft a companion resolution of their own. Ms. Sevetson will forward the draft resolution to Dr. Dillon and the DEI committee for further input.

Discuss future Capital Budget process and possible revisions in Town Charter/Ordinance

Ms. Bae has asked the Town Council to place on their next agenda a discussion item relating to the Town Charter/Ordinance with regard to the capital budget. A discussion among the

Committee ensued regarding the language in the Town Charter and how to streamline it so it is clearer and possibly form a small committee with 2 members from the School Committee and 2 members from the Town Council to look over the Charter. She will present this idea to the Town Council president prior to their next meeting, but will also attend the meeting to answer any questions should they arise.

Discuss and Act on future meetings and School Committee Business to be conducted

The May 7th meeting has been canceled as the original schedule was set to accommodate the Budget Hearing and Financial Town Meeting which have both been postponed. The next meeting will instead be on May 14th. Ms. Bae asked for recommendations regarding other topics to include in upcoming discussions. Mr. Messoro will ask Kristen Matthes, Director of Pupil Personnel to attend the May 28th School Committee meeting for an update regarding the special education program. Discussion regarding the advisory committees meeting schedules was discussed; each chair will be responsible for contacting the group members to, at a minimum, develop the end of year reports which will be used to develop the strategic plan over the summer. The School Committee handbook and the Superintendent evaluation will also be addressed in June. The School Committee meetings will be set meeting to meeting based on need, but will be approximately every 2 weeks through the remainder of the school year.

Public Comment

Jacob Brier, 21 Western Avenue - Councilman Brier acknowledged that the School Committee is on the Town Council agenda for discuss and act. Mr. Brier also stated that he has been impressed by what the school district has been able to do with regards to distance learning.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which contained the minutes from the April 14, 2020 School Committee meetings and the approval of a homeschool request. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Clancy seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Clancy, Ms. Severson and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

Discussion items

May 14, 2020 is the next School Committee meeting
Distance Learning Update
Transportation Update
Building Committee Update
Resolution for Pride Month
Field Trip Amendment
Fund Balance/Spending Policy

Announcement

Mr. Messor announced the retirement of Grethe Cobb, school nurse educator at BHS. Ms. Cobb has been a great support to the staff and both the Middle School and High School students. Mr. Messor wanted to thank her and wish her the best in all her future endeavors. She will be missed.

At 10:26 pm, Ms. Bae asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws §42-46-5(a)(2) for sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation with Barrington Education Support Team (BEST) and in accordance with RI General Laws §42-46-5-(a)(2) for sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Ms. Clancy, and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.

At 10:50, Megan Douglas motioned and Erika Sevetson seconded adjournment of the executive session. The motion passed 5/0 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Anna Clancy, Patrick McCrann, and Erika Sevetson voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Bae announced that the minutes are sealed and no votes were taken.

At 10:50, Megan Douglas motioned and Erika Sevetson seconded adjournment of the business meeting. The motion passed 5/0 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Anna Clancy, Patrick McCrann, and Erika Sevetson voting in the affirmative.