BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND 02806**

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING - July 15, 2020

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

**At 8:00 am, Ms. Bae asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(1) to discuss the job performance and employment contracts of the District Administrators and R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(1) for Superintendent Evaluation.”**

**Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Clancy seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Clancy, and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.**

**Ms. Bae asked for a motion to adjourn from executive session. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Clancy seconded the motion.** **The motion carried 4-0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Clancy, and Mr. McCrann voting in the affirmative.**

At 9:12 am, Ms. Bae called the meeting to order.

Ms. Bae announced the minutes for the Executive Session were sealed and no votes were taken.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

FY21 Budget Update

Mr. Fiore reported that there were no major changes to the budget. The meeting was originally scheduled in lieu of any amendments made toward the school budget, however there were no amendments filed.

Mr. Fiore also reported that the FY20 State Aid had originally been reduced by the ESSER allocation which was $79,799.00. The State has changed the process to receive the ESSER funds. The District will now need to go through a grant process. The ESSER funds were part of a Cares Act. The second portion of the Cares act is the COVID relief fund which is approximately $95,647.00.

Mr. Messore will be sending out a budget memo to the community to remind the community about the Financial Town Meeting that will be held on Saturday.

The preliminary numbers that the District will be submitting will be approximately $300,000 for expenses that the District will be incurring relating to the COVID pandemic.

The savings that the District received in FY20 will be used in FY21 for all the added expenses related to the re-entry.

Update on Re-Entry

Mr. Messore reported that there had been a lot of feedback from the focus groups. The re-entry plan will be submitted to RIDE on Friday. The Department of Ed stated that they will be reviewing the plans and will provide feedback if they find anything in the plan that does not align with the safety of students and staff from the RIDOH. On Friday, after the plan has been submitted a draft will be put up on the District’s website for the community to review.

Mr. Messore expressed his appreciation for Dr. Dillon and the great job that she did putting the plan together.

Mr. Messore stated that there are a few items that the District are still not comfortable with (ie. face masks) and they will be pursuing for further clarification with the RIDE.

Dr. Dillon stated that she was told there will be a forum with pediatrician and Dr. Dillon felt that this would be a good place to talk to the doctors and ask them to advocate to RIDE for mandating the wearing of face masks.

Dr. Dillon gave the timeline for the submission of the re-entry plan. Once it has been submitted to RIDE and RIDOH on the 17th of July, the District will hear back on any revisions that need to take place and then the final plan will be submitted on July 31st.

Ms. Bae reported that at the School Committee Chairs meeting Kevin Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Staff, seemed more flexible in working with Districts on their plans and what they feel is needed to reopen safely. He advised the District to write in their plan mandating face masks and that his office will work with each District. Dr. Douglas also stated that she felt that it should be written in the plan that there is an equitable alternative if a student opts to not wear a mask which doesn’t impact the student getting an education.

Ms. Bae also stated that Mr. Gallagher talked about transportation and stated that if the District needed to add to their plan that transportation will be limited that this was acceptable.

There will be a lot of communication that will be going out to the community and will hopefully reduce the anxiety for parents and students.

Ms. Bae announced that the focus group meeting was recorded and will be on the website.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Vote to approve 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mr. Messore presented the revised calendar which is now aligned to the State calendar that all districts will be following. Built into the calendar are state PD days and recommendations for holidays.

Mr. Messore stated that in the teacher’s contract the Friday before Labor Day is a day off. This will be changed to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Also the teachers have 6 professional days built into the calendar. These days will be front loaded at the beginning of the year, the week prior to the start of school and there will be another flex day that the teachers will be working out with their Building Administrators.

Also, the State had put out June 4th as a proposed graduation date. Barrington will be changing this to Sunday, June 6, 2021.

May 13 states “no school.” This is actually a religious holiday and will be indicted on the revised calendar.

**Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar with the adjustments made to May 13th to reflect as a holiday and June 6th to reflect as the graduation date. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Clancy seconded the motion. The motion passed 4/0 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Anna Clancy, and Patrick McCrann voting in the affirmative.**

Discussion related to Legal Counsel

Ms. Bae stated that there has been discussion around reorganizing our arrangement with our legal counsel in order to have some flexibility and interaction with the legal counsel. Ms. Bae also stated that the Committee will be exploring their options and will be moving forward with a decision regarding the legal counsel by the beginning of August.

Discussion Items

July 23rd will be a workshop

School Committee evaluation

Financial Town Meeting Update

Policy work around Advisory Committee

Policy work on Religious Holidays

August 6th will be a workshop regarding Strategic Plan

School Committee Calendar

July 27th at 8:30 am will be a workshop with the full School Committee and the Policy Committee.

Lockdown Drills

Discuss threat assessment policy

Bullying Report and adding Racial incident reports. The DEI Committee will be collecting data.

Management of Activity Funds - Add to Strategic Planning workshop

The School Committee Handbook will be discussed at the July 23rd meeting.

Discussion regarding the capital funds.

Mr. McCrann asked if there could be a discussion on how the capital funds are allocated. Dr. Douglas explained that this information can be found in the budget forecast document. Mr. Fiore stated that the budget document is uploaded to the website and going forward he will be adding more information to the COA presentation regarding the capital. Ms. Bae suggested having a list of how the capital funds are being distributed similar to the list in past years highlighting the grants that have been written to offset expenses from the operating budget. Mr. Messore will send out a communication to the community reflecting how we are allocating the funds.

**At 10:07 am, Ms. Clancy motioned and Mr. McCrann seconded adjournment of the meeting. The motion passed 4/0 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Patrick McCrann, and Anna Clancy voting in the affirmative.**