

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING - September 10, 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 opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Update on District Re-Entry Committee and Communications

Mr. Messore updated the Committee on the re-entry plan. Mr. Messore is confident that everything is in place for the start of school. The staff has had extensive training this week and webinars on the latest strategies on making sure that our buildings are safe when students and staff reenter. The number one safety precaution is to wear a mask. The District has scheduled masks breaks for the students and protocols around wearing masks.

Mr. Messore also discussed the importance of ventilation. The most important part of keeping the classrooms safe is adequate airflow and making sure that the windows are open and the air exchanges 4 to 6 times per hour. The District can guarantee this by having the windows open and installing fans aimed out of the window in all of the classrooms.

Principals have been sending out communication on the protocols that are taking place in each of the buildings.

The teachers have been working hard these past weeks receiving training on the hybrid teaching model, as well as training with Canvas. The teacher assistants and the maintenance staff have also been working right beside the District to make sure all the preparations are completed.

Mr. Messore also stated that the District has looked closely at the social emotional needs of the students and will be starting the year with a focus on reconnecting with the students before going right into the curriculum work.

Mr. Messore also reported that the District is fully staffed with nurses for the start of school and CNAs will also help out at each of the schools.

The District has purchased tents for some of the schools. It was recommended that there be an additional quarantine tent and then a tent for shade to encourage the teachers to take their students outside to get some fresh air.

Financial Update

Mr. Fiore reported that there has not been a lot more COVID expense since the last meeting. The tents that were purchased were the biggest but modest expense.

Mr. Fiore spoke again about the bulk of the expense will be the personnel cost, at approximately \$750,000 if everyone is employed and in the buildings for the entire school year.

Mr. Fiore updated the Committee on fiscal year 2020. After closing out the financials for FY20, the District will see a surplus of \$2.4 million dollars. The surplus is almost entirely directly related to the pandemic. Some is due to retirements and hiring staff to replace these employees at a lower cost. The special ed cost came in lower, as did the maintenance, repairs and transportation costs.

Transportation Update

Mr. Messoro stated that the District started discussing transportation with the transportation company at the beginning of August to find the safest way to transport the students to school. The District is also working to adhere to the criteria that is set for eligibility to ride the school buses in regards to the mileage the student lives from the school. The emergency policy that was passed relating to COVID allowed Mr. Messoro to change the elementary mileage to 1.4 miles in order to maintain safe travel for the students. Mr. Messoro stated that they are still working on some glitches in the schedule and he has been working all afternoon with the bus company to make sure that we are able to run out buses on Monday.

Mr. Messoro stated that there will be another communication going tomorrow and another one over the weekend. The bus company uses the RISA system to create the routes and this is what the District will use.

Mr. Messoro emphasized that he wanted to adhere to the guidelines that have been created for safe travel for our students.

Athletic Update

Mr. Messoro reported that Mr. Finn will be putting together a video to explain how sports will work this year. Mr. Messoro also reported that the following teams have been approved to play this fall with safety modifications: Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Sideline Cheer, Girls Tennis, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Girls Field Hockey.

There are modifications being talked about with regards to Soccer and Girls Field Hockey. RIISL has determined that September 21st will be the start date for the sports. They wanted to give the Districts time to transition back to school before beginning the sports. The teams will begin with conditioning and training for two weeks.

The Middle School Principal Association has determined that there will be no traditional athletic competition for middle school students this fall. They will relook at things for the spring.

Additional re-entry item: Mr. Fiore made an announcement that the pick up time for students that are distance learning and are on the school lunch program will be between 9:30 am - 10:30 am at the high school. A family can contact the Administration if they need the lunch delivered to them.

Approval for Gift Acceptance

Mr. Messoro informed the Committee that Mr. & Mrs. Carlson donated 10 air purifiers to the District. Mr. Messoro wants to thank Mr. & Mrs. Carlson, on behalf of the District, for their support of our schools and our students.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the gift of 10 air purifiers from Mr. & Mrs. Carlson. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Clancy voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Bae reviewed the procedures regarding public comment.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Discuss and vote School Committee Goals for 2020-2021

The Committee reviewed and discussed all the revisions from the last meeting. Some additional discussion ensued.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the School Committee Goals for 2020-2021. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Clancy seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Clancy voting in the affirmative.

Discussion of Advisory Committee

The Committee discussed the new membership for the Advisory Committees. The Committee felt that with all that transpired at the end of the last school year the Advisory Committee chairs should email each Advisory Committee to determine if their members would like to stay on the committee. Once it is determined how many spots are needed they will send out communication to the community to have them fill out the application forms for Advisory Committees with openings. The Committee felt the communication to the memberships should go out before the next meeting.

Discussion and approval of NEAB Memorandum of Agreement

Ms. Bae informed the Committee the document that is to be discussed has been reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Messoro explained that NEA-RI has reached out to all districts with similar agreements to support the education that is going to be taking place virtually and also to make sure there is support to provide education, health and safety in the building for the educators and the students.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the NEAB Memorandum of Agreement. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Sevetson, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Clancy voting in the affirmative.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Bae informed the Committee of a correction on the agenda. The consent agenda will be for the minutes of September 3rd and not September 10th.

Ms. Bae asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which contained the Open Session Minutes of September 3, 2020 School Committee meeting, as well as the request for Homeschooling. Dr. Douglas moved and Ms. Severson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0 with Ms. Bae, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Clancy, Mr. McCrann and Ms. Severson voting in the affirmative.

Public Comment

Maura McCrann - 4 Woodford Road - Ms. McCrann thanked the Committee for adding goals in their strategic goals regarding more diversity and inclusivity. Ms. McCrann also expressed her thoughts regarding hiring more diverse candidates. Ms. Bae also commented that she is involved at a state level through the Department of Education in a group called Educator of Color. This type is something that is very important to Ms. Bae.

Katherine Quinn - Brown Avenue - Ms. Quinn also commented on the need for more diversity and inclusivity in finding candidates for the school department.

Mr. Messor commented that embedded in the interview process steps for the building principal and interview team to look for candidates that display commitment to diversity and inclusivity. This is part of the interviewing policy and part of Mr. Messor practice when interviewing candidates.

Discussion Items

Reschedule the 24th meeting to September 17th due to a conflict with the BHS Open House.
Ms. Clancy suggested that the BMS building committee should meet again to which Mr. Messor discussed briefly the grounds at the Middle school. There needs to be another re-seeding done and for now the basketball courts are closed but the tennis courts are open to the public.
Middle School grounds will be on the agenda in October
Clubs and Fine Arts
Building Committee Update
June Financials

Announcements

Mr. Messor announced the new hires for the District. He welcomed Stacy Corbett as our new Social Studies/Humanities teacher for the Middle School; Kristin White as the new Art teacher for the Middle School; Kylie McPheson as the new Math Teacher for the Middle School; Jennifer Gladney, Randi Hines, and Ann Piper as the new Registered Behavior Technicians for the Middle School; Kathryn Smith as teacher assistant for the Middle School; Nicole Blount as a new teacher assistant at Primrose Hill; Brett Sullivan as the Assistant Coach for Boys Varsity Soccer at the High School; Imogen Saiz as the new Head Coach for Girls JV Tennis at the High School; Colleen McMichael as the new school nurse at BHS; and Meaghan Corr and Patrick Scott as the new Co-Advisors for the Class of 2024.

Mr. Messore welcomed Allison Scanlon as the new Assistant Principal for the High School. Mr. Messore spoke of Ms. Scanlon's background. Mr. Hurley, Principal of the High School, welcomed Allison to the team.

Mr. Messore announced a leave of absence from Mark Biancuzzo from his special education teaching position. Mr. Biancuzzo will be in an administrative position as the Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel.

Mr. Messore announced the retirement of Janet Provost, a Third Grade teacher at Primrose Hill School. Mr. Messore thanked Ms. Provost for her many years of service and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

At 8:00 pm, Ms. Bae asked for a motion to adjourn. Megan Douglas moved and Erika Sevetson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0 with Gina Bae, Megan Douglas, Anna Clancy, Patrick McCrann and Erika Sevetson voting in the affirmative.