

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 09/07/2017

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, September 7, 2017 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, Vice Chair Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Pine, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messori, and Dr. Dillon.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Joseph Hurley, Principal, Barrington High School, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messori announced the following achievements across the District:

Barrington High School Class of 2018 ranked first in Rhode Island on the School Day SATs with an average mark of 1,201 with 601 in English and 600 in math.

Barrington High School Field Hockey Coach Holly Morris has found a new way to motivate her team with a special visit from Gian Paul Gonzales, a motivational speaker who has also worked with the New York Giants.

Nayatt and Primrose Hill Schools' English Language Learners (ELL) Teacher, Catarina Anselmo, was appointed to the Rhode Island Limited English Proficiency/English Language (LEP/EL) Advisory Council as Vice-Chair, K-12, for 2017-2019.

**Information and Proposals**

Dr. Dillon presented the Lead, Educate, and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) 2016-2017 Report that summarized last year's visible learning work at each school with Co-Coaches, Ms. Paula Morrisette and Ms. Eliza Pylotis, Barrington High School Mathematics teachers. Ms. Dillon presented a video of a walkthrough at Hampden Meadows School representing this school's selected visible learning strategies. She reported on the coaching work Ms. Morrisette and Ms. Pylotis are doing to help in the development and implementation of visible learning strategies. Each school has chosen two of the ten possible visible learning strategies as goals. Dr. Dillon invited the Committee to participate in future walkthroughs and to observe other visual learning opportunities. She will provide dates for these activities to the Committee.

Mr. Hurley presented an update regarding the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) 2020 Barrington High School Accreditation Process. He reported that NEASC has adopted new Standards for Accreditation and, as a result, all 2020 Accreditation visits have been postponed to 2021. Barrington High School will have a NEASC visit in 2018 to evaluate the need for a full review by the Accreditation Committee in 2021. Mr. Hurley explained some of the changes to the process. A discussion ensued regarding School Committee involvement in the accreditation process, and past accreditation reports. Ms. Brody requested that these reports be added to the District's website.

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**Public Comment**

Mr. Christopher Sarli of 27 Beach Road, provided the Student Representative's report. He noted that Barrington Public Library will provide an opportunity for High School students to sign up for Public Library cards at school on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sarli also shared updates regarding Read Across BHS, and school clubs and activities. He reported that the first Senior Project meeting will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, and that the launch of the iCreate lab will be held at the BHS Open House on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sarli will be making regular appearances on the BHS Sunrise Show to provide information and support increased communication between the School Committee and the BHS community.

Mr. Tim Faulkner of 12 Samoset Avenue, thanked the District on behalf of Barrington Farm School on Federal Hill Road. Though not affiliated with Barrington Public Schools, the Farm has had great success working with the teachers, students and clubs from the schools. Approximately 25 students have been involved during this past growing season. The Farm is hoping to make a major acquisition in the near future, and hopes to expand upon its work with the schools.

Ms. Amanda Brougham of 25 Appian Way, thanked Ms. Brody and Mr. Messore for their responses to her email. She stated that she is interested in hearing about the system and/or policy that may be put in place to address concerns regarding enrollment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Primrose Hill School.

Ms. Kristin Pearse of 47 Chapel Road, echoed Ms. Brougham's concerns regarding the size of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade classes at Primrose Hill. She asked that the District share specific information about steps that will be taken to address PARCC score discrepancies between the K-3 schools. This will be discussed during the October 19<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

**Old Business**

Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update on K-3 Student Enrollment and Systems of Support. He provided an historical overview of enrollment data at the K-3 schools from the last 10 years. It was noted that there have been no changes in enrollment at the schools since the most recent report on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Messore discussed the many types of support that are available, as needed, to classroom teachers and students. He reviews the enrollment status with building administrators on a daily basis, and the District is ready to supply supports, whether academic, behavioral, or social/emotional, as determined by the educators to be necessary. There was discussion regarding the roles of various District administrators in the identification and communication of needs. Ms. Brody asked for clarification regarding the development of staffing plans across the District, and Mr. Messore provided a review. Dr. Douglas emphasized her hope that there will be clear and frequent communication with parents regarding the status of this continuous review process.

Mr. Messore reported that construction of the Barrington High School access road has been delayed by approximately two-weeks. As a result of cost savings in the High School project, it was possible to resurface the deteriorating exit road at the Middle School. Concerns regarding use of the area surrounding the construction at the High School are being addressed.

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Mr. Messore provided an update on the search for Barrington Middle School World Language Educators. As a result of difficulties filling these part-time positions, the District has hired a certified part-time substitute with a background in Spanish to provide classroom instruction with support from the High School curriculum leader. Dr. Anderson is continuing the interview process for permanent educators to fill these positions. Ms. Pine asked about a social-media post from an individual that had led to some confusion regarding hiring for these positions. Mr. Messore stated that Dr. Anderson will be communicating with parents regarding this confusion.

Mr. Messore provided an update regarding the Strategic Planning Process, including a number of changes to the dates for upcoming Steering Committee meetings. Focus groups will be led by Studer Education on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, a schedule of these groups is posted on the District website. A communication has been shared with the Steering Committee and Town Council encouraging members to invite community members they believe would be interested in participating in these focus groups. Ms. Brody asked about the research-based foundation for survey questions and Mr. Messore responded that the surveys have been developed to provide quantitative data upon which actions and goals can be based. The next Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Barrington High School Library. Dr. Douglas asked that additional reminders regarding the upcoming focus groups be sent.

School Committee

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**New Business**

Superintendent and Staff

Personnel

Appointments:

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Rebecca Ladd, Reading Specialist, Barrington High School. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Heather Navarro, Special Education Teacher, Primrose Hill School. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore stated that the Special Education Intern position was instituted for the 2016-2017 school year, and Ms. Navarro served in this position.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the requests for Home Schooling for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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Bid Approval:

Mr. Messore provided a summary of two bids which were received for the contract for High School yearbook services, and made a recommendation to the Committee to award the bid to the lowest evaluated qualified bidder, Coffee Pond Photography and Yearbooks. This is a three-year contract beginning with the FY18 school year and ending with the FY20 school year, with an option for an additional two years, in an amount not to exceed \$11,035.20 per year. Funding for this program is covered by the Student Activities account.

**Ms. Clancy moved, and Mr. Alessandro seconded acceptance of the recommendation of the Superintendent to award the 3-year contract for High School Yearbook services to the lowest evaluated qualified bidder, Coffee Pond Photography and Yearbooks, of Natick, MA, for an annual amount not to exceed \$11,035.20. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore provided an update on bus run times for the first week of the 2017-2018 school year. Unfortunately, GPS data is unavailable at this time and will be reviewed by the Administration and reported at the next School Committee meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Messore recognized some concerns regarding the times at which busses are arriving at scheduled stops, and reported overcrowding. Mr. Messore stated that the Administration is collecting specific data, that buses are monitored daily, and that issues are addressed as they arise.

Mr. Messore clarified the Rhode Island Bureau of Criminal Identification requirements for State (BCI) and national background checks. He reported that he has had conversations with the Rhode Island Attorney General's office regarding requirements for background checks of school volunteers. He learned that there are no authorized third-party providers of such background checks, and that there is no State requirement for subsequent BCI checks beyond the initial one. Mr. Messore stated that the District may establish its own policy for follow-up checks. Dr. Douglas asked whether the Rhode Island check included a national search, and Mr. Messore indicated that the State does not. Ms. Pine stated that she supports more frequent background checks for volunteers. Ms. Brody polled the Committee regarding its desire to have a discussion about a potential Background Criminal Investigation Policy at the next Policy Committee meeting. There was consensus that this should be done.

School Committee

Mr. Alessandro reported on the Health and Wellness Committee meeting held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. He discussed implementation and communication of the District's Health and Wellness policy, and its status relative to State requirements. Mr. Alessandro reported that future meetings will be held in the morning in the Middle School Presentation Room in an effort to allow more students to attend. In the future, committee reports will be posted to help with meeting efficiency. The focus at the High School this year will be on student mental health. Additional programs for all schools are being explored. Mr. Alessandro announced that the Rhode Island School Wellness Breakfast is scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at the Crown Plaza, and that Superpower Saturday is September 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Douglas stated that the next Health and Wellness Committee meeting will focus on the Health curriculum, as well as the format for the Rhode Island Healthy School Coalition's evaluation of schools' goal-setting activity. Dr. Douglas also commended Principal Ms. Tracey McGee and Hampden Meadows

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School for instituting half-hour recess and lunch periods. Ms. Brody announced that the annual Health and Wellness report will be released in May. The next Health and Wellness Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Presentation Room at Barrington Middle School.

Policy First Reading: Barrington High School Graduation Requirements Policy

Mr. Alessandro and Ms. Pine read the draft of the Barrington High School Graduation Guidelines Policy.

Dr. Dillon gave an overview of the newly revised draft of the Barrington High School Graduation Requirements Policy, explaining that this policy applies to current 9<sup>th</sup> graders who will graduate in 2021 and subsequent classes. Dr. Dillon explained that the major changes to this policy are aimed at preparing students to apply their learning in real world settings and to be creative. She emphasized that the proposed changes represent choices that a student MAY make with regard to how they meet graduation requirements, but that no student will be required to adopt a new path to graduation. She also answered questions and concerns from the Committee regarding the implementation of these new opportunities.

The Committee and Administration provided input and edits to be incorporated into the Policy prior to its second reading and a vote on its approval at the next School Committee Meeting.

Policy First Reading: Internet Filtering Policy

The first reading of Internet Filtering Policy was deferred to a later date.

**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 for the motion.**

**Discussion Items**

Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that agenda topics for the October 5<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting will include:

- a report from Mr. Finn on Athletics and Student Activities, including an Action Plan update,
- an update on the BMS Building Project,
- an update on RICAS, the Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System, and its upcoming implementation,
- a report on RIDE's State of Rhode Island Schoolhouse Report,

Ms. Brody asked that the BMS Building Project report include information regarding work that has been done to accommodate field use by both the schools and the Town during construction. This had been an earlier request by Mr. Alessandro. Mr. Messore will provide this information at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, as it is not specifically part of the Building Committee's work.

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Mr. Alessandro asked about Barrington's summer school program. Ms. Brody asked Mr. Messore to provide a written report regarding the summer school program for the Committee to review. If there are subsequent questions, this topic will be added to a future meeting agenda.

Ms. Brody suggested that the Committee consider a Policy Workshop to address substantive policy content and the plan for archiving of policies. This will be added to School Committee calendar.

**Announcements**

Mr. Messore announced the following dates for the Schools' Open Houses; September 13<sup>th</sup> at Nayatt, Primrose Hill and Sowams Schools, September 14<sup>th</sup> at Barrington Middle School, September 19<sup>th</sup> at Hampden Meadows School, and September 27<sup>th</sup> at Barrington High School.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

Ms. Brody congratulated Mr. Michael Sanguilano on his award from the Rhode Island General Treasurer.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:18 p.m. and to convene in 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 and Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws: Section 42-46-5 (a)(2) for sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation with National Education Association Barrington (NEAB.) The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Mr. Alessandro moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:40 and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Ms. Brody stated there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

**Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular session at 10:41. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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The next regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Meeting Room, 283 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806.