

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 05/24/12

A special meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, May 24, 2012 at the Administration Office. Mr. Guida called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Brody, Mr. Ramsden, Mr. Tarro, Mr. Messore and Dr. McIntyre.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Patrick Guida led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Dr. McIntyre noted that he received a copy of a letter that Commissioner Gist sent to Arlene Miguel and her staff thanking them for submitting a grant proposal to transform education through the use of technology. Commissioner Gist noted that even though Hampden Meadows was not chosen, she urged Mrs. Miguel to continue her efforts with respect to the use of technology. Dr. McIntyre stated that he is proud of Mrs. Miguel and the entire Hampden Meadows staff.

Dr. McIntyre stated he was notified by US News and World Report that they ranked Barrington High School as #1 in Rhode Island. It was the only school in the state that received a gold rating. They also ranked Barrington High School in the top 500 high schools in America. Twenty-two thousand high schools across the country were considered which puts our high school in the top 2% nationally. He thanked the entire staff K-12 for their hard work.

Dr. McIntyre expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ken Jackson who donated \$100 at the Town Financial Meeting for the Wood Shop Program.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available for approval this evening.

Approval of Financials

No financials were available for approve this evening.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Guida announced that tonight was a special School Committee meeting for the purpose of discussing Old Business and that there were no specific agenda topics under Information and Proposals.

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General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. McIntyre responded to questions from a member of the audience regarding various aspects of the budget with particular focus on clarification as to why not all surplus funds were used to fill in gaps in the budget. A member of the audience also commended the Banas family for their efforts in supporting the possible reinstatement of the Wood Shop Program.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Tarro presented an update on the budget and noted that due to overages in two line items: 1) special education out-of-district tuition and 2) special education services, the projected surplus for FY12 will be approximately \$230,000 which is considerably lower than he had anticipated. Mr. Tarro also noted that the district needs to consider how we will fund replacement equipment for technology as no funding has been allocated for technology.

Mr. Ramsden requested the Tuition-In Program be discussed next as the possible elimination of the program impacts the FY13 budget (\$126,000 lost in revenue). Following discussion and individual statements from each member of the Committee regarding whether or not to proceed with this initiative due to correspondence from the ACLU that intends to pursue legal action should we move forward with this initiative:

Mr. Fuller moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to table the Tuition-In Program. The motion passed 5-0.

Some members of the Committee suggested research could be done in the future to see if this program could be done legally.

Next was a discussion regarding the possibility of reinstating the Wood Shop program at the Middle School with the \$144,000 added back into the budget at the Town Financial meeting. The Committee requested central office administrators present three or four other options/programs that would have the least impact on student learning that could possibly be cut instead of the Wood Shop Program. The options will be presented to the School Committee at a special meeting on June 19th at 7:30 p.m. Several members of the audience asked questions for clarification regarding this issue.

A discussion regarding changing school start times took place. Dr. Meagan Douglas reported that the student survey is ready to be activated and briefly outlined the rationale for conducting this survey again. Following much discussion, it was determined that next fall, after school is back in session, would be the best time to conduct the survey. The Committee apologized to Dr. Douglas for the frustration with the student survey and expressed their appreciation to her for all her efforts with this initiative. It was noted that additional research with respect to various aspects of this initiative is in progress.

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Mrs. Brody presented an overview of the status of the development of the new strategic plan for the district. Following discussion regarding various aspects of this initiative:

Mrs. Brody move and Mr. Fuller seconded to engage the services of Mr. Robert Ewy as strategic planning consultant for development of a new strategic plan at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. The motion passed 5-0.

Much discussion took place regarding the composition of the strategic planning team.

Mr. Ramsden moved and Dr. Shea seconded to limit the number of participants on the strategic planning committee to twenty consisting of the seven respondents, four central office administrators, five School Committee members, two building administrators and two teachers.

Following more discussion which focused on the number of building administrators who should be on the strategic planning team:

Mr. Fuller moved and Mr. Ramsden seconded to amend the motion that the number of participants could include up to twenty-four depending on the number of building administrators to be on the team that will be decided upon by the central office administrators. The motion passed 5-0.

The first strategic planning meeting is scheduled for June 5th at 6 p.m. It was noted that the first meeting would last approximately 3 ½ to 4 hours and all subsequent meetings would last 1 ½ to 2 hours. Information will be disseminated to the participants in advance of the June 5th meeting for their review.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Fuller moved and Mrs. Brody seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for leave of absence for Maribeth Promades, SO, Grade 2. The motion passed 3-2 with Mr. Guida, Mrs. Brody and Dr. Shea voting in favor and Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Fuller voting against.

Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Fuller requested the policy for approving multi-year leaves of absence be reviewed.

New Business from School Committee

No issues were raised at this time.

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Discussion Future Agenda Items

Discussion regarding future agenda topics was covered earlier in the meeting.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

June 5th 6:00 p.m. Strategic Planning Meeting

June 19th 7:30 p.m. School Committee Meeting

General Public Discussion and Information

Mr. Fuller moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:06 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 42-46-5(a)(1) specifically for five (5) personnel matters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Fuller moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:44 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that one vote were taken. The motion passed 5-0.

An open session followed the Executive Session on May 24, 2012. The School Committee voted 5-0 to affirm the termination of a certified staff member.

Mr. Fuller moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:46 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.