

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/19/13**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Connor, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Barbara Hughes led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

The Barrington High School Computer Science Club won first place at the High School Programming Contest at Fitchburg State University. Mr. Messore congratulated club advisor and Math teacher Mr. Mario Correia and senior Liam Callanan, senior Cassidy Laidlaw, sophomore Sahil Mishra, and junior Teddy Ni.

Mr. Messore thanked Barrington Middle School teachers and students in the Razzmatazz cluster, Mrs. Jodi Cabral, Ms. Rebecca Ferry, Mrs. Julie Abbruzzi, Mr. Andrew Weiss, and Mrs. Melissa Bento, along with the support of the Green, Silver, and Aqua clusters who collected donations for Mrs. Cabral's husband Mr. Joseph Cabral and the troops of SOD G currently supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

**BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington High School Music teacher and band director Mrs. Barbara Hughes and members of her Music Theory and Composition class, seniors Nell Klimpert, William Klimpert, Nash Klinger, Harrison Miller, Colin Peck, and freshman Amanda Lovett. The students, along with Mrs. Hughes performed a rendition of *What Child Is This*, also known as *Greensleeves*, an arrangement composed using chimes by senior Cassidy Laidlaw who was not present at the meeting.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. Tarro presented the enrollment report with data from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) on Barrington historical and projected enrollment. Mr. Tarro shared a snapshot of the current enrollment and projections for the Nayatt, Primrose Hill, and Sowams Schools Grades K-3. Kindergarten projections were based on implementation of a full day program using 5-year historical data for Grade 1 as recommended by the All Day Kindergarten Task Force. Mr. Tarro also shared current and projected average class sizes for Hampden Meadows School and Barrington Middle School. Areas of focus for budget development include class sizes for All Day Kindergarten, class sizes at Hampden Meadows, and Barrington Middle School Grade 6. Mr. Fuller asked how the 2003-2004 projected enrollment compared to actual enrollment for 2013-2014. Mr. Tarro stated that the information was included in last year's budget document and will be resent to the Committee. Mr. Tarro also noted that many factors drive enrollment and when you look out that far you may lose the accuracy of the numbers as many factors changes over the course of each year. Discussion continued

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on how enrollment may be affected by school building construction plans and the possibility of collecting enrollment data from local nursery schools.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the Educator Evaluation process, reporting that teachers have completed all Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), administrators SLOs will be aligned to the teachers SLOs, and collectively professional growth goals will be tied to the Lead, Educate and Promote the Profession (LEAPP) initiative and Solution Tree training in assessment development. Mr. Messore reviewed the changes to the process that include the number of observations, streamlined rubrics with more emphasis on student learning, and the formation of the District Evaluation Committee. Discussion and questions from the Committee included how much time is spent on observations, how involved are department chairs at Barrington High School, and to what extent has the evaluation process been based on bringing students to proficiency on the Common Core State Standards.

Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon introduced building administrators present at the meeting who provided baseline data for student achievement and growth and how that data is used in decision making. Primrose Hill School Principal Mrs. Paula Montesi provided information on Aims testing including letter and sound fluency for Grades K-1. Nayatt School Principal Ms. Tracey Whitehead provided an overview of the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) screening tool used for Grades 2-3 Math and English Language Arts. Sowams School Principal Mr. James Callahan provided data on Grades K-3 Writing and Grades K-1 Math data, noting that lower scores are a result of end of year standards that are measured at the beginning of the school. Dr. Dominguez asked if data could be provided on how Grade 3 students have done in comparison to how they did in Grade 2. Dr. Shea asked if predicted versus actual growth could be measured and shared with the Committee. Hampden Meadows School Principal Mrs. Tracey McGee provided data on STAR Math and Reading for Grades 4-5 and reviewed grade level assessments with opinion based writing on informational text and fractions and decimals for Math. Mrs. McGee added that there are interventions during lunch and recess breaks both in Math and Writing, and boost blocks for all levels. Barrington Middle School Principal Mr. Andrew Anderson provided a beginning of year data analysis for STAR Grades 6-8 Math and Reading, Grade 6 Math assessment, and Grades 7-8 Writing assessment. Mr. Guida asked how STAR aligns with the current NECAP testing. Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley provided baseline data for STAR Grades 9-10 Math and Reading, and data used to inform instruction. Discussion ensued on how multiple data points are reviewed to monitor progress, identify needs of focus and to build growth.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, applauded the presentation on performance data and as a parent appreciates boost periods. While the emphasis is in the right place, Dr. Douglas believes different data will need to be presented to push toward the goal and suggested the use of distribution curve versus pie charts. Mr. Guida stated that goals should be looked at as milestones and not as a finish line to the extent an additional level of proficiency is encouraged. Mr. Messore explained the use of pie charts in this particular presentation versus distribution curves that were initially considered for the PowerPoint presentation, and may be used in future presentations.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

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As requested by the Committee at the December 5 meeting, Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with the job description for the proposed new position of part-time staff accountant in the Central Office, as well as job descriptions for other members of his staff. Mr. Fuller expressed his concerns regarding the unbudgeted position that is not directed toward classroom support. Mr. Guida stated his support for the new position but asked if candidates with knowledge and experience could be targeted with a half time position. Dr. Dominguez asked if the new position would include analyzing data for efficiencies. Following discussion,

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to support the hiring of a part-time staff accountant in the Central Office. The motion passed 4-1 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative. Mr. Fuller opposed.**

**Old Business from School Committee**

Mr. Hurley provided an update on the Barrington High School Guidance Department and the student usage of Naviance. Mr. Hurley, along with Guidance Department Chair Mrs. Toni Corry and Guidance Counselor Ms. Stefanie Mezzanotte, visited a Grade 10-12 high performing school in Massachusetts to gather information on Naviance. Mr. Hurley shared comparison data, noting that the school visited has been using Naviance for seven years and Barrington High School is in its third year with Naviance. Discussion and questions from the Committee included parent with student usage, average use by seniors, use of Naviance in earlier grades, and if Naviance is integrated instructionally in the school day.

Mr. Messore reported that the Barrington High School Class of 2013 has been invited to participate in a Post Secondary Survey and attend a forum on January 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at Barrington High School, providing an opportunity for feedback from students on how well the district prepared them for college or a post graduate career. Mr. Hurley noted that 70% of the Class of 2013 had provided their personal email before graduation. Results of the Post Secondary Survey will be provided to the Committee.

Mr. Messore shared the template used by the All Day Kindergarten Task Force in their meetings as a guide for implementation of a full day program. The factors identified in implementation include enrollment, facilities/classrooms, human capital, transportation, start-up cost, and the use of the New Jersey model for best practices. The Task Force is scheduled to next meet on January 9, 2014. Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro are also scheduled to meet with K-3 building administrators to review their building floor plans and discuss potential building changes if a full day program is implemented. Dr. Dominguez stated that Barrington was not one of the districts selected for All Day Kindergarten grant funding. Mr. Messore added that there may be a possibility of additional grant funding opportunities.

Mr. Tarro reported he will meet next week with architect Mr. Thomas Lonardo to review final plans to address the identified immediate health and safety needs for the district. Bid specifications are expected to be made public in mid to late January. At their meeting on January 6, 2014, the Town Council is scheduled to address the Town Council representative vacancy on the Building Committee.

A date has yet to be determined for a Committee Governance Workshop to be facilitated by the Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership at Bryant University. In the interest of searching for curriculum already defined, Mrs. Brody shared a document from the Massachusetts District Governance

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Support Project. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to explore the option to potentially use this model through the Rhode Island Association of School Committees.

School Committee policy on Volunteers in Schools was read aloud for a second reading and approval. Following discussion and a proposed change to the Volunteer Disclosure Statement in the policy,

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to adopt the policy on Volunteers in Schools. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Lisa Mc Gartoll, MS, Co-Robotics Coach. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Diana Ouellette, MS, Response to Intervention Team Chair. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Dana Vasconcellos, HMS, Building Intern. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the resignation of Christine Lonergan, HMS, Art Teacher. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody noted that Mrs. Cynthia Armour Coyne, Town Council Liaison to the School Committee, was ill and therefore not present at tonight's meeting to provide an update on the scheduling of the joint meeting between the School Committee and Town Council targeted for January 2014.

Mr. Tarro presented the capital improvement budget for Committee approval. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Tarro provided detailed reports for Committee review. Mr. Tarro noted that the capital budget includes \$275,000 for computer technology and a placeholder for the Barrington Middle School building project estimated at \$36 million. No funds are being requested for the \$2.4 million immediate health and safety needs as those funds will be addressed through the capital reserve school improvement fund.

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**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the capital budget as proposed by the Central Office.**

Dr. Dominguez asked about the expenditures for the technology capital budget. Mr. Tarro stated that the device needs to administer the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in 2015 continue to be monitored and the amount in the budget can be adjusted based on those needs. Mrs. Brody, for clarification purposes, asked if the capital budget had been presented to the Town of Barrington. Mr. Tarro stated that the preliminary report was forwarded to the Town of Barrington last week to meet the deadline for submission.

**The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Connor departed the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Mr. Fuller led the discussion on how to improve the School Committee page on the district website to have a more welcoming appeal and be more user-friendly. Mrs. Brody asked that Committee members forward their suggestions and comments to Mr. Messoro for future discussion.

**Consent Agenda**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Dr. Dominguez asked if the Committee would discuss details of the joint meeting with the Town Council prior to the meeting. Mrs. Brody noted that the Committee will receive advance notice of the meeting agenda prior to the meeting.

Mr. Guida requested that another discussion on the Common Core State Standards be placed on the next agenda to address concerns and misinformation.

Mr. Fuller requested that discussions on a field trip policy and elementary enrichment be placed on a future agenda.

Mr. Messoro suggested the possible rescheduling of the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, January 2, 2014 to Thursday, January 9, 2014. The meeting as scheduled is to hear budget input from building administrators and January 2 is the first day of school following winter recess. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to hear an initial budget presentation on January 2 and to invite building administrators to attend the January 16, 2014 meeting.

**General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations**

Mr. Messoro reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, January

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2 will feature an initial budget discussion and an update on science and social studies curriculum.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, wished the Committee Happy Holidays and asked if in the future an update could be provided on the implementation of the Strategic Communication Plan.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:42 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Superintendent Evaluation; Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for Collective Bargaining and Litigation with BEST; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:15 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:16 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**