

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

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Minutes of School Committee Workshop 03/26/14

The Barrington School Committee held a Governance Workshop on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at the Barrington High School Library. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messorre and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida, Mr. Connor and Mrs. Dillon. Mrs. Dorothy Presser, Massachusetts Association of School Committees consultant, Chair of the Lynnfield, Massachusetts School Committee, and co-author of the Massachusetts District Governance Support Project curriculum, was present as facilitator of the workshop. Mrs. Brody noted that Mr. Guida and Mrs. Dillon were unable to attend the workshop due to their presence at the Rhode Island General Assembly to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Education.

Mrs. Brody introduced Mrs. Presser and expressed her appreciation on behalf of the School Committee for the opportunity to participate in this important work with her. Mrs. Brody had attended a session at the 2011 National School Boards Association Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts at which Mrs. Presser presented about the Massachusetts District Governance Support Project initiative. The Massachusetts District Governance Support Project is research based and is designed to help School Committees develop practices that foster improved student achievement through their own professional development as a committee. The training and tools can be used by committees to help make significant strides toward actions that will close the achievement gap, work more effectively as a local board and make lasting improvements in their contributions to student success.

The Barrington School Committee pilot program is the first partnership with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Rhode Island Association of School Committees and it has the potential for replication in other Rhode Island school districts.

The focus of the first workshop is on Operating Protocols that serve as a foundation for building capacity for collaborative work with the School Committee and Superintendent as a high functioning governance team. Mrs. Presser led the School Committee and Central Office Team in multiple discussions and exercises that explored School Committee perspectives and feedback on research and initial inventory data. Dr. Dominguez and Mrs. Brody will collaborate to develop a draft of revised Operating Protocols for consideration by the School Committee at the next workshop.

The tentative date for the second workshop was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 pending confirmation on availability for the entire School Committee. Mrs. Presser offered the option of scheduling two consecutive workshops for a consecutive four-hour period of time on a Saturday session if that would be a desirable option for the School Committee. Many School Committees in Massachusetts have opted for that plan with successful outcomes.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Governance Workshop at 8:50 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.