

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

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**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 06/25/14**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, June 25, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro. Mr. Guida arrived at 7:35 p.m. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Dillon.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Dr. Robert Shea and Dr. Paula Dominguez. Mr. Patrick Guida was en route. Mr. Scott Fuller was absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Alison Grieco and Ms. Kristina Scotto, Barrington High School Social Studies Teachers and Advisory Program Coordinators, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Mrs. Brody led everyone in a moment of silence for Mr. Timothy Sweetser, Chair of the Barrington Committee on Appropriations, who recently passed away. Mrs. Brody noted Mr. Sweetser's contributions as a volunteer who believed in the value of public service and served for over twenty years on multiple boards and commissions in the Town of Barrington. Mr. Sweetser was a fierce advocate for what he believed to be the best interests of Barrington taxpayers and he was passionate about the Town of Barrington. His candor and quick wit will be missed and Mrs. Brody expressed the condolences of the Barrington School Committee to Mr. Sweetser's wife and children.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington Middle School Robotics Team Overflow won the Judge's Award for Service over Self at the International Open in Toronto, Canada.

The Barrington High School Class of 2014 dedicated their yearbook to Barrington High School Custodian John Ferreira.

Seven members of the Barrington Public Schools community were recognized at the Barrington Special Education Advisory Committee's Second Annual Special Educator Appreciation Event. They included Nayatt School Special Educator Mr. Stephen Marchetti, Barrington High School Special Educator Mrs. Allyn Grantham, Sowams School Teacher Assistant Mrs. Rachel Lally, Primrose Hill School Psychologist Mrs. Donna Hartmann, Primrose Hill School Reading Specialist Mrs. Judith LaCross, Barrington Middle School Special Educator Mrs. Tracy Slye, and Barrington School Committee Member Dr. Robert Shea.

Barrington Middle School Grade 8 Students Christopher Michael Sarli and Michael Sangiuliano have been accepted in to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics summer program. Grade 8

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Student Rayna Mishra has been awarded the summer full scholarship award at Brown University for the Artemis Project.

2,048 books were collected and shipped to the Philippines to aid in their disaster relief after the earthquake. The Hampden Meadows students of Mrs. Sara Cabral's Grade 5 Class completed this service learning project.

The Nayatt School and Barrington High School collaborated to offer the Nayatt second grade students an opportunity to learn from seven AP Science students and their teacher Dr. Diana Siliezar.

Hampden Meadows School Grade 4 Teacher Mr. Kevin Farley threw out the first pitch at the June 12, 2014 Pawtucket Red Sox game.

Hampden Meadows School students competed in Battle of the Books, a reading incentive program where students read books and come together to demonstrate their abilities in competitions to test their knowledge of the books they read.

**Information and Proposals**

Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley announced that the new Student Representative to the School Committee for 2014-2015 is Ms. Lucina Schwartz. Ms. Schwartz will be formally introduced at the first Committee meeting of the academic year as she is away until August 2, 2014. Mrs. Brody announced that School Committee page on the district website includes recognition of the previous Student Representatives to the School Committee. Mrs. Brody expressed her thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque for her role in facilitating that initiative.

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington High School Social Studies Teachers and Advisory Program Coordinators Mrs. Alison Grieco and Ms. Kristina Scotto. Mrs. Grieco and Ms. Scotto provided an overview of the Advisory Program that assists with student transition through high school and outlined the program's goals, initiatives and focus on students. Mrs. Grieco and Ms. Scotto also spoke about the Pathway to the Future event, the High School's recent college and career volunteer event that allowed students to hear from community members and former students. Questions from the Committee included on the program's measurement of impact on students, focus on personalization and structure, and aligning conversations to individual learning plans.

Mr. Joseph Hurley presented the Achievement Data Report summary update for Barrington High School with growth data information for STAR Reading and Math. Mr. Hurley noted the performance gap that has been identified with the special needs student population and that work is in progress to build structures using a team approach with a collaborative concerted effort to close that performance gap for that cohort of students. Mr. Hurley commended the collaborations with the Math and Reading Specialists and Department Chairs. Mr. Hurley also reported on the recent student forum focused on student stress and the areas in which students would like to see improvement including communication and a possible policy on homework to include communication among the four core curricula areas relative to a timeline for assignments. Mr. Hurley reported that he will be evaluating the schedule itself as a follow up to the recommendations from the 2010 NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visit. Mr. Hurley reported that Barrington High School has been approved as an ACT (American College Testing) college readiness assessment site and will administer the first ACT test on

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October 25, 2014. Mr. Hurley handed out t-shirts to the Committee and members of the administration on behalf of the Senior Project Coordinators. Mr. Stephen Lenz and Ms. Judianne Point had been scheduled to present on the Senior Project for the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning portion of the June 19, 2014 meeting that was cancelled due to lack of a School Committee quorum ;Mr. Lenz and Ms. Point will present to the School Committee at a future meeting.

Mrs. Brody provided information on the National Institute of Justice grant opportunity with the Town of Barrington. Mrs. Brody and Mr. Messoro attended a meeting with Town Council President June Sager Speakman, Town Council Vice President Kate Weymouth, Barrington Police Chief John LaCross and Town Manager Peter DeAngelis on June 12, 2014 to discuss this opportunity which has a grant application deadline of July 10, 2014. Mrs. Brody recognized the efforts of Town Council Vice President Kate Weymouth who had mobilized resources and provided information relative to the grant opportunity. Mrs. Brody provided an overview of the grant opportunity including the philosophy of the Restorative Justice model and noted that the Central Falls School District would serve as the lead Local Education Agency (LEA) for the grant. The Westerly Public Schools, the Balckstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy and the Greene School are partner LEAs and the Barrington Public Schools would be an additional partner LEA. Mr. Messoro noted that he is aware of the Restorative Justice model and that neither he nor members of the district or Barrington High School leadership teams have attended a session about restorative justice. He would see the potential for a professional development opportunity in the future. The consensus of the School Committee was that the district has 39 initiatives relative to the strategic plan at this time and since this opportunity does not articulate with the priorities as defined in the strategic plan, it would be difficult to justify the allocation of time and resources to this effort at this time. Mrs. Brody noted that the School Committee would welcome the opportunity to explore collaboration between the Town of Barrington and Barrington Public Schools in the future. Following discussion, noting the grant application deadline, lack of specific additional information, ,

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to not proceed with the National Institute of Justice grant opportunity. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**General Public Discussion and Information**

No issues were raised at this time.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messoro provided updates relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. The student leadership forum for Barrington High School underclassmen on the sole topic of student stress was held on June 9, 2014 with positive feedback about the change in format. Ms. Mary Talbot has been retained as the district's communications consultant and has been working on a specific project, with a target completion date of June 30, to help rewrite the district's crisis manual. The administration will continue to work over the summer on the implementation of and communication relative to the All Day Kindergarten program. Communication relative to the Barrington Middle School Building Project is another district priority.

Mr. Messoro provided a progress update on the implementation of All Day Kindergarten (ADK) to begin in the 2014-2015 academic year. All new certified teaching position for ADK have been filled. Over the

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summer, the administration will continue to monitor enrollment, classroom locations, curriculum, schedules, transportation, and evaluate the hiring needs for building interns and teacher assistants. Mr. Tarro provided information relative to furniture, classroom supplies and facilities needs that include bathroom upgrades and installation of ramps. Mr. Tarro reported that all current facilities projects, including the Office of Civil Rights project at Barrington High School are on time and under budget.

Mr. Tarro presented the budget update that included the current status of hiring certified staff for all schools and for the new All Day Kindergarten positions. Mr. Tarro continues to monitor replacement costs for staff that have resigned or retired. Discussion ensued on the need for induction coaches for first year teachers and the possibility to look in district to provide this support.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Mr. Tarro reported that the Building Committee continues to move forward with drafting Requests for Quotations (RFQ) and Phase II over the Office of Civil Rights project at Barrington High School. Mr. Tarro noted that the state's moratorium on school building construction has been extended an additional ten months.

Mr. Tarro requested the authorization of the use of part of the School Improvement Capital Reserve Account funds to help in moving Building Committee projects forward.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the use of a portion of the funds in the School Improvement Capital Reserve Account to help in moving Building Committee projects forward.**

Mrs. Brody asked about the interior gym at Barrington High School. Mr. Tarro reported that the architect has evaluated the space and is preparing the specifications for a possible bid approval in July.

**The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, 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 Matthew Vonderheide, HS, Business. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

Mr. Tarro reported on the donation of sixteen (16) bicycle locks totaling \$500.36 through Mr. Dana Chicca of Fuzion Design Inc. to Hampden Meadows School.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the donation of sixteen (16) bicycle locks to Hampden Meadows School. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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**Decision Items**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda.**

Mr. Tarro reported that the projected surplus for the current year is within target of 1% and will be finalized after the next payroll period. Also, food service will have a \$49,000-\$50,000 deficit and the administration will seek authorization to transfer funds at a later date. The new five-year food service contract will include a limit on deficit amounts.

**The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

The School Committee does not have its next meeting scheduled at this time. Mr. Messore suggested a possible workshop during the summer months to include both the School Committee and Administrators to review the district's Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Brody noted that the Superintendent Evaluation will be scheduled in July. Mrs. Brody added that additional School Committee meeting dates will be added as necessary to address School Committee business.

**Announcements**

Mrs. Brody announced that on June 27, 2014 the East Bay Chamber of Commerce will hold a Coffee and Commerce breakfast networking event that will include a presentation by Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Ms. Deborah A. Gist.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

No issues were raised at this time.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:14 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, 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 9:25 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, 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 9:26 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**