

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/09/2014

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 in the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Student Representative Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Mr. John Alessandro, and Mr. Patrick Guida. Dr. Paula Dominguez and Dr. Robert Shea were absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque.

Mrs. Brody noted that the Annual Organizational meeting typically held on the first meeting of December will be held at a later meeting when all School Committee members are present, consistent with Policy BDA, Order of Business at Annual Organizational Meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Julia Texeira led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

The Barrington High School Debate Team competed in their second tournament of the season. Novice debaters Taryn De Meillon, Eli Mitnick, Kaitlyn Salguerio, Shaye Anis, Maximo Guerrieri, Olivia Deaton, and Emilio Cuebas placed in the top ten. Varsity teammates Olivia Bowen, Renee Seto, Lucy Schwartz, Sandy Greenberg, Sidney Davis, Eli Shea, Lily Gagliano, Lindsay Daugherty, Grace Biagetti, Katharine Odjakjian, Vivian Tian, Peyton Buteau, and Alexa Collins placed in the top ten as teams or as individual speakers.

Sixty Barrington High School and Barrington Middle School music students earned All-State distinction. Vocalists Lucy Schwartz and Michael Greene, and jazz guitarist Jared Remson, all Barrington High School Seniors, were selected to the All-Eastern Chorus and Jazz Ensemble.

The Barrington High School Football Team dedicated their November 7, 2014 game to November's Prematurity Awareness Month. Student-athletes also visited the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Women and Infants Hospital and heard presentations from March of Dimes employees.

Hampden Meadows Grade 5 Teacher Ms. Terri Couto has been nominated to work with Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) Deputy Commissioner David Abbott in an advisory group to develop the next generation of the Accountability System in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waiver as a representative of the English-Language Learner Community.

Barrington Middle School English Teacher, Ms. Kristin Meystre, was honored by the United States Department of Defense on October 4, 2014 with a flag flown at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Students in the Orange Cluster have been writing to soldiers for years, most recently to Special Operations soldiers.

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The Barrington Middle School Robotics Team Variables scored first place in Robot Design and Team Copyrighted took home the Championship award at the Qualifier for States on December 6, 2014. The teams will compete next at the State Championship in January at Roger Williams University.

Mr. Guida congratulated Barrington High School on its recognition, in the highest RIDE classification, as a 2014 Commended School. Barrington High School will be recognized in a ceremony on December 11, 2014 at the Rhode Island State House.

Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson and Barrington Middle School Social Studies Teacher Mrs. Julia Texeira who provided details of the 2014 National Blue Ribbon School Award received by Barrington Middle School during recognition ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. on November 10-11, 2014. Dr. Anderson outlined the eligibility and application process, and shared highlights from the ceremonies and guest speakers at the event. Barrington Middle School was one of 25 middle schools in the country honored, and previously won a National Blue Ribbon School Award in 2003. A schoolwide celebration will be held at Barrington Middle School on December 19, 2014. Following the presentation, discussion ensued on science and math curriculum at the secondary level.

Information and Proposals

Mrs. Dillon provided an update on the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment system. Mrs. Dillon's presentation included the history of PARCC, its goals, the district's technology capacity, alignment to the curriculum, comparisons to the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), methods for the collection and protection of student data, and sample test questions. The presentation will be made available on the district website. The testing windows for PARCC in district will be March 16-April 10, 2015 for performance based assessments, and May 4-29, 2015 for end of year assessments. Information on PARCC will be presented at PTO meetings on January 12, 2015 for the secondary level and on February 2, 2015 for elementary parents. Discussion ensued on the district's PARCC readiness and the potential for PARCC to become a RIDE graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 2020.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the district's Bullying Policy as mandated in the state regulations to report any policy changes and the number of bullying reports received on a biannual basis. No specific information regarding the filed reports was shared to maintain confidentiality. Mr. Messore reported that a total of two reports have been submitted to date in the 2014-2015 academic year. Questions and discussion included trends across grade levels, reporting procedures at the school level, and the topic of cyberbullying.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, reporting on several initiatives to increase communication including the upcoming PARCC Parent Information Sessions, training sessions for district volunteers on lockdown protocols, and the distribution of district press releases through media outlets to provide clear communication.

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Mr. Messore reported on the Administration's visits in November, 2014 to Westwood High School in Westwood, Massachusetts, and Chariho Regional High School in Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, two districts that have recently launched 1:1 technology device initiatives. Mr. Messore talked about our district's technology integration to date and the Westwood and Chariho processes for full 1:1 implementation. Questions and discussion followed the report and included the topics of digital citizenship and assessments, use of technology by students throughout the school day, device responsibility and bandwidth and power availability.

Old Business from School Committee

No old business from the School Committee was presented at this time.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Mr. Glen Simmons, Hampden Meadows School, Grade 5.

Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with information on the FY 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan Budget to be submitted to the Town of Barrington Planning Board. The budget documents included information on technology, PreK – 5 school playgrounds compliance modifications, and the Barrington Middle School building project. Following discussion,

Mr. Guida moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the recommendation of the Administration on the submission of the FY 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan Budget to the Town of Barrington Planning Board. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore introduced two drafts of the 2015-2016 school calendar for Committee discussion; one draft includes a later start date in August and replaces the week long February vacation in 2016 with a three day recess and the second draft is consistent with the dates in the current school calendar. Mr. Messore, along with National Education Association of Barrington (NEAB) union leadership and the Administration, had revisited the school calendar in response to feedback from parents and staff. A school calendar survey will be created for distribution to parents and staff later this month and Mr. Messore will report the survey results to the Committee in January, 2015 for its consideration and further discussion. The Committee shared its initial calendar preferences and discussed options for student participation in the survey.

New Business from School Committee

The School Committee Policy on Administrative Leave was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. The policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the next Committee meeting.

Decision Items

No items were presented for approval at this time.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for December 18, 2014 will be the Committee's Annual Organizational Meeting and will feature updates on enrollment data and educator

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evaluation. The presentation on student achievement data will be moved to January 22, 2015 pending availability of data for analysis. 2014 Science NECAP scores remain under embargo per RIDE and will be released pending notification from RIDE.

Mr. Guida requested an update on the topic of school start times.

Mrs. Brody requested a report on Barrington High School student achievement data from the 2014 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA.)

Mr. Guida proposed that a list of future agenda item topics be available for Committee reference at every meeting.

Announcements

The 2014 Commended Schools Recognition Ceremony, at which Barrington High School will be recognized, is scheduled for December 11, 2014 at the Rhode Island State House.

Mrs. Brody will attend the December 15 Town Council meeting to propose Town Council consideration of a School Committee and Town Council Joint Legislative Breakfast with members of the Town of Barrington delegation in the Rhode Island General Assembly.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, thanked the Committee and Administration for continued discussions on school start times, moving toward 1:1 with technology devices, and the survey for the 2015-2016 school calendar.

Mr. Guida moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:58 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion. No Executive Session was held after the regular meeting.