

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 01/22/2015

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Student Representative Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea, Dr. Paula Dominguez, and Mr. John Alessandro. 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. Building administrators from all six schools were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Scott Douglas led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

The Barrington Middle School Robotics Team Variables earned first place for their project at the Rhode Island First Lego League Championship Tournament on January 17, 2015. Mr. Messore congratulated members of both Team Variables and Team Copyrighted for their dedication and hard work.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon introduced building administrators present at the meeting who provided the Committee a Student Achievement Data Report summary update. Building administrators previously presented data on November 20, 2014. Present were Sowams School Principal Mr. James Callahan, Primrose Hill School Principal Mrs. Patricia Tolento, Nayatt School Principal Ms. Tracey Whitehead, Hampden Meadows School Principal Mrs. Tracey McGee, Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson, and Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley. Each building administrator highlighted goals for each grade level and action steps to support school improvement plans. Discussion ensued on resources to support additional growth, trends in the data reporting, adaptive testing, the impact of the Math Interventionist for Grades 9-12, and the best approach to reach Barrington High School students to participate in student forums.

Mr. Messore highlighted the areas in which the building administrators' budget input ties directly to the presentation on achievement data, and how identified needs are tied to student learning at each grade level, as well as review of current resources. Mr. Tarro acknowledged the work of each building administrator to establish the presentation to the Committee and noted the budget target of achieving excellence in teaching and learning and the focus on student centered decisions while using a zero based budget model. Building administrators presented the following budget requests for FY 2015-2016: Elementary (Grades K5) an increase of 1 FTE for a social worker, an additional Kindergarten Intern at each K-3 school, an increase of 1 FTE for Special Education at Hampden Meadows School, and an increase of .5 FTE for the Math Interventionist, Barrington Middle School increase of .5 FTE for a social worker, and Barrington High School an increase of .6 FTE for Special Education and a new 0.5 FTE Technology Fellowship position. Budget requests from the building administrators include a total

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increase of 4.10 new FTE in the proposed operating budget. Questions and discussion ensued on the ratio of social worker to student population, possible reallocation of current resources, role of the Kindergarten Interns and why they are not considered FTEs, and the importance of stressing to the community that these investments are for the benefit of students. The Committee requested that the presentation provide clear information when made available to the public.

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. A press release on Barrington High School's Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report will be sent to the Barrington Times for publication, as well as a press release on the district's perspective on the released New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science scores. On February 2, 2015, the district will hold a Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Informational Night for Grades K-5.

Mr. Messore reported on the progress of the School Start Times Task Force that research continues on logistics gathered from other districts and transportation consultants. A timeline will be created to include historic data, present data, and a possible future model schedule. Mr. Messore will provide an update on school start times to the Health and Wellness Committee at their meeting on February 4, 2015. Discussion and questions from the Committee included cost drivers for the change in start times, the possible effect to after school athletic activities, and communication with the community.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Guida provided an update from the Barrington Middle School Building Committee's recent meeting on January 21, 2015 focused on the review of the second half of the eight architectural firm proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals (RFPs). The Building Committee selected three firms to present comprehensive presentations at a combined meeting of the BMS Building Committee and the School Committee. The three firms are Edward Rowse Architects, Inc., Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc., and Symmes, Maini and McKee Associates. Discussion ensued on next steps on a timeline following the comprehensive presentations before the final approval process.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore announced the request for leave of absence for Ms. Allynn Grantham from her teaching position at Barrington High School effective January 30, 2015. Ms. Grantham has accepted an administrative position in another district.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the request for leave of absence of Allynn Grantham, HS, Special Education. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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New Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Learning Environment was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. Following discussion on policy edits for consideration, the edited policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at a future Committee meeting.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messoro reported that the School Committee will hold a Budget Workshop on February 5, 2015.

Mrs. Brody that a discussion on the 2015-2016 school calendar be added to the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Guida requested continued discussion on implementation of one-to-one devices.

Announcements

The 2015 Joint Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for February 2, 2015.

An Informational PARCC Night for Grades K-5 will be held on February 2, 2015 at Nayatt School.

The next Health and Wellness Committee meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2015.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, thanked the Committee and Administration for moving forward with the conversation on school start times. Dr. Douglas made suggestions to help clarify budget recommendations when presented to the public and requested that additional information be provided on the fluctuation of data relating to Special Education needs.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:23 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that the Executive Session minutes were sealed and that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:41 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.