

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 02/26/2015

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:32 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, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque, and Computer/Network Technician Mr. Michael Fallgren.

Pledge of Allegiance

Barrington Chief of Police John LaCross led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore congratulated the athletic achievements of Barrington High School student-athletes, noting that the Barrington High School Girls Swim Team is State Champion, and that the Barrington High School Boys Swim and Boys Indoor Track and Field teams both finished second in the state.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington Chief of Police John LaCross who provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed School Resource Officer initiative in the District. Prior to the meeting, a draft job description was provided for Committee review. Mr. Messore stressed the importance of this position as a resource to continue to build the relationship between law enforcement and schools, for prevention, and for law enforcement education. Chief LaCross provided information and research to support the benefits of this initiative, and explained in depth the role of the School Resource Officer. Discussion and questions from the Committee included measurement of metrics for the position, selection process for the officer, training, role at the elementary schools, and alignment with current safety procedures for students. Barrington High School Principal Joseph Hurley and Vice Principals Nicole Varone and Ed Daft expressed their support for the initiative, its potential for positive impact on the school and community to further forge relationships, and its important part of the curriculum. Following discussion,

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the pilot program for a School Resource Officer in the amount of \$25,000 to be included in the 2015-2016 school budget. The motion passed 3-1 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion. Dr. Dominguez opposed. Mr. Alessandro abstained from the vote.

Mr. Tarro provided an executive summary of the proposed budget that will also be made available on the District website. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with an electronic version of the 2015-2016 comprehensive operating budget for review. Discussion and questions from the Committee included the decreased budget for custodians and timeline for submission of the budget to the

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Town of Barrington Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to accept the proposed 2015-2016 budget as presented and advance the budget to the Committee on Appropriations. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mr. John Sexton, town resident and Barrington High School teacher, expressed his concern for the possible elimination of February vacation for the 2015-2016 school calendar, noting the need for students and teachers to have a break in February.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan. On February 24, 2015, Mr. Messore and Mrs. Dillon held an informational Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) night for parents on the state mandated assessments to begin in March. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the District website as well as on each school webpage and communication will be sent to all parents. A budget fact sheet will also be prepared and shared with the community.

Barrington Middle School Principal Andrew Anderson reported that following discussion with his faculty and District Administration, he will announce to parents and students a plan for an overnight field trip for all Grade 8 students to Washington, D.C. on June 4-6, 2015. Pending interest from parents and students to participate, the overnight field trip will be presented for School Committee approval at a future meeting. The Committee commended Dr. Anderson for working to create this common educational experience for all students.

Mrs. Dillon provided an overview of professional development for the District, stressing the importance and value of professional development and the commitment to being a professional learning community for continuous improvement. Mrs. Dillon provided an overview of professional development days at each grade level, as well as the positives and challenges with the schedule. Discussion and questions from the Committee included whether there were fewer professional development days prior to the inclusion of senior project reading, the partnership with SolutionTree, whether there is monetary support for teachers attending conferences, the impact of technology, and whether professional development could be done electronically versus in person.

Mr. Messore shared survey data results from the recent school calendar survey and provided the Committee with a proposed calendar for the 2015-2016 academic year. The proposed calendar that Mr. Messore will recommend for Committee approval includes the traditional vacation weeks in both February and April, along with a change to the schedule of professional development days to include two professional development days before the start of school for students and one day following the last day of school for students. A majority of the Committee expressed support for the calendar as proposed. Approval of the 2015-2016 school calendar will be on the next meeting agenda on March 5, 2015.

Mr. Tarro provided information on the parking lot improvement plan for Primrose Hill School. District

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Administration has met with Pare Engineering to review a preliminary design plan that will be shared with the principal, police chief and fire chief, and also coordinated with the Safe Routes to School grant. Request for proposals and bid approval process is targeted for April, 2015, with improvements to be completed in the Summer, 2015. The project will be funded by the Capital Reserve-School Improvement account, with no additional request for tax dollars.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Tarro reported that the Barrington Middle School Building Committee will meet next on March 7, 2015 to hear comprehensive presentations from the three selected firms of Edward Rowse Architects Inc., Kaestle Boos Associates Inc., and Symmes, Maini and McKee Associates. The School Committee will be present at the open meeting. Mr. Tarro noted that an inquiry relative to the building project was received from a homeowner on Oaks Drive. In response, Mr. Tarro shared information on his initial meeting with the Town Planner, and noted that no decision has been made to date, as all information relative to the project in terms of location of a possible new building or scope of the work is unknown at this time.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence for Ms. Denise Flores, Sowams School Nurse. Dr. Shea noted that Ms. Flores has been a tremendous asset to the District, particularly with her work on the Health and Wellness Committee, and will be missed.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on whether any Committee member is available to attend the National School Board Association Annual Conference scheduled for March 21-23, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee. No Committee member is available to attend.

Decision Items

No decision items were presented for approval at this time.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore requested an adjustment to the topics for the March School Committee meetings. The March 5, 2015 meeting will now feature updates on Response to Intervention and Pupil Personnel Services. The March 19, 2015 will be held in the Barrington Middle School Library and will feature updates on the Barrington Middle School building project and the Barrington High School internship program.

Dr. Dominguez requested a future agenda item for discussion on summer learning.

Announcements

Mrs. Brody announced that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees is holding a professional development session for School Committee members on February 28, 2015.

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The School Committee will attend a joint meeting with the Building Committee on March 7, 2015.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Mrs. Brody noted for the record that the teachers have been provided written notice under Section 5(a)(1) that they have the right to request that this discussion take place in open session and have declined to exercise that right.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:02 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for collective bargaining or litigation regarding Memorandum of Agreement with Barrington Educational Support Staff Team (BEST); 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; and Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for discussion on job performance of certain probationary teachers. 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 10:25 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.

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 10:26 p.m. Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent not to renew the teaching contracts of the three probationary teachers identified in Executive Session. 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 regular meeting at 10:27 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.