

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 06/18/2015

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Shea, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Guida and Mrs. Dillon.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Katharine Odjakjian led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Graduation exercises for the Barrington High School Class of 2015 were held on June 7, 2015.

Celebrating 30 years of service with Barrington Public Schools are: Cathy Fales, Barbara Hughes, Annmarie Marino, and Tammy McMichael. Celebrating 25 years of service with Barrington Public Schools are: Cherylann Bertoncini, Lauren Birrell-Graham, Martha DeAngelis, Paula Degnan, Emmett Donegan, Donna Hartmann, and Peter McFarland.

Barrington High School Senior Adam Kelly, a member of the National Scholastic Athletics Sports Foundation team, competed in the 9th Caribbean Scholastic International Invitational in Havana, Cuba. Mr. Kelly won the hammer throw with the international 6 kilo hammer with a throw of 221-09 which set a new meet record, and placed fourth in the shot put with a put of 47-07.75 with the international 6 kilo shot.

The Boys Track Team placed second at the State Outdoor Track Championship. Barrington High School Junior Robert Colantonio is the Individual State Hammer Throw Champion, and Senior Jonathan Cavanagh is the Individual State Pole Vault Champion.

Barrington High School Science Teacher and Department Chair Dr. Diana Siliezar and Science Teacher Sonalya Jayasuriya were selected to present at the National Association of Biology Teachers 2015 Professional Development Conference in Providence in November.

Barrington High School Library Media Specialist and Department Chair Dr. Suzanne Costa was selected as a Media Smart Libraries Fellow. The 15-month after school fellowship program is sponsored by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Special Education Advisory Committee's 3rd Annual Special Educator Appreciation Event was held on June 9, 2015. Award recipients included Sowams School Teacher Assistant Nicole Hall, Sowams School Teacher Assistant Kristin Patterson, Nayatt School Teacher Assistant Mary Ellen Maguire, Primrose Hill Speech Pathologist Gail Robinson, Hampden Meadows School Reading Specialist Brian Fernandes, Barrington Middle School Special Education Teacher Marianne Combies, Barrington High School Special

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Education Teacher Amy Benevides, and Community Partner Kelly Donovan.

School Committee Member Dr. Robert Shea has been appointed as Associate Provost for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Roger Williams University.

Mr. Messore recognized the community service efforts of all schools throughout the academic year.

Introduction of 2015-2016 Student Representative to the School Committee

Mr. Joseph Hurley, Barrington High School (BHS) Principal, introduced Ms. Katharine Odjakjian as the new Student Representative to the School Committee. Ms. Odjakjian, a rising BHS Senior, thanked the Committee for the opportunity and expressed her interest in education and sharing School Committee meeting information with the BHS student population.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Hurley provided an update on the Barrington High School New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) five-year progress report including next steps for a self-study. The Committee requested a copy of the letter dated May 26, 2015 received from NEASC.

Mr. Messore introduced building administrators present at the meeting who provided the Committee with a Student Achievement Data Report summary update; building administrators had previously presented data on November 20, 2014 and January 22, 2015. Present were Sowams School Principal James Callahan, Primrose Hill School Principal Patricia Tolento, Nayatt School Principal Tracey Whitehead, Hampden Meadows School Principal Tracey McGee, and Barrington High School Principal Joseph Hurley. Barrington Middle School Principal (BMS) Andrew Anderson was not present due to a BMS event that evening. Each building administrator highlighted goals for every grade level relative to English Language Arts, Mathematics, Writing, Literacy, as well as social emotional goals. Questions from the Committee included measurement of growth, evaluation of assessments and interventions that are working and not working, and the potential for data analysis at the individual classroom and student level. The Committee requested that a discussion relative to K-3 Social Emotional Goals be held early in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington High School Social Studies Teachers and Advisory Program Coordinators Alison Grieco and Kristina Scotto. Mrs. Grieco and Ms. Scotto provided an overview of the Advisory Program, in their second year as advisors, and highlighted program goals, new ideas based on student and teacher feedback, lesson ideas based on surveys for next year, and events held throughout the year. Mrs. Grieco and Ms. Scotto also shared their informal process for gathering different ideas from other districts.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mrs. Cynthia Affronti, of 22 Knapton Street, expressed her hope for more consistency throughout all schools regarding the Health and Wellness Policy and stressed the importance of being mindful of other health concerns in addition to food allergies.

Mrs. Susan Freel, of 73 Governor Bradford Drive, reiterated the daily struggle for families with children with allergies and urged the School Committee and Administration to make changes to ensure students' safety in schools.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, encouraged the Administration and Building Administrators to

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continue to analyze student proficiency data and look at individual classrooms.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including the recent realtor outreach program meeting and plans for distribution of a district and community wide survey to assess the progress that Barrington Public Schools has made during the past three years. Survey results will be shared with the School Committee in the fall.

Mr. Tarro reported on student enrollment for Grades K-3 at the Sowams, Nayatt, and Primrose Hill schools. The update included actual enrollment to date for the 2015-2016 academic year in comparison to the budgeted number and NESDEC projections. Enrollment will continue to be monitored closely over the summer months and a new Kindergarten teacher position has been posted in anticipation of the need for an additional Kindergarten classroom at Nayatt School due to increased enrollment. The current enrollment data will be posted on the district website.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Tarro reported that the Barrington Middle School Building Subcommittee met on June 9, 2015 at length to draft the contract document for Kaestle Boos Associates, the architectural firm selected for the Barrington Middle School building project. Next steps include review of the contract by Kaestle Boos Associates, approval by the Building Committee, and final approval by the School Committee. The Building Committee is scheduled to meet next in late July.

The School Committee policy on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval. Questions from the Committee included services offered to students with disabilities, and possible opportunities for students to complete their senior year while enrolled in college and fulfilling high school graduation requirements.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adopt the policy on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The School Committee policy revisions to the Graduation Requirements Policy was read aloud by the Committee for a second reading and approval.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adopt the policy revisions to the Graduation Requirements Policy.

Mr. Messore noted that the policy may be revisited following a decision by the Rhode Island Department of Education on student eligibility to receive a diploma noting proficiency in more than one language.

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

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Tiffany Cabral, HM, Art. The motion

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

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of John Gorham, HS, Football Head Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Jill Lukens, HM, Special Education. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Holly Morris, HS, Field Hockey Head Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Eliza Pylotis, HS, Class of 2019 Co-Advisor. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Samantha Stebenne, HS, Class of 2019 Co-Advisor. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced the leave of absence for Mr. Gino Sangiuliano, PH, Enrichment Specialist/Literacy Coach, and Mrs. Patricia Tolento, HM, Head Teacher and Math Specialist. Both Mr. Sangiuliano and Mrs. Tolento are current administrators in the district taking a leave of absence from their teaching positions as permitted by Rhode Island General Laws Section 16-13-3.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Ms. Rebecca Ferry, MS, Science Olympiad Coach.

Mr. Messore recommended a revision to the 2015-2016 school calendar to include the April 26, 2016 Rhode Island Primary Election Day. Mr. Messore received notice of the Election Day in April, 2015 following the approval of the calendar by the School Committee in March, 2015. The revised calendar will include April 26, 2016 as a district K-12 professional development day and no school for students; April 4, 2016 as a regular school day; and February 8, 2016 will remain a professional development day and include K-5 parent teacher conferences.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the recommended revisions of the Superintendent to the 2015-2016 school calendar. The motion passed 3-1 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mr. Alessandro opposed.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for home schooling for the named individual. The student name was not identified publicly. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr.

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Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for May in the amount of \$3,679,522.40. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the FY16 food service renewal contract with Chartwells. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

Dr. Shea led the discussion on the district's Health and Wellness Policy and concerns raised by the Health and Wellness Committee on the policy's implementation in schools. Discussion included areas of focus identified involving allergies, nutrition values of foods brought to schools, student stress, and the need for more universal language in the policy regarding expectations to ensure all needs of students are being met. Next steps include a comprehensive policy review by the Health and Wellness Committee for policy revision recommendations to the School Committee.

Decision Items

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore noted that Monday, June 22, 2015 is the last day of school. Several projects over the summer months will include review of policies, personnel appointments, construction projects, technology rollout and work with the School Start Times Task Force.

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on consideration of a strategic plan workshop and a policy workshop to be held in the summer. Mr. Tarro recommended that a School Committee meeting in the summer align with approval of the contract with Kaestle Boos Associates.

Announcements

No announcements were presented at this time.

General Public Discussion and Information

Dr. Megan Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, encouraged a focus on the increase in support to teacher assistants and expressed her support of the reference to teacher assistants, per Primrose Hill School Principal Patricia Tolento, as the teaching partners. Dr. Douglas encouraged consideration of best practice in other districts relative to revisions to and communication about the district Health and Wellness Policy.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, expressed disappointment for the decision to eliminate the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) at Primrose Hill School, noted the value of the Multi Age Program (MAC) at Nayatt School, applauded the recent Barrington Public Schools district survey, and expressed

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appreciation for the full year of progress with strategic vision.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Superintendent Evaluation. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:40 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to renew Mr. Messoré's contract for a three-year period, to recognize the Superintendent's excellence in district leadership and the identification and realization of ambitious district goals, and to increase his salary by 2.5 percent, in the amount of \$3,850.00, for a salary effective July 1, 2015 of \$157,850. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:45 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.