

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

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**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/23/2016**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Guida, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Burrows. Absent was Mr. Tarro.

Mrs. Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea, Mrs. Anna Clancy, and Mr. John Alessandro, and Student Representative Katharine Odjakjian. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff present: Superintendent Michael Messore, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Paula Dillon, Director of Technology David Burrows, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Elizabeth Levesque, and Computer/Network Technician Michael Fallgren.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington High School Freshman Jonathan Zhang placed first at the Who Wants to be a Mathematician competition at Providence College on March 14<sup>th</sup> Pi Day.

Barrington High School Senior Robert Colantonio is the National Indoor Track and Field Weight Throw Champion.

Barrington High School Girls Ice Hockey team is Division I regular season league champions.

**Information and Proposals**

Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Burrows provided a presentation on blended learning spaces including where the district now and where it is going, the purpose for deeper personalized learning, examples of blended learning in our district, digital literacy and instructional integration, information on framework for technological pedagogical content knowledge (TPACK), measurement and evaluation including use of surveys, professional development, and next steps. Mrs. Dillon noted that flexible learning spaces are needed to accommodate collaborative learning in the district. Mrs. Dillon also provided the work toward rethinking and reimagining learning spaces and development for innovation. Questions from the Committee included survey participation data and timeline, professional development and embedding technology in classrooms, if students are allowed to bring their own devices for use in school, purposeful use integration, district defined competencies, use of coaches, how data will be collected without the presence of a FUSE RI fellow, and the alignment of blended learning with the Common Core Standards. Mrs. Dillon noted that Barrington is one of eight districts that will be working on Deeper Learning Models with Monica Martinez from Stanford University on May 12, 2016.

Mrs. Dillon reviewed the district's key objectives and critical success factors relating to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). The presentation included the connections to the Next Generation

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Science Standards, design thinking, connections to the curriculum, project based learning, examples of STEAM at each grade level, measurement and evaluation, and next steps. Questions from the Committee included if STEAM is geared toward imagination or real world feel in the classroom, project based learning, technology innovation, development of community partnerships and the impact on intern programs, STEAM course requirements and how opportunities for participation in the expansion of pre engineering elective courses at Barrington High School are presented to students.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, parent, commented on the Committee on Appropriations push back on step increases for teachers in the school budget as discussed at their meeting, noting that the district does care for the teachers. Dr. Douglas encouraged improvements to the bus schedules for this next school year.

Mrs. Pamela Lauria, of 56 Martin Avenue, parent, supports changes to bus transportation prior to the full implementation of a change in school start times, and stressed the importance of School Committee support for no guns in schools. Mrs. Lauria expressed concern for adding Art and Music to STEAM as they may lose value if they do not stand alone.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus, of 1 Howard Street, parent, requested consideration to move the Health and Wellness Committee meeting times to the evening so that more people can attend the meetings.

Mr. Anthony Arico Jr., of 166 Lincoln Avenue, urged the Committee to use the funds originally allocated for school start times for teachers, requested that the line item for the change in school start times be removed from the budget and asked that the school start times Ad Hoc Committee meet in the evenings to allow for greater participation.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Guida provided an update on the work of the Barrington Middle School Building Committee including status of the Stage II Application as submitted on March 14, 2016 to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), the evaluation by the RIDE School Building Authority on the scope of the building project, and finalizing recommendations to the School Committee for Owner Project Management (OPM) and Commissioning Agent services. The Building Committee and School Committee are scheduled to hold a joint meeting on March 30, 2016. Discussions will continue on expected revisions to the proposed \$80m original cost estimate figure for the project following approval of the OPM.

Mr. Messore reported that he, Mrs. Brody, and Mr. Tarro attended the Committee on Appropriations (COA) meeting held on March 22, 2016. At the meeting, the district highlighted accomplishments achieved through funding including technology initiatives, School Resource Officer, and playgrounds meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility. Discussion topics from the COA included concerns relative to potential salary increases with the National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) contract negotiations, unfunded pension liabilities, the impact of the school funding formula, and clarification for the \$419,000 transportation line item as allocated for a change in school start times. Mrs. Brody suggested that a meeting of the Budget Forecasting Committee be convened to address the topic of unfunded pension liabilities, as it is a State issue that impacts both the municipal and school entities. Mrs. Brody noted that it would provide an opportunity for a collaborative discussion with representation from the COA, School

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Committee, Town Council and Finance Directors from the Barrington Public Schools and the Town of Barrington. Mr. Geoff Grove, COA Chair and Chair of the Budget Forecasting Committee, will explore that option. The COA informed the Administration that its initial discussion had included \$245,000 in funding for capital technology as opposed to the \$275,000 as requested in the proposed operating budget. At the COA meeting, Mr. Tarro clarified the rationale for past practice with the COA support of full funding of the capital technology requests in light of reimbursement from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) for capital improvement projects. The Committee discussed the transportation line item in the school budget and requested additional information from the Superintendent on options to improve bus transportation efficiencies with both cost neutral and budget impact options. Mr. Messoro noted that there may be a challenge with availability of the transportation consultant in the near future. Mrs. Brody suggested the use of a district survey of parents and students to collect data on bus transportation use to aid in the Committee's decision making process.

Mr. Messoro provided an update relative to the District Strategic Communication Plan, including plans for upcoming communications on the school start time Ad Hoc Committee and an update on the Barrington Middle School building project.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Mr. Messoro presented a revised 2016-2017 school calendar to include the federal holiday on January 2, 2017.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the revised 2016-2017 calendar as presented by the Superintendent to include the observed New Year's Day federal holiday on January 2, 2017. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Mr. Brad Pilkington, Electrician/Maintenance. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messoro announced the retirement of Mrs. Nancy Seadale, Nayatt School Grade 1 Teacher, and Mrs. Hope Turner, Hampden Meadows School Office Clerk.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for February in the amount of \$3,566,868.44. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messoro outlined recommendations for Committee consideration for the School Start Times Implementation Plan Model for the 2017-2018 academic year and the suggested process for population of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Messoro introduced his proposal for the purpose and scope to explore the school start times changes in greater depth, the charge to compile detailed analysis on finances, transportation, teaching and learning, programs, community impact, and staff schedules, with submission of a comprehensive report to the Superintendent and then to the School Committee by November 1, 2016. Mr. Messoro also

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outlined membership including a district employee selected by the Superintendent to serve as project manager. Discussion ensued on creating a timeline for the process with firm dates, population of the Ad Hoc Committee to include approximately 12-20 members and include educators and parents with representation from all grade levels, and multiple students with emphasis on minimizing stress, and possible future subcommittees for specific target areas. The Committee requested a formal proposal in writing from the Superintendent on his recommendation for the adopted plan to include a specific charge to ensure development of a comprehensive plan to support the 8:30 a.m. school start time, and the possibility of a recommendation of more than one person for consideration of the role of project manager.

**New Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody introduced the agenda item to discuss and vote on the endorsement of the Resolution for Gun Free Schools as adopted by Rhode Island Association of School Committees and the Barrington Town Council. Dr. Willis Bilderback provided information on behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence. Dr. Shea read aloud the resolution. Following a brief discussion on district policy restricting guns in schools,

**Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adopt the School Committee Resolution on Gun Free Schools. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Dr. Shea provided an update on the Health and Wellness Committee meeting held on March 2, 2016, including a presentation from Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley on the topic of student stress, updates on the ongoing work on nutrition education for athletes, and a discussion on Health and Wellness Committee membership and meeting times. Health and Wellness Committees, as a subcommittee of the School Committee, are mandated in Rhode Island and Dr. Shea read aloud the state law. The Health and Wellness Committee will continue discussion on membership and meeting times at their next meeting on April 6, 2016, which may look to include student and additional staff participation as well as possible fluctuations in meeting times.

Mr. Guida provided the Committee with a synopsis of the Statewide Teacher Contract Commission report. In 2015 the Rhode Island Foundation hired a consultant, The District Management Council, to study the prospect of developing a statewide teachers contract in Rhode Island. Mr. Guida provided an overview of the report findings to date including stakeholder alignment and areas of difference, overall objectives and targets, and financial analysis. Mr. Guida noted the relative position of the Barrington Public Schools relative to salaries and benefits as compared with other districts in Rhode Island, and that the district continues to have one of the lowest per pupil expenditures in the state.

Mrs. Brody led the Committee discussion on topics for the Joint Legislative Breakfast scheduled for March 30, 2016. The Committee agreed to include the school funding formula, Barrington Middle School building project, and consideration for a statewide change in school start times.

**Decision Items**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the**

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**affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016 will be District Report Night.

The bid approval for the Chromebook protective cases for the student assigned devices for the FY2017 and 2018 academic years will be included on a future agenda.

Mrs. Brody requested a workshop with a facilitator as the Committee looks to develop overarching strategic objectives for the district.

Mr. Guida announced that he is not available on May 19, 2016, the current scheduled date for the International Baccalaureate Program Informational Workshop. The Committee agreed to find an alternate meeting date for the workshop.

**Announcements**

On April 1, 2016, a celebration breakfast will be held for Barrington High School students who participated in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assessment for the past two years.

On April 4, 2016, Barrington High School will host an OECD Regional conference featuring guest speaker, Dr. Jack Dale, former Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Lisa Daft, of 5 Robbins Drive, parent, noted that not everyone wants to spend additional funds on bus transportation, especially with the unknown final cost for the Barrington Middle School building project.

Dr. Scott Douglas provided a follow up comment to encourage the Committee to be bolder with the Ad Hoc Committee to include multiple points of perspective with broad representation and possible alternates for members.

Mrs. Mary Roberts, of 11 Adams Avenue, Barrington Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher, and National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) President, suggested that both Barrington Middle School and Barrington High School principals be included on the Ad Hoc Committee and asked why the timeline includes work in the summer and a November 1 deadline when other districts have taken more than a year with its process. Mrs. Roberts also asked about membership for the Health and Wellness Committee, and expressed appreciation for the advocacy for teachers in the district.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus provided follow up comments to suggest dashboard cameras for all district buses, to ask about Internet connection for Chromebooks at home, and expressed concern for the no guns in school resolution that would affect those who have a permit and carry. Mr. Messore responded to note that all buses are equipped with GPS and any student with connection issues with their Chromebook at home should contact the Barrington High School Student Technology Assistance Team.

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Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, of 88 Boyce Avenue, parent, expressed appreciation for Committee support for no guns in schools, urged the Committee to move forward on increasing efficiencies for bus transportation, and asked about Chromebooks with the increase in online homework and concern for weekend and evening deadlines.

Dr. Scott Douglas provided a follow up comment to encourage the focus on strategic communication, suggested that Director of Student Activities and Athletics Mr. George Finn be a member of the Ad Hoc Committee and suggested that a communication plan consultant be hired as well as a student for the summer to get communication to the community and student population.

Mr. Thomas Rimoshytus provided a follow up comment to ask if there will be representation from the elementary schools on the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Messoro responded to state that all building administrators will be included in the school start time implementation process.

Mrs. Sarah O'Brien provided a follow up comment to encourage the Committee to complete the school start time implementation plan process before November so that it is not about the election.

Mrs. Brody noted that the school start time implementation plan will need to include a comprehensive communication strategy. Mr. Messoro noted that a website similar to that of the Building Committee page is in development for school start times.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:55 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation with National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) and United Steelworkers; and 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. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:12 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Mrs. Brody noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:13 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.**