The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Chris Joyce, Vice Chair Stephanie Ellis, Committee members Patrick Murphy and Mike Judge. Also present were Meg Mayo-Brown and Kristen Harmon.

Mr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Vision Statement and Core Values**
Mr. Joyce recited the Core Values and Vision Statement of the Barnstable School System.

**Video or Audio Recording of the Meeting**
Mr. Joyce reminded everyone that the meeting was being telecast and recorded on Channel 18. Anyone who wished to make a recording of the session must notify the Chair.

**Highlight in Education**

**West Villages Community Partnerships**
- Mr. Gibbons spoke about the community partnerships at West Village Elementary. The PTO provides services and financial donations. A number of groups come into the school to work with the students. With grants, WVE has been able to have a number of programs in the schools due to their generosity. Other groups provide financial help when it is needed.

**Barnstable-West Barnstable Community Partnerships**
- Ms. Cloutier spoke about the community involvement at BWB including collaborations in school academics, field trip and presentations and community support and involvement.
- BWB has adopted a school officer who is in the school 1 or 2 days a week. BWB has partnered with Safe Routes to School which educated students walking and riding bikes to school.
- The PTA, Barnstable Fire Department and the Ned Show all support academic achievement through character development. Cape Kid Meals brings meals into the school for kids to span over weekends.
- Mr. Joyce asked when the Cape Kid Meals program started. Ms. Cloutier stated it started this year.

**Senator Cyr**
- Senator Cyr stated in his first year he visited the Town Councils of the 20 towns he represents. In 2018, he wants to meet with School Committees and Barnstable is the first one he is visiting. He spoke about his time on the Nauset School Committee.
- He stated main topics affecting schools are Chapter 70 and transportation. He would like to see the Foundation Review Commissions recommendations on how the state can support public schools implemented. He knows schools need help with health insurance, Special Education, English Language Learners and low income calculations.
- There has been Senate support for health insurance and Special Education, but he thinks more needs to be done. On the 2018 Fair Share Amendment, they are asking millionaires and billionaires to pay more and to have those funds dedicated to education and infrastructure. As far as the healthcare issue, some communities on Cape are talking about switching to GIC health insurance.
- There is a public health crisis related to opioids and alcohol addiction. In 2017, Barnstable County analyzed information about those who have died from opioid use. 281 died in a 10 year period with 70% having a high school education or less. 51% are 25-44 years old and 65% are in the trades and services industries. 25% are involved in construction. He is looking to see how he can do more to support the Superintendent and School Committees efforts to help.
- Ms. Ellis thanked him for his service. She stated the School Committee has been talking about equitable funding in Chapter 70 for the 9 years that she’s been on the Committee.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown thanked Senator Cyr for his advocacy. There are two areas that need to be looked at circuit breakers and the way economically disadvantaged students are calculated. She is hearing circuit breakers are not to be funded at 75%, but at 65%. This will be have an over $200,000 impact on Barnstable. For the economically disadvantaged students, we used free and reduced lunch as a way to gauge. DESE changed the way they calculate a few years ago.
- Senator Cyr stated a small working group has gathered together across the Cape to discuss the Cape’s educational needs. Any info Barnstable can give him, will help with his colleagues.
Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Mr. Murphy seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting of December 6, 2017.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Executive Session minutes of the School Committee Meeting of December 6, 2017.

Student Envoys Comments

- Ms. Brodt stated for the after prom celebration, fundraising and planning are needed by students and parents. A Go Fund Me page has been set up for anyone who would like to donate. There is a planning meeting on January 18 at 6pm in Junior/Senior Café.
- Mr. Manoog stated there is still advertising space available in the yearbook. All submissions are due January 16th. The Recycling Club is looking for donations. The Senior Class Dinner will be held February 7 from 6:00-7:30pm at Our Lady of Victory.

Public Comment

- Ms. Allan and a number of student ambassadors from BCHMCPS (Amelia, Sam, Olivia, Adam, Talia and Ben) invited the School Committee to their enrichment clusters program beginning on January 19th for 6 weeks every Friday morning. The students spoke about the clusters they will be participating in.
- Ken Holland, Science Teacher at BHS, spoke about Coach Whidden and his friendship with him. He asked the School Committee to hold off of letting the coach go for a year.
- Sean Walsh, commander of the local American Legion Post, stated he supports Coach Whidden. He has been the most successful coach in history. Mr. Walsh gave a history of the coaches, highlighting Coach Whidden’s accomplishments.
- Martha Swindler, BHS teacher, stated Coach Whidden goes above and beyond not just on the football field, but off as well. She is a Silver Bullets’ Mom and Coach encourages his players to stay late and help the youth in the Silver Bullets.
- Peter Bentivegna, the volunteer team physician, stated his son Matty, who has Downs syndrome, has been an assistant coach. He hopes Coach Whidden will get a fair hearing with Principal Clark.
- Matty Bentivegna, assistant football coach, stated Coach Whidden is a friend and a good coach.
- Steve Francis, BHS teacher, who was once Coach Whidden’s direct supervisor in athletics and has been his co-worker for the last 5 years, stated Coach Whidden is a role model, organized, and his interactions are professional and helpful.
- John Hardy, parent of four Barnstable students and a Quarterback Club member, stated Coach Whidden has been a great example to our kids. He asked that the School Committee oversee this process and make sure he is receiving a fair hearing.
- Andre Barboza, 2003 BHS graduate, stated Coach Whidden is a friend and he hired him as Freshman Coach. Coach has had offers to coach at Division 1 schools, but he wanted to be in Barnstable. Character and production are how a coach is evaluated. He has character and production including three league titles and a super bowl appearance. He asked the School Committee to please reconsider the decision.
- Julie Lariviire, parent and BHS teacher, stated Coach Whidden is a fan of kids. If you speak to Coach Whidden about a student, you know you’ll get results. He puts the student part of student athlete first.
- Maryann Barboza, parent of BHS graduates, stated a mistake is being made in regards to Coach Whidden. It takes a village to raise our children. She is blessed to have three kids who went on to be successful in life and she had the help from others in the community, including Coach Whidden.
- Gary Petercuskie, parent of BHS football player, stated what sets Coach Whidden apart from others is he strives to win football games, has a passion for his students, and is preparing his players to go out in the world. He develops champions in the classroom, on the field and in the community. He asked the School Committee to rescind his termination and posting of the job.
- Kate Scholes, BHS Teacher, stated Coach supports the teachers. Coach asked them to participate in charity work. He is a role model, an asset at BHS and deserves and has earned the position.
- Chris Viens, BHS SPED Teacher with two kids, stated Coach is a success because his program creates good men. He helps with the kids character with their participation in the Special Olympics.
- Richard Walker, parent of a 2015 graduate, stated his son was not allowed to play football even though Coach tried to get him on football team: the Athletic Director said no. Coach Whidden took his son to every home and away game where he watched from the sideline and his son grew a lot that year.
• Issac Rosen, parent of a BHS senior, asked by which metric do we evaluate our coaches. It takes something to bring all these teenage boys to Town Hall.

• Sean Jones, parent of a BHS student and Lacrosse Booster Club president, stated his son told Coach this past fall that he could not make the time commitment to football. Coach was understanding and offered his son the opportunity to travel with team and assist coaches with anything they needed during the games. Coach Whidden is the role model he wants his son to have.

• Jim Gregory, father of son who played football 2011-2013, stated that after playing at BHS, his son has played at UMass Dartmouth the past 4 years. Coach runs his program at BHS with pride, respect and honor and this has been instilled in his son.

• Jerry Petercuskie, uncle of a BHS player and coach of 40 years at the collegiate level, stated his brother asked him to help out at BHS this year and he said yes. He was impressed with Chris, with his character and maturation of the team. Coach teaches these young men what they need to know to go out into the real world: sit in front of the class, help out in the community, etc.

• Carl Richardson, child therapist, stated Coach is a staple in this community. Coach reached out to him a few years ago and asked him to volunteer, when Coach was just a defensive coordinator. Coach has gone beyond just coaching. He has brought a new culture to Barnstable.

• Greg Hill, BHS JV football coach and BHS Science Teacher, asked the School Committee to reconsider the decision. This year, the team lost to the eventual state champs. Coach is committed to the team year-round. He has taken on three special needs coaches on his staff.

• Ryan Jackson, 2013 BHS graduate, stated that one friend went on to play at Bentley University and another friend went on to play at Union College.

• Jeff Underhill, a BHS 2012 graduate, stated he played two years when Coach was defensive coordinator and had him twice as teacher. Everyone, parents, teachers, current and past students showed up tonight to support him.

• Josh von Staats, senior at BHS, stated he came tonight to show support for Coach. He has character, commitment and knowledge and believes the decision was done hastily and without much thought. He believes their mistakes on the field not only cost them games, but also got their coach fired. Eight players made the National Honor Society and no one failed off the team.

• Louis Cocozza, senior at BHS, played for Coach for the past three seasons. He went to workouts and Coach helped him through everything. He has been recruited at the college level and Coach has been a big part of it.

• Chris Dumas, member of the 1999 Super Bowl Championship team stated he met Chris right before he was beginning his first year of coaching. Chris is a leader of men that the community needs more than ever. He is extremely dedicated to our youth and makes sure everyone belongs.

• Gilbert Guimond, coach at BHS and teacher, stated Coach is everything that all these people have said. He puts in the time, his offensive and defensive plays are clear and he is a great football coach. You never forget the time on your high school football team and how that helps your mental toughness in life after.

• Mr. Joyce stated the School Committee appreciates everyone’s comments and everyone’s time.

• Pamela Peek, BHS teacher, stated Chris coached her son on the lacrosse team. She prays Chris still has an offer with Barnstable because he will get offers elsewhere.

• James Peabody, senior at BHS, stated Barnstable football plays a difficult schedule against great teams. During the 4th quarter of games, when the games would get away from us, Coach still would keep us in the game, tell us to keep going and not give up.

• Kathy Bent, mother of four Barnstable students, stated last month’s Assistant SPED Director’s presentation fell short. On paper, the district appears to be providing the minimum provided by law. She asked if the district boasts about what is offered to regular education student as only what is required by law. She asked if the district strives to just meet MCAS expectations.

School Committee Comments
• Mr. Judge spoke about the after prom celebration and how the committee is struggling to get folks to help out. If people do not help, they will cancel the celebration this year.

• Ms. Ellis recognized Pat Murphy as he finished his year as the MASC President.

• Mr. Joyce spoke about the timeline on filling the open School Committee seat. This Friday, the letter of intent and resume are due. Next Tuesday, the subcommittee will hold interviews for all those that submitted their letter of intent.
and resume. On February 1, the finalists will be interviewed by the Town Council and School Committee. After the interviews, a vote will be taken for the new member of the School Committee.

- Mr. Murphy asked if this was a 2 year or 4 year term. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated it is the remainder of the vacated term.

Superintendent’s Report

- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated at the last School Committee meeting, the School Committee approved a field trip to New York City at the end of January. The group was going to hire a coach bus, but there are only 10 students attending, so they will take the Amtrak train instead of a bus.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report

- Ms. Harmon gave an update on the Project Lead the Way grant. Barnstable submitted two applications: one we did not receive for the Engineer Program and the second one for Computer Science, we were invited to the second round.

Item #011018-003 Proposal for Construction of Wetlands Living Lab for BHS and BIS

- Mr. McDonald, a BHS Senior and President and Founder of the Barnstable Environmental Club stated they would like to create a living lab in between BHS and BIS. They want the lab as link between the high school and intermediate school where both schools can use it for educational purposes.
- Ian Ives of the Mass Audubon Society who is working with BHS stated he has built 20 wetlands on Cape Cod. He discussed the site location and how it was chosen. It was designed to be completely natural. He discussed the construction process and student involvement.
- Mr. Murphy stated this has happened in Falmouth where grants were raised to cover costs. He would want to run the proposal by Procurement and Risk Management.
- Ms. Ellis asked if the motivation for the location is purely educational. Mr. McDonald said yes, the proximity to both schools and the levelness of the land. The club has applied for and received a $1000 grant. They are waiting to hear back from other grants they applied for. They have raised $500 through fundraising.
- Ms. Ellis asked if Facilities Director Mr. Kanyock had any concerns with the project. Mr. Kanyock stated he walked the site and made a slight adjustment on location. There is no maintenance involved.
- Ms. Ellis asked if there would be any concerns if we needed the land for any reason. Mr. Ives said that was a question for Darcy in Conservation.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown thanked Mr. McDonald for his student leadership around this project and with the Environmental Club.
- Ms. Ellis is in support of the project and impressed, but would like to see Darcy weigh in on this for future use.
- Mr. Murphy stated the action should be put on another agenda once the questions have been answered.

Item #011018-001 Approval of Naming of School Facilities and Grounds Policy

- Mr. Joyce stated the Committee has discussed this in previous meetings.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy FFA entitled “Naming of School Facilities and Grounds,” as presented to the Committee.

Item #011018-002 Overview of the MCAS-Alt

- Dr. Jezard stated the Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt binder that was handed out was for impact. This binder contains the guidance for teacher to follow. These are the standards that need to be used.
- She stated students with disabilities are accessed. The learning standards have been substantially modified.
- The student’s team determines the best way for the student to be assessed.
- Dr. Jezard explained what the MCAS-Alt is. She explained why the MCAS-Alt is sometimes the best way to assess a student. She spoke about when the student is assessed and where.
- AnnMarie Salvatore, BUES SPED teacher, explained the binder is the resource guide that she uses. She explained how the MCAS Alt resource guide is used. She showed an activities book that she uses with the students.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown asked if she uses the resource guide to plan her curriculum with the student. Ms. Salvatore stated yes, she modifies it to grade level. She stated 49 students took the MCAS-Alt this past year.
- Mr. Murphy asked if there is a determination of what student takes MCAS-ALT. Dr. Jezard stated yes, at the IEP meeting every year.
Item #011018-004  2018-2019 School Calendar
• Ms. Mayo-Brown stated there are two calendar options, one with a start before Labor Day and one with a start after Labor Day. The BTA was consulted and there is a 50/50 split.
• Ms. Ellis asked if there is no school on Election Day, November 6, 2018. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that is correct.
• Ms. Ellis stated that she was against the two half days in December for teacher/parent conferences.

Item #011018-005  Pre-Approval for Contract Award for BHS Spectator Stands and Backdrop Replacement Project
• Mr. Kanyock stated the bid is out now for replacement of the stands and backdrop and are due January 22.
• Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to accept the bid of the lowest responsive and eligible bidder and award a contract for the BHS spectator stands and backdrop replacement project for a value not to exceed $1.1 million, as recommended by the Town Purchasing Agent.

Item #011018-006  Approval Accounts Payable Warrant FY’18 Warrant #28
Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2018 Treasury Warrant #28 in the amount of $69,661.26.

Adjourned 9:51 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant