The Barnstable School Committee and Town Council had a joint meeting on Thursday, February 1, 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 Town Council President Eric Steinhilber, Vice President James Crocker Jr., and Councilors Philip Wallace, John Flores, Jessica Rapp Grassetti, Matthew Levesque, Paula Schnepp, Paul Hebert, Paul Neary, Brit Beedenbender, and Jen Cullum.

Mr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

- Mr. Steinhilber stated there is a vacancy on the School Committee. A Subcommittee met a few weeks ago to interview candidates and three finalists were selected and they will be interviewed tonight and then there will be a roll call vote.
- Eric invited first finalist Susanne Conley to come to the podium.

**Suzanne Conley Interview**

- Mr. Joyce asked from a governance, finance and operations perspective, what do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of Barnstable Public Schools and how would you impact the schools decision making process.
- Ms. Conley answered Barnstable has a strong governing team including the School Committee, Superintendent and those that report to her. She is impressed by the forward thinking as early adopters of MTSS, the push for ELL, and social emotional learning. Barnstable uses best practices so all children maximize their experience. In terms of finance, Barnstable has a big budget and is a big district. She would bring seasoned experience of what a governance team is supposed to do. She believes in noses in and hands off. A School Committee should have their eyes open, but the administration should do the work to implement policies. The School Committee is here to oversee and make sure administrators are doing their jobs and being supported. In regards to operations, she is well versed in facilities, both rehabs and new facilities. She understands the process and how complicated it can be. She stated the running of schools is complicated and she has a solid understanding of the day to day running of schools.
- The School Committee needs to be a sounding board when issues arise.
- Ms. Ellis asked as a School Committee member responsible for demonstrating leadership for all students including BPS and BCHMCPS, what do you believe both have done well and what do you feel needs improvement and in your opinion how do you make a good school system a great school system.
- Ms. Conley answered that Barnstable is not going to sit back and let things be as they are. Barnstable has accountability and strategic initiatives. The schools have solid plans on how to improve. They have a willingness to adopt methodologies that are time and personnel heavy. People can be resistant to be held accountable to changes, but they are not here in Barnstable. She stated that she cannot comment on the charter school.
- Ms. Ellis asked what she felt needed improvement.
- Ms. Conley stated better outcomes on MCAS. Plans have been developed to improve performance and to maximize children’s learning the best they can.
- Mr. Steinhilber asked why do you want to be on the School Committee and what qualities and attributes will you bring to the position.
- Ms. Conley answered that she retired two years ago from a busy job and she enjoyed these years. She felt her education and experience was going to waste and she was looking for a way to get involved in the community. When she saw this opportunity, she knew she had the experience in education governance to bring to the Committee. She enjoys being part of a leadership, being with people and figuring something out together.

**Barbara Dunn Interview**

- Mr. Steinhilber called Ms. Dunn forward.
- Mr. Joyce asked from a governance, finance and operations perspective, what do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of Barnstable Public Schools and how would you impact the schools decision making process.
Ms. Dunn stated her background, being in school trenches for so many years, she sees the strength of the programs provided. The social emotional learning, MTSS, and responsive classroom are all phenomenal programs. The challenges include the budget. There is a finite amount of money to provide the highest quality education. She is retired and has stepped out of her teacher shoes. She believes she can add guidance in areas that need more attention and could save costs.

Ms. Ellis asked as a School Committee member responsible for demonstrating leadership for all students including BPS and BCHMCPS, what do you believe both have done well and what do you feel needs improvement and in your opinion how do you make a good school system a great school system.

Ms. Dunn stated the community helps in the making of a great school system. Her thesis was on working together in the schools, home, and community. She was involved in the charter at BUES and it was a difficult dynamic. She likes the Innovation School model. Strength is to look ahead and create the strongest programs and quality education.

Mr. Steinhilber asked why do you want to be on the School Committee and what qualities and attributes will you bring to the position.

Ms. Dunn answered that she retired last June and is looking to take on a new adventure. She was involved in Barnstable Schools as a parent and then a teacher. She is excited about the perspective she can bring. She has a solid understanding of current programs and a deep understanding of how to multitask the change in curriculum and collaborating with staff. She believes a strength of hers is that she lives the core values of BPS: commitment, collaboration and community. She read her closing statement.

Mr. Flores asked the areas that needed more attention and reallocation of resources.

Ms. Dunn stated curriculum is constantly changing with the standards in the state. A reading program would be piloted and then within 3 or 4 years, there would be another program and all the materials would stack up. The student teacher ratio is huge. Add support staff rather than teachers.

Edith LaBran Interview

- Mr. Steinhilber called Ms. LaBran forward.
- Mr. Joyce asked from a governance, finance and operations perspective, what do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of Barnstable Public Schools and how would you impact the schools decision making process.
- Ms. LaBran answered strengths include the students and the support they get in instruction, social emotional learning, leadership, and the goals and objectives put into place are worthy. She brings a wealth of experience from other districts. She has worked with budgets and transparency to the community through communication. She can help with the policy review and can help to enact them.
- Ms. Ellis asked as a School Committee member responsible for demonstrating leadership for all students including BPS and BCHMCPS, what do you believe both have done well and what do you feel needs improvement and in your opinion how do you make a good school system a great school system.
- Ms. LaBran answered the strength graduates, where they are going, how they are viewed, and the colleges that are accepting them. She would look to have more students with more advanced placement, so students in college can opt out of freshman year classes. She would like to grow those programs and have pre-AP programs in the Intermediate School. In the elementary schools, helping parents to prepare for the work and critical thinking.
- Mr. Steinhilber asked why do you want to be on the School Committee and what qualities and attributes will you bring to the position.
- Ms. LaBran answered that she has sat in a lot of seats in education: English teacher, psychological hospital, guidance counselor in a small school, she came into Barnstable when there were two middle school and then watched them blend back to one school, went into a charter school to see how that was run, and she worked in an urban district in Lowell with various jobs. She understands how complicated education is and has hands on
practical experience that can be applied at a practicable level. Being on the School Committee would give her a larger and greater reach with a broader and more meaningful impact.

- Mr. Joyce stated any one of these candidates he would be proud to work with. They all have educational background and each brings something that will help us. We are looking for a candidate that will work, will be collaborative and bring a different perspective to us.
- Mr. Flores stated all candidates have strong backgrounds, skill levels and would be a great addition.
- Mr. Murphy thanked the Subcommittee for bringing forth fantastic candidates.
- Ms. Cullum stated the candidates varied in qualification and all were enthusiastic. She believes a fresh voice is important.
- Ms. Ellis stated this job is a commitment with no money and a lot of work. She would be proud to work with any of the three finalists.
- Mr. Steinhilber motioned for to move to the question, seconded by Mr. Hebert and all approved. Roll call vote:
  - Mr. Joyce – Barbara Dunn
  - Ms. Ellis – Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Murphy – Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Judge – Barbara Dunn
  - Ms. Beedenbender – Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Crocker – Barbara Dunn
  - Ms. Cullum – Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Flores – Barbara Dunn
  - Ms. Rapp Grassetti – Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Hebert - Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Levesque - Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Neary - Barbara Dunn
  - Ms. Schnepf - Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Steinhilber - Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Wallace - Barbara Dunn
  - Mr. Steinhilber stated that was a unanimous vote for Barbara Dunn.

Meeting adjourned 7:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant