The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, in the Town Hall Hearing Room for a School Committee Workshop. Present were Chair Chris Joyce, Vice Chair Stephanie Ellis and Committee members Patrick Murphy, Barbara Dunn and Mike Judge. Also present were Meg Mayo-Brown, Kristen Harmon, Gareth Markwell, Patrick Clark, Beth Deneen, James Anderson, Kathi Amato, Matt Scheufele, Kirk Gibbons, Nicole Caucci and Jen Kruczek. Mr. Joyce called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Professional Development Half Days**
- Ms. Harmon stated last year the School Committee approved additional professional development half days. She discussed the district vision and how it helped to frame the professional development for this year. Additional days were requested because the professional development time available was not enough to move the teachers, and therefore the students, forward. After each professional development session, Ms. Harmon administered a survey for feedback and about 360 staff responded each time. Ms. Harmon discussed the results.
- Mr. Clark spoke about theme curriculum, which is the same curriculum provided for teachers teaching the same subject. They want to keep the individual personalities and expertise without elongating something they were already teaching. Teachers were happy to finally have the time to build the curriculum together rather than having it handed to them. Next step is to look at final exams. Next year’s theme could be Whole Child, Whole Building or We Build People. More direct instruction around social emotional learning is needed; giving people proof that academics will go up with social emotional skills. He would like to focus on what improvements they should be seeking in the classroom to support all students.
- Ms. Ellis asked if Mr. Clark received good feedback from the staff. Mr. Clark stated they keep asking for more time.
- Mr. Scheufele stated he has had extraordinary conversations with staff around professional development as one of our evaluations elements. He does not know if the math change would have been as successful without the extra professional development. He has focused on close reading in the ELA realm and writing. Centerville videoed classrooms and showed teachers what it looked like and talked about it professionally. It was real and these were our students. A session was on DESSA screener for SEL where they analyzed data and created small groups. During the second round of DESSA testing, he saw the results from the first test. Professional development is having an impact.
- Mr. Anderson stated in a Workshop on professional development last year he said give us 1% of the time and 99% of the instruction will be improved. Close reading would be developed into the teachings of students by teachers. Earlier this year, teachers presented on responsive classroom, close reading and X2 and today the teachers presented how they used it this year. The conversations in evaluations around professional growth have been amazing. Teachers have told him how they changed what they were going to do based on the professional development. There is better instruction at BUES.
- Mr. Joyce asked if he hears staff talking later about professional development they have received. Mr. Anderson stated yes. The staff comes up to him wanting to use what they learned immediately. They want to know how to implement it into their practice immediately.
- Ms. Ellis asked if each building chooses their professional development or if they collaborate. Mr. Anderson said it’s more site specific.
- Ms. Caucci stated professional development days were used to further the implementation of MTSS. They were able to dig in and start to aim for mastery of each piece. For example, in playful learning, they are trying to find a balance of a developmentally appropriate environment and play. There have been sessions on supporting inclusive classrooms, getting everyone up to speed on the special education process, best practices on supporting students, how to support challenging behavior and tiered instruction, the assessment program and using the data to make decision and problem solve.
- Ms. Amato states there is a through line from PreK to grade 5 for common topics and there should be more communication among the principals for next year. She said the topics covered at Hyannis West are on the handout. The benefits listed on the handout were taken from staff feedback. Staff members got involved in the training and boosted morale.
- Ms. Kukstis stated teachers were pushed out of their comfort zones and moved from proficient to exemplary using the professional development. It helped create collaboration and team work. In summative evaluation meetings,
teachers felt more comfortable about what they are learning and doing. Topics that were discussed this year included math, ELA, close reading and ELL.

- Ms. Deneen stated she is proud of the work the teachers are doing. Together is Better has been the theme at BIS. Professional development focused on the new math program in grade 7, DESSA, second step program and a focus on whole child and student centered learning.

- Mr. Gibbons stated to make the most of the professional development he compartmentalized what he was doing. The half days were used for professional development for the whole school. Smaller groups were divided for PLCs and staff meetings. Sessions included social emotional learning, instruction and curriculum, safety, Playworks and context learning for math.

- Mr. Joyce thanked all the principals for sharing their professional development themes and sessions with the School Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant