

The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Stephanie Ellis, and Committee members Patrick Murphy and Chris Joyce. Also present were Bill Butler and Kristen Harmon. Fran McDonald was not present.

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Core Values

Ms. Weber recited the Core Values of the Barnstable School System.

Video or Audio Recording of the Meeting

Ms. Weber 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.

Discussion of MCAS and PARCC

- Ms. Weber stated this is a School Committee Workshop focusing on PARCC and MCAS. Mr. Butler and Ms. Lovett will give a presentation.
- Ms. Lovett gave a brief history of the MCAS starting in 1998 and experiencing changes in 2006. The student assessment results are now used for more than monitoring student progress.
- Ms. Lovett stated MA has outperformed other states and graduation rates have increased. Challenges include low-income, minority and ELL continue to lag in performance.
- Ms. Lovett spoke of new Frameworks for ELA and Math. Full alignment with more emphasis on critical thinking and reasoning.
- Mr. Murphy stated when it comes to Common Core; people are either for it or against it.
- Ms. Lovett stated the curriculum frameworks were developed to be consistent across the states. Common core grew out of this framework.
- Mr. Murphy stated the Massachusetts Common Core is enhanced. Ms. Lovett stated Massachusetts has a rigorous curriculum and enhancements. Mr. Murphy stated Common Core says what you should teach, not how to teach.
- Ms. Lovett explained the differences between PARCC and MCAS including subjects, grade levels, assessment times and scale for achievement.
- Ms. Lovett shared the general results for Barnstable vs. the state level. She showed PARCC results for Mathematics and ELL in Illinois, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Mr. Murphy stated that Massachusetts has outperformed its counterparts in other states. He stated the progress over the last 10 years has been impressive. Students have been able to master curriculum and tests.
- Ms. Lovett stated pre-administration surveys were completed by principals and teachers in October 2014 with 71% of principals thinking PARCC would be more demanding and 72% of teachers thinking PARCC is a higher quality assessment than MCAS.
- Ms. Lovett spoke about the Mathematica Research and Study and Executive Office of Education Research Paper.
- Ms. Weber stated 49% of districts took PARCC online. Mr. Butler stated that districts have a way to go with technology, including Barnstable who took the paper and pencil PARCC test.
- Ms. Lovett showed a slide with low state proficiency standards that demonstrated how Massachusetts NAEP and state test are equal as opposed to other states' tests with regards to mathematics proficiency rates.
- Mr. Murphy stated the MCAS and nationwide testing are very close, while other states have a high proficiency with state test, but less than 40% by a nationwide test. Massachusetts' standards are world class and we have been honest with how we demonstrate our kids being proficient.
- Ms. Lovett stated MCAS 2.0, a hybrid of PARCC and MCAS, is currently being worked on.
- Ms. Lovett stated other states are using various assessments including Questar, Smarter Balanced, ACT and AIR.
- Mr. Butler stated School Committees are making resolutions on high stakes testing calling for Board of Education not to adopt PARCC.
- Ms. Weber stated there have been resolutions by other School Committees in Massachusetts on PARCC and MCAS. The Board of Education will be voting on a decision in November as to what test will be administered in the spring. She asked why we have to pick between these two tests – there are other options.

- Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Butler and Ms. Lovett for their presentation and wanted to make it clear to the public that what their children are being taught is not changing. Massachusetts has a high quality curriculum; regardless of where you move in state, it is the same curriculum. The way districts are ranked are based on how they score on these tests. The correlation between the two should go away until it is known what assessments are going to be used.
- Ms. Lovett stated that Barnstable will be held harmless this year with PARCC since it was a pilot.
- Mr. Butler stated your rating is based on any of your sub groups and some of those groups are small.
- Ms. Weber thanked Mr. Butler and Ms. Lovett for their presentation. She thought it was interesting to look at Barnstable's results. She feels strongly about accountability.

Adjourned 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant