The Barnstable School Committee met on Monday, October 30, 2017, in the Barnstable Intermediate School Library for a School Committee Workshop. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice Chair Chris Joyce and Committee members Patrick Murphy, Stephanie Ellis and Mike Judge. Also present were Meg Mayo-Brown, Kristen Harmon, Maureen Lovett, Gareth Markwell, Jen Kruczek, Brooke Styche, Catherine Hamilton-Milne, Lisa Callahan and Maggie Casey.

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Weber recited the Core Values and Vision Statement of the Barnstable School System.

**Innovation Schools**

- Ms. Weber stated Innovation Schools is a topic the School Committee has been interested in for a few years and this Workshop will open the discussion.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown discussed the background of Innovation Schools along with current Innovation Schools in MA and on Cape Cod.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about who can put forth a plan for an Innovation School including parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, etc.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about the local development and oversight of Innovation Schools along with the authorization process.
- Ms. Styche asked if one of the three committee members – Superintendent, member of School Committee, or Teacher Association President – submits the application, are they still on the committee. Ms. Mayo-Brown said yes.
- Mr. Judge asked if the School Committee vote would be a yes or no vote on the submission or could changes be made. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated it’s a yes or no majority vote, but there would have been School Committee discussions.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about student enrollment at Innovation Schools. Any student currently attending the school can remain at the school. Students from other districts can enroll as well.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about the funding for the Innovation School and the school governance.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown discussed the three case studies that DESE has on their website.
- Ms. Weber stated the purpose of Innovation Schools is to increase student achievement and school performance. It’s a collaborative process between district leadership and educators.
- Mr. Joyce stated it is important to have a school with open enrollment across the district.
- Mr. Murphy asked what the timeline was when Ms. Mayo-Brown went through the process in Fall River. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated it was done in about a year. She wanted teachers to have more of a say around decision making.
- Mr. Murphy stated the process would allow the solicitation of ideas. A committee could be created to vet bright ideas for the district. At the Lawrence School in Falmouth, due to behavior issues, they incorporated a dress code along with curriculum.
- Ms. Weber stated a lot of time is spent on curriculum making sure all students are taught the same things for when they come together in 4th grade.
- Ms. Hamilton-Milne stated that Barnstable already has what they are looking for with the BCHMCPS. Ms. Weber stated the governance structure is challenging to the district and the school itself. There are things that the district cannot do because of the limitations with the Charter School.
- Ms. Ellis stated the charter school and governance prevents the School Committee from getting involved as much as they would like with the charter school.
- Mr. Joyce stated that he would like to keep the best parts of the charter school while breaking down some of the walls between the school and the district.
• Mr. Murphy stated this discussion is not about the Horace Mann Charter School, but is open to the community. DESE no longer supports the Horace Mann model. They recognized the problematic model and the governance issues. That is why DESE came up with the Innovation School.

• Ms. Weber stated MA is down to 4 Horace Mann Charter Schools. The School Committee needs to look at what the best decision for the district is.

• Ms. Callahan stated the Charter School is doing all the things that you want an Innovation School to do. She asked if the School Committee is looking at elementary or other grade levels. Ms. Ellis stated this is the opening discussion.

• Ms. Callahan stated a 2/3 vote of teachers is needed for an Innovation School conversion and some teachers will not want to do it. She asked is they would have to stay at the school. Ms. Styche said she would hope no one would make someone stay at a school they would not want to stay at.

• Ms. Hamilton-Milne asked if the School Committee is putting together a proposal for an Innovation School. Ms. Weber stated that would be the next step in the discussion.

• Ms. Styche asked the School Committee if they would give the charter school an indication of whether they are thinking of approving the charter or not, so the charter school does not do all the work. Ms. Hamilton-Milne stated the Boards first priority is keeping the charter school. Ms. Weber stated it should be to protect the students.

• Ms. Hamilton-Milne asked if the charter renewal is not signed off by the School Committee, does it still go to the state. Ms. Weber stated no, the School Committee and the bargaining unit both need to vote yes.

• Ms. Ellis stated Innovation Schools need to be discussed as an agenda item at a School Committee meeting discussion and there should be a public hearing.

• Ms. Styche suggested the School Committee go to their employees and teachers about this topic and open the conversation to all of K-3 teachers.

• Ms. Weber asked Ms. Styche if doing this presentation at the next School Committee meeting would reach the staff and teachers. Ms. Styche suggested faculty and staff meetings are the way to get the word out to the teachers.

Adjourned 8:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant