The Barnstable School Committee met on Thursday, December 8, 2016, in the Town Hall Hearing Room 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 and Kristen Harmon.

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- Ms. Mayo Brown stated tonight’s Workshop is the presentation of two options for the new high school schedule. She asked Mr. Clark to give a history of how these two schedules came to be presented to the School Committee as viable options.
- Mr. Clark gave a brief history of the new schedule process. It started with staff being asked to submit a schedule to be considered. Eight schedules were brought forward. On January 9, the faculty will vote of the schedule.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that the vote will be what the recommendation to the School Committee will be.
- Mr. Clark discussed the schedule analysis and schedule characteristics.
- Ms. Gleason discussed the schedule she presented to the faculty.
- Mr. Jansen discussed the schedule he presented to the faculty.
- Ms. Weber thanked everyone for their time over the years for a new schedule.
- Mr. Joyce spoke about professional development time and MTSS work. He asked how the PD time would be structured. Mr. Clark stated that with the schedule now, teachers meet 8 hours over the course of the year in their subject matter and it is usually to discuss a common midterm and final. With the additional time, this time would be more professional development and less housekeeping.
- Ms. Ellis asked if the TGA block was used to fulfill the physical education requirement. Mr. Clark stated the requirement is being met on extended TGA days throughout the year since daily TGA is only 10 minutes. Each of the new schedules has blocks of time that would be used to fulfill the physical education requirement.
- Ms. Weber asked given the TGA time taken away each morning, would the blocks each week be sufficient. Ms. Gleason stated there are still 5 minutes for attendance the B2BTV announcements.
- Ms. Ellis asked if the meeting collaboration time on Tuesdays would be an extension on the teacher’s day and would need to be part of negotiations with the BTA and would potentially have a cost involved with the schedule. Ms. Gleason stated yes.
- Ms. Ellis stated the early dismissal would have an additional cost due to the obligation to bus the charter school and other private high schools. Mr. Clark stated two years ago the additional cost was $125,000 due to the driver’s per hour rate being activated early.
- Ms. Ellis asked the number of hours for PD time for high school teachers would increase, but how does that compare to the PreK-7 teachers. She would like to make sure it is equal across all grade levels in the district. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated her recommendation to the Committee would be to consider a districtwide early release time so that all teachers can receive the additional professional development.
- Mr. Murphy asked how invested the BHS staff are in making these changes. Ms. Gleason said personally she is excited about this schedule change. Every teacher she talks to is first thinking of the students and then thinks how this will affect them personally.
- Mr. Murphy stated that there were schedule change ideas a few years ago and teachers came to say how the new schedule would never work. He asked if they would see that again this time. Ms. Gleason said that the teachers see what the students go through and now we are looking to add another class. Mr. Murphy asked if there has been a discussion about how to deal with this stress. Mr. Clark brought up class rank and if you look at the highest achieving schools in MA, none of them have class rank. Many times a student’s schedule is based on the weight it will have on the student’s class ranking. The 8th grade needs some bookend classes (i.e. in 8th grade a class on high school life and a class in junior year about life after high school). Mr. Jansen stated that it is more stress to the students and there are a lot of challenges for teachers as well.
- Mr. Judge thanked everyone for the work they have done.
- Ms. Weber encouraged teachers to think about these topics as we are going through the process.

Adjourned 6:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant