

The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Stephanie Ellis, Committee members Mike Judge and Patrick Murphy, Town Council Liaison Sara Cushing and Student Envoys Saarah Murphy and Robert A. Welsh IV. Chris Joyce was not in attendance. Also present were Bill Butler and Kristen Harmon.

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **Core Values**

Mr. Butler recited the Core Values of the Barnstable School System.

### **Video or Audio Recording of the Meeting**

Mr. Butler 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.

### **School Committee Reorganization**

- Mr. Butler stated that the School Committee will vote for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the School Committee.
- Mr. Murphy nominated Ms. Weber for Chair, seconded by Ms. Ellis. Roll call of Mr. Judge, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Ellis and Ms. Weber all voting yes and Ms. Weber is appointed Chair.
- Mr. Murphy nominated Ms. Ellis for Vice Chair, Ms. Ellis nominated Mr. Joyce for Vice Chair stating that they had spoken about this prior to the meeting; Mr. Judge seconded Mr. Joyce for Vice Chair. Roll call of Mr. Judge, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Ellis and Ms. Weber all voting yes and Mr. Joyce is appointed Vice-Chair.
- Ms. Weber stated that the Secretary to the School Committee is the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Ms. Weber nominated Ms. Kruczek, seconded by Ms. Ellis. Roll call vote of Mr. Judge, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Ellis and Ms. Weber all voting yes and Ms. Kruczek is appointed Secretary.

Ms. Weber welcomed Mike Judge to the School Committee.

### **Highlight in Education: Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

- Mr. Butler stated the highlight in education will be on MTSS and the MTSS Steering Committee will present.
- Ms. Harmon stated there have been numerous discussions on MTSS and the Steering Committee wanted to update the School Committee on the work being done and what is planned in the future. MTSS adds structure to the work being done every day and helps to focus the efforts. MTSS meets the needs of all students whether that is an intervention or enrichment.
- Ms. Lovett discussed the ELA and Mathematics MCAS and PARCC results over the last three years. There is an achievement gap for students with disabilities and ELL in Mathematics.
- Ms. Harmon stated they are looking at the behavioral data. The Kindergarten screening grant has helped.
- Mr. Hurley stated Barnstable is meeting the social and mental health needs of our students. In 2013 there were 44 kindergarten students and 57 in 2014 that needed interventions. This year it is looking to be over 100 students.
- Ms. Ellis asked why there has been a jump in the numbers. Ms. Hurley stated the data is showing us there is a greater need. Teachers are rating the students and that is subjective.
- Mr. Butler stated this is consistent with what we are seeing across the district. The percentage of high needs students is continuing to go up.
- Mr. Murphy asked if there were districts we can compare with. Mr. Harmon stated anyone getting the Kindergarten grant has to use this measure. Ms. Lovett stated that we cannot compare with other districts because the data is private.
- Ms. Harmon looked at the four year MTSS implementation plan. Barnstable is currently in Year 1 with last year being a planning year. She discussed what has been done, what is currently being done and the plans for the future.
- Mr. Murphy asked if there is an understanding of expectations for a teacher in Tier 1. Ms. Harmon stated Tier 1 is more strategies and involves bringing other teachers into the class. There will be a whole class lesson and small group interaction so they can focus on the items they are struggling with. Tier 2 could involve pulling a student out of the classroom. Classroom Instruction that Works is the focus this year and helps teachers be consistent.
- Ms. Weber thanked the team for their presentation on how MTSS is being put into effect.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the workshop on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2015.

### **Report of Student Envoys**

- Ms. Murphy reported that the drama club will be performing “Almost, Maine” December 9 – 19 and tickets are on sale. The Credit for Life Fair was a success for seniors. The junior class collected 14 bags of winter clothing for various charities including The Noah Shelter and Safe Harbor.
- Mr. Welsh stated the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class won the Penny Wars raising \$450. Student Council’s Money-grams raised money for Toys for Tots. 55% of the eligible students participated in the blood drive. Candy-grams sold by the Student Council raised money for Toys for Tots. The military support club is sending care packages. Tryouts for winter sports have begun.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were presented.

### **School Committee Comments and Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports**

Ms. Weber attended the MASC conference and the themes this year were the impacts of poverty on education, testing and charter schools. Ms. Weber also attended the Barnstable Education Foundation Awards and it was gratifying to see the organization granting funds to teachers. The Barnstable Education Foundation Run for Success was attended by staff, administrators and the entire BHS football team. Sheila Burns worked hard on both events and was unable to attend due to illness.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

- Mr. Butler attended the MCAS Conference and attended the Children Living in Poverty session with Ms. Weber and it was eye opening. He also attended the Life Work Balance presentation by previous Superintendent Czajkowski.
- The Cobb Early Learning Center Playground was installed, but someone walked across and damaged the ground. They are working on a solution, but it looks to be a \$10,000 – 20,000 expense.
- An HBO documentary called “Cape Cod Heroin” asked to use the PAC at BHS for its premier, but given the content and age suggestions (17 and over); they have decided to go to CCCC.
- Mr. Butler attended the Barnstable Education Foundation Awards Ceremony where 40 awards were given out. Congratulations to all.
- Mr. Butler attended the Credit for Life Fair at BHS and thought it is a remarkable program sponsored by Cape Cod Five and other local businesses participate. He thanked Ginny Turner and Tina Crook for putting it on.
- Mr. Butler visited HyWest yesterday and had lunch with Mrs. Yezukevicz’s kindergarten class. He also spoke with Ms. Amato about the breakfast in the classroom program where 90% of the students are participating which is the highest percentage in the state. They are seeing a positive impact on the students with reduced referrals to the nurse and principal’s offices.
- He reminded everyone that December 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> are parent teacher conference in grades PreK – 7 and are half days of school.

### **Assistant Superintendent’s Report**

- Ms. Harmon spoke of can drives at BWB and HyWest; BWB participated in Fill the Truck with 727 food items and HyWest donated 832 canned goods.
- WVE won an award as the top jump ropers in MA raising \$10,000 for Jump Rope for Heart.
- BUE had author of “Every Turtle Counts”, Sara Hoagland Hunter, visit the school.
- The Hyannis Firefighters raised money to buy coats for children at HyWest and the coats will be given out this Thursday.
- HyWest will be participating in the Spectacle of Trees at the JKF Museum December 4 – 12.
- Mr. Harmon congratulated Bobby Harrington and Nora Murphy for National Scholarship Merit Scholarships.

- Ms. Harmon thanked Carol Cahoon, her assistant, for over 30 years of service in Barnstable. She retired on November 25th.

Ms. Weber congratulated the BHS Girls' Volleyball team on their State Championship.

**Item #120215-003 Approval of Spanish Study and Service Field Trip to Peru**

- Grace Lytle spoke of the service trip and cultural exposure field trip to Peru over February vacation. She wants to make sure the students have an authentic, meaningful experience.
- Mr. Murphy asked about travel insurance. Ms. Lytle stated there is travel insurance.
- Ms. Ellis asked what qualifies a student to go on the trip. Ms. Lytle stated they must be a current Spanish III student or above in good standing. Prior to the trip they have cultural meetings with the students where the students present on topics to the rest of the group.
- Mr. Judge asked how many students are expected to attend. Ms. Lytle answered a dozen.
- Mr. Butler stated that some schools have canceled international field trips. Most were to Europe right after the Paris attacks. He recommends approval of the field trip.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve a field trip to Peru for the BHS World Language Department February 8 through 19, 2016, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

**Item # 120215-001 Amendment to Cape Cod Collaborative Agreement**

- Mr. Butler stated the amendment to the Cape Cod Collaborative agreement is required by new Department of Education regulations in reporting and audit requirements.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve amended Articles of Agreement for the Cape Cod Collaborative dated April 2015, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

**Item # 120215-002 Superintendent Search Update**

- Ms. Weber thanked the Superintendent Search Committee for their time and attention to the process. The three finalists will be interviewed on December 10 in the BIS Cafeteria at 5:00 PM in an open School Committee meeting. The candidates will visit schools and the central office on December 11. One finalist, Meg Mayo-Brown is under contract negotiations with her current district. The School Committee will be conducting site visits to the finalists' districts this week and next before the interviews. The School Committee will meet on December 11 to discuss the candidates and try to reach a decision on the new Superintendent.
- Ms. Weber stated that before we can interview, we need questions and need to vote on those questions. She read a list of possible topics for the questions.
- Mr. Murphy asked how long the interviews will be. Mr. Butler stated 90 minutes each. Mr. Murphy stated the themes of the questions are good. Mr. Butler said it was a starting point and follow-up questions are appropriate. Mr. Murphy stated that we should make sure the important questions are asked first. The MTSS initiative is a priority and we want to gauge their knowledge of the program.
- Ms. Weber asked if it is acceptable to have topics publically and draft questions later. Mr. Butler stated yes.

**Item # 120215-004 MCAS/PARCC Testing Results**

- Ms. Lovett spoke of the ELA proficient or advanced levels in grades 3-10 and how Barnstable outperformed or were comparable to the rest of the state. She then spoke of the Mathematics results. Grade 8 is lower, but some students took the Algebra 1 test instead of the general test which distorts the results. The Science and Technology/Engineering results are consistent with the state.
- Ms. Lovett stated the grade 3 ELA results are above state averages in all schools except HyWest. Mr. Murphy asked how many students at HyWest are ELL. Ms. Harmon stated 50%.
- Ms. Lovett stated the grade 3 mathematics results are all above state level. This is a gain over last year numbers.
- Ms. Harmon stated that comparing this year with last year's results in ELA and Mathematics, Barnstable has made gains.

- Ms. Harmon stated that if your schools took PARCC in 2015, then you take it in 2016. PARCC grades 3-8. There will be one testing window for PARCC. There are no changes in MCAS. Districts will be held harmless in 2017 given their results. The goal in 2019 is for all assessments to be online.
- Mr. Murphy asked about the level of investment for online testing. Mr. Butler stated the infrastructure is adequate, but Barnstable would need more devices. The Commissioner has said funding will be made available.
- Ms. Harmon stated the parent reports are available online. The next step includes planning for technology.

**Item # 120215-005 Security Cameras in School Policy**

- Mr. Butler stated very few districts have policies and MASC recommends having a security cameras in school policy. Barnstable has cameras, but no notices. This policy says Barnstable would have to have signage where there are security cameras.
- Mr. Murphy asked about the viewing of video protocols. Mr. Butler stated Barnstable has best practices and will put it in writing.
- Ms. Ellis asked if there were voice recordings on buses. Mr. Butler stated there is no audio recording on buses and none of the buildings have audio.

**Item # 120215-006 Appointment of School Committee Members to School Start Time Advisory Committee**

- Ms. Ellis stated that both she and Mr. Joyce would like to serve on the School Start Time Advisory Committee.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Stephanie Ellis and Chris Joyce as the School Committee's representatives on the Advisory Committee to Study School Start Times.

**Item # 120215-007 2016 – 2017 School Calendar**

- Mr. Butler offered two options for the 2016-2017 school calendar with one starting before and one starting after Labor Day. He discussed possibly combining PD in-service half days in January and March to make one full in-service day. Another thought was to have students attend a half day the day before Thanksgiving. The goal of full PD in-service day is a good goal.
- Ms. Ellis stated a full day of PD is more beneficial to the teachers and easier for parents to plan. She brought up the two half days in December for parent conferences, while keeping high school for a full day was a loss of instructional time. She disagrees with the half days for parent teacher conferences. Mr. Butler stated he would look at it and come up with a solution. There would need to be buy in from the various stakeholders.

**Item # 120215-008 Approval of New Position Request for Special Education Position**

- Mr. Markwell stated that they are looking to add a Crossroads Program Coordinator position to be filled immediately.
- Ms. Jezard stated the increased numbers in the Crossroads program warrants the need to request this position. Students that would have gone to out of district placements are in this program. There has been staff turnover and more support is needed for those working with students. This position will help with managing students who are making progress go back into general education classrooms. Currently Barnstable has two students at the Collaborative for 45 day and this position will enable us to bring them back in district. Reductions in out of district students at the high school will help to maintain this position next year.
- Ms. Weber asked how the program started. Ms. Jezard stated is started three years ago at WVE, and has moved to BUES, BIS and last year BHS.
- Mr. Murphy asked about the skill sets of this position. Ms. Jezard stated someone who can help with ongoing training, is licensed with special education and behavioral analysis experience.
- Mr. Butler stated the Crossroads program is for students with serious emotional disorders. It is an alternative to Collaborative placement. If we meet the needs of students in district it can lead to a cost savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Murphy stated it is very expensive to place students.
- Ms. Ellis asked is the position was full time. Ms. Jezard stated 193 days.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to create the position of Crossroads Program Coordinator as recommended by the Deputy Finance Director in a memorandum to the School Committee dated November 23, 2015, in accordance with Policy DKA-R and as recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

**Item # 120215-009 Capital Trust Fund Request**

- Mr. Markwell stated the town is developing municipal and school capital programs for FY'17. In order to sustain the program for the next five years, they are requesting an appropriation of \$4 million: \$2 million from the school and \$2 from the Town. There is \$4.5 million in the school savings balance. The money can only be appropriated by the Town Council and he is here tonight looking for the School Committee's endorsement.
- Mr. Murphy asked why not more money. Mr. Markwell said they are being conservative. In 2018 and 2022, it will be another million.
- Mr. Butler stated the last time the town did this it requested \$4 million from the school.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to endorse an appropriation and transfer by the Town Council of \$4 million from the Town's free cash to the Capital Trust Fund, \$2 million from the municipal savings balance, as proposed by the Town Manager and recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

**Item # 120215-010 Approval Accounts Payable Warrant FY '16 Warrant #23**

Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2016 Treasury Warrant #23 in the amount of \$743,246.59.

**Executive Session**

Motion by Ms. Ellis, roll call vote to go into executive session, and the Committee unanimously approved in a roll call vote – not to reconvene in public session – to discuss strategy regarding collective bargaining with the Barnstable Teachers Association.

Adjourned 8:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek  
Executive Assistant