The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Chris Joyce, Committee members Stephanie Ellis, Mike Judge and Patrick Murphy. Also present were Meg Mayo-Brown and Kristen Harmon, as well as, Student Envoys Makhai Dickerson-Pells and Sydney Crook.

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 7:02 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.

District Highlight
• Mr. Anthony, the Energy Manager for the Town, spoke about the utility budget. He did a 10 year comparison of FY08 vs. FY18. He spoke about the Cogen systems on BHS and WVE.
• Mr. Judge asked if there are other renewable energy projects or other solar panels going on schools. Mr. Anthony stated BIS offered the next best opportunity.

Approval of the Minutes
• Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016.
• Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Committee Workshop minutes of the meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016.

Student Envoy Report
• Mr. Dickerson-Pells spoke about the various events at the high school including students visiting DC for the Presidential Inauguration, Professional Connection which allows students to meet professionals in careers of interest to them, Winter Concert were a success and coming up are Valentine Day Grams.
• Ms. Crook stated that mid-terms will be taking place January 24-26. Skate night with the girls’ hockey team will take place on January 24. Poetry Out Loud competition took place two week ago. The drama club is rehearsing for “Into the Woods.” The DECA club is going to a competition tomorrow in Boston.

Public Comment
• Pat Clark, Principal of BHS, spoke about a special evening at HYCC this Saturday where the Barnstable Boys’ Hockey Team will be playing Falmouth at 7:30 PM. Two Falmouth hockey players died in a car accident before the holidays. He would like to welcome as many community members to attend. Barnstable High School’s thought and prayers are with the folks in Falmouth.
• Kathy Bent, parent and VP of SEPAC, stated that a group of parents of children with Down syndrome pooled together and requested a meeting with the Superintendent in August and met with her. The parents now have monthly meetings with the Superintendent that Dr. Jezard and Dr. Bruinooge attend. They are hopeful they can resolve some of the issues.

School Committee Comments
• Ms. Ellis stated the School Start Time Committee had a meeting before break where they reviewed the report from the consultants. Our transportation department is working on some analysis.
• Ms. Weber thanked former Senator Dan Wolf and Representative Daniel Mannal on all the work they have done for the school district. She wished the best of luck to Will Crocker, as well as Randy Hunt, Tim Whelan and State Senator Julian Cyr.
• Ms. Weber stated the cover model this month for the Cape Cod Magazine is Kathi Amato, Principal at Hyannis West Elementary School.
Superintendent’s Report
Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about the water testing program for all taps and fixtures in all schools. At West Villages Elementary, all testing were below levels. At Barnstable United Elementary, 197 sites were tested and 2 faucets had lead results higher than level and 4 areas with copper higher than level were found. They have been decommissioned or for hand washing only. At Barnstable High School, 561 sites were tested and there were a few hits. At Barnstable Intermediate School, 205 sites tested and 1 sink faucet had copper levels higher. At BCHMCPS, 55 sites were tested and 1 bubbler had higher lead levels.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report
- Ms. Harmon stated the BIS Penny Wars raised over $3500 to aid to peers and families. Centerville raised $3303.87 for the needy fund with read-a-thon. Julianna O’Reilly, 5th grader at BUE, had the idea for Cents for Soldiers and in 3 week raised over $530 dollars and sent 235 letters for soldiers overseas.
- January 27 is a half day in-service day.

Item #010417-001 2017-2018 School Calendar
- Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about the two options calendar options presented to the School Committee with the main difference being the first day of school starting before or after Labor Day. She is recommending calendar option A (with a start date before Labor Day) which is the same calendar as this year. The first day of school would be August 30, 2017. She spoke with the BTA President and the members are split between the two options.
- Ms. Ellis spoke about election in November and some of the schools are voting places and the school would be open. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated this was a topic at her last Town Managers meeting and the town is looking for alternative locations.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Option A for the school calendar for the 2017-2018 school year, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Superintendent.

Item #010417-002 Approval Field Trip Request to Body Worlds in Providence, RI, on February 10, 2017
- Ms. Mayo-Brown spoke about the Human Anatomy and Physiology field trip request to attend the Body Worlds exhibit at the Providence Convention Center.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve a Human Anatomy and Physiology field trip request to attend the Body Worlds in Providence, RI, on February 10, 2017, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Superintendent.

Item #010417-003 Update Policy JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students
- Pam Ciborowski spoke about the MASC suggested policy for Administering Medicines to Students. She is proposing having NARCAN in all schools. Other districts that have NARCAN include Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich, Bourne and Martha’s Vineyard. Many Committees across MA are not making this a policy, but a protocol.
- Ms. Ellis asked if this has to be in policy or could it be a guideline. Ms. Ciborowski stated that it could be a protocol and does not have to be a policy. Ms. Ellis suggested making it a protocol since medical professionals are always changing the way things are done. As a nurse she supports having NARCAN in schools.
- Mr. Murphy stated that Barnstable should keep the policy as is and let the medical professionals decide what the protocols will be.
- Ms. Ellis stated life threatening emergency should follow the same guidelines as an epi pen.
- Ms. Weber agreed that it should be kept as protocols and not policy.
- Ms. Weber stated that change was needed for other sections for the policy, but to take out NARCAN.
- Mr. Joyce asked if the nurses would stock NARCAN and administer. Ms. Ciborowski stated the nurses were trained last year. Mr. Joyce asked is this opened us up to liability. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated we can get a legal opinion for next meeting.
- Ms. Ellis stated all first responders are trained and carry NARCAN. It is an opioid reversal and does nothing to someone who does not have an opioid overdose.
- Ms. Weber stated we will get a legal opinion and come back next meeting with any changes to the policy.
**Item #010417-004  Update on the District’s Participation in the Regional Substance Abuse Council**

- Dr. Hurley, Director of Student Services for BPS, and Melissa Janiszewski from Barnstable County’s Department of Human Services discussed what the county is doing regarding substance abuse.
- Ms. Janiszewski stated they are putting on a parent summit and a social norming campaign “My Choice Matters”. The campaign targets parents and youth on how to talk to your kids about the issues and how to have conversations with your peers.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated she attended the parent summit and it was an incredible experience as a parent and Superintendent with great information and a very powerful message. My Choice Matters would like Barnstable to consider the campaign as a district. The messaging empowers students to make informed choices.
- Dr. Hurley discussed a graph from the governor’s report of overdose rates throughout MA. On February 8th, 6th and 9th graders will take a survey on the school climate, substance abuse and bullying to get a baseline of where we are as a district.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated the January BDLT meeting will focus on working on the whole child. The March meeting will focus on the campaign around “My Choice Matters” and how to adopt in schools.

**Item #010417-005  Discussion of BHS Class Rank**

- Mr. Clark stated the MMSA made class rank an exclusive topic at their meeting focusing on stress management, self-harm and pressure associated with exact class rank. For the BHS leadership team, this topic has been on all agendas.
- Ms. Clark spoke about the proposal to change academic ranking. This is about the social-emotional well-being of students. We want students to challenge themselves, but we also want them to be well-rounded and be able to take diverse areas of study. Many students do not take classes because it will not bump them up in rank. We want students to be competitive for colleges. Class rank can harm students in college process, especially many Valedictorians or the top 10%. Ms. Clark spoke about the data and research from college admissions, other MA high schools and students.
- Mr. Clark stated that juniors at BHS would like to see this as an immediate change. The high school administration was surprised. Parents of juniors would also like to see the change now. Students are not in a good place emotionally. We assumed something needs to replace class rank, but the feedback from universities is many schools are going with nothing.
- Ms. Clark stated that class rank has declined as being important to colleges.
- Mr. Murphy asked if this discussion was for informational purposes only to the School Committee. He asked if the School Committee would need to vote on this eventually. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that the School Committee would eventually need to vote on this.
- Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Clark if he knew what the high schools plan would be. Mr. Clark stated until the last couple of weeks, he would have said the decimal system was the way to go. A number of schools have abandoned class rank and have not filled it with anything. He will need to do more research. Mr. Murphy stated the decimal system would be a nice transition. Mr. Murphy asked about limiting the number of AP courses students are allowed to take. Ms. Clark said some schools limit, but they still rank to help students balance. If we make a move, that competition will help students to self-limit and take classes they want to take.
- Mr. Clark stated the number of students taking 1 AP class – 6 AP classes.
- Ms. Ellis stated that the School Committee gained insight from meeting with Student Council earlier. Student Envoy Makhai is taking 4 AP courses because he is interested in the subjects and wanted to be in class with his peers for the enriching experience.
- Mr. Joyce stated the next step is to get more information. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated this discuss will take place over 3 months. Next month there will be concrete recommendations and a vote for action in March. Ms. Weber stated that tonight was just opening the dialogue. This is an issue we have to take a close look at. The research from colleges is most persuasive.

**Item #010417-006  Update Policy KIB – Observations of Special Education Programs**

- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated in her meetings with parents with children with Down Syndrome, they brought up the language in policy KIB compared the language in the visits to schools policy. She wants to incorporate the language in the visits to schools policy with a more welcoming introductory paragraph.
Ms. Weber thanked Ms. Mayo-Brown for her work with the parents of special needs students. She asked is Ms. Mayo-Brown could explain the difference between the two policies. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated the difference is a parent visiting a school vs. observing for potential program placement.

Ms. Ellis asked if there was language for screening process or if CORI checks were needed. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that she would bring back the policy with different language concerning CORIs on the second reading if needed. SPED Administrators are always present for those observations.

Mr. Joyce asked if this is a state or local policy. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated most of these are MASC recommended policies.

Mr. Joyce asked if they have to wait 5 days for the observation or could it be sooner. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that it gives the parties time to schedule the observations.

Item #010417-007 Approval of BCHMCPS MOU for FY'17

Mr. Markwell spoke about the FY17 MOU of BCHMCPS. Most of the document is unchanged from the previous MOU - just the dollar amounts have changed. This is procedural.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve a memorandum of understanding between the Barnstable Community Horace Mann Charter Public School and the Barnstable School District confirming the relationship between the school and the district for fiscal year 2017, as presented to the Committee.

Item #010417-008 School Transportation Contract Approval

Mr. Markwell, Mr. Anthony and Sandy Gifford, members of Search Committee along with Ms. Boucher who was not present, spoke about the school transportation contract process. The current contract expires at the end of current school year. In August 2016, the Committee began strategizing with looking at the contract term and making available land for parking. An RFP was issued in August, in October they went to the Town Council to obtained permission to enter into contract beyond 36 months. The received three proposals which were evaluated on technical merit, interviews, and financial proposals. They were all vetted and references verified. Taking into account all the elements, the firms were ranked as follows: Five Star, First Student, and STA. The Committee is recommending Five Star due to its lowest bid, professionalism and the latest technology.

Mr. Joyce stated that Barnstable has had First Student for a number of years and Five Star is a smaller company. Are they bonded? Mr. Anthony stated their ability to access financial backing satisfied this question.

Mr. Joyce stated he has heard stories about major increases and wondered if Barnstable is going in right direction. Mr. Anthony stated they have the latest technology onboard, new buses, safety, cameras, and GPS.

Mr. Joyce asked if First Student loses the contract will the bus drivers stay and be familiar faces. Ms. Gifford stated the bus drivers are the most valuable and Five Star is going to want to hire them. They are local and have children in the system. Mr. Markwell stated there is a transition plan to roll over staff in Barnstable.

Ms. Weber asked if there were logistical challenges working with a company that far away. Mr. Markwell stated with today’s technology that will be easy to overcome. The biggest challenge was parking and that was taken out by offering leased property.

Ms. Ellis asked the Committee to summarize the budgetary effect of choosing Five Star. Mr. Markwell stated there will be an 11.5% increase from FY17 to FY18. Barnstable will see a 1.76% increase in the outer years.

Ms. Ellis asked if there has been conversations with Barnstable for purchasing buses for field trips and athletics. Ms. Gifford stated we have had discussions. Any vendor we enter into a contract with has language covering these areas. Mr. Markwell stated we have no right to be in transportation business.

Ms. Ellis asked if there were changes to the high school schedule with an early dismissal, is there language in contract. Mr. Markwell stated it will impact the transportation costs.

Mr. Murphy asked what the top 3 things on the Committee’s mind were concerning a new vendor. Ms. Gifford stated a smooth transition and safety of the kids. They will work with the vendor and get them up to speed to what our service has been. Mr. Joyce stated that any time there is a change; there will be a learning process. Ms. Gifford stated that in her reference checks with a district slightly bigger than ours, they could not say enough good things about Five Star.

Ms. Weber asked what other districts Five Star services. Ms. Gifford stated Chicopee, Hadley and South Hadley.
Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve a contract for regular and extracurricular school transportation with Five Star Transportation, Inc., for a five year contract commencing July 1, 2017 with a three year and two year contract options, as recommended by the Superintendent and Deputy Finance Director.

Item #010417-009  Property Lease Acceptance for Bus Transportation Services Depot Location
- Mr. Markwell stated an RFP for lot and service area went out in August. There was one response for 241 Attucks Lane in Barnstable, which is the current location of the buses. This property lease will be passed onto Five Star.
- Ms. Ellis asked if buses pay excise tax to Barnstable. Mr. Markwell stated yes.
- Ms. Weber asked if we would be turning the lease over to Five Star. Mr. Markwell stated that it will be our lease with a sublease with Five Star.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to lease property at 241 Attucks Lane, Barnstable, to the Barnstable Public School District for a five year contract commencing July 1, 2017, with a three year and two year contract options, as recommended by the Superintendent and Deputy Finance Director.

Item #010417-010  Approval Accounts Payable Warrant FY’17 Warrant #27
Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2017 Treasury Warrant #27 in the amount of $194,528.30.

Executive Session
Motion by Mr. Joyce and the Committee unanimously approved in a roll call vote to go into executive session – not to reconvene in public session – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Barnstable Teachers Association pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3).

Adjourned 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant