

The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 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 Bill Butler and Kristen Harmon, along with Student Envoy Robert Welsh IV and Town Council Liaison Sara Cushing.

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

Highlight in Education

During February vacation, several students attended a Spanish Study and Service trip to Peru. Each student kept a journal on their trip and read excerpts from their trip to the School Committee. These excerpts included their travels by bus, train and plane; visit to Machu Picchu; assisting in the construction of a community meeting center in a village; learning the culture by spending time with the villagers; playing with the children; and the lessons learned about travel, experiencing other cultures and giving back to the world.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Report of the Student Envoys

Mr. Welsh reported that the Mentors in Violence Prevention have helped to stop the Don McLean concert scheduled at the high school in April. The Anti-defamation League attended a Youth Leadership Summit in Boston with a focus on respect and diversity. The National Honors Society Induction Ceremony will be held on April 13. Regular admission decisions for colleges are coming out over the next few weeks. The drama club's production of "Godspell" starts this Friday. March Madness, tournaments for students to participate in after school including ping ball, dodgeball and basketball, is in full swing. Student athletes are preparing for the opening of spring sports on March 21. Congratulations to Duncan Chase and the BHS Girl's Gymnastics Team for being State and New England Champions. Tali Twomey was named best gymnast in MA.

Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

School Committee Comments and Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports

- Mr. Joyce stated the modulars were set last week at BWB. The HyWest modulars are to be set on Saturday. Thank you to Mr. Kanyock.
- Mr. Murphy stated that this is college acceptance season, so if you see a senior please don't ask them about college, they are stressed out.
- Ms. Ellis congratulated the gymnastics team. The time they put in is admirable.
- Ms. Weber stated she attended a presentation on the report of the study done on our students with Down Syndrome on Friday with Jane Jezard. It was well done and well received.

Interim Superintendent's Report

- On March 8, Mr. Butler and Principal Clark attended the 2016 Superintendent Academic Excellence Awards dinner ceremony. The recipients from Barnstable were Alexander Damiacki and Norah Murphy.
- Mr. Butler reminded the community that the Barnstable Youth Commission is sponsoring a community prevention forum and 7th grade youth summit at CCCC tomorrow night and the summit on Friday for the 7th graders.

- Mr. Butler also attended the meeting with parents of students with Down Syndrome on Friday. The presentation was excellent and there was a positive response from parents.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Harmon announced award recipients from Future Problem Solvers and Destination Imagination.
- Kindergarten registration is next week, March 21-24, at HYCC.
- BCHMCPS were the overall winners of a math contest on Cape Cod.
- March 11 was a half in-service day that included various trainings including Classroom Instruction that Works, problem solving models and student portfolio development to name a few.

Item #031616-001 Community Use of School Facilities Policy

- Ms. Weber stated the decision to cancel the Don McLean concert scheduled in April at BHS' PAC was made by his management team and not the School Committee or Superintendent.
- Mr. Butler stated there are amendments to the two Community Use of School Facilities Policies. In Policy KF, #8 the activities will be approved by the Superintendent rather than the School Committee. On Policy KFR, in paragraph two, the Superintendent, instead of the School Committee will consider individual requests. In paragraph 11, added to the policy is a statement about the School Committee not endorsing any commercial use of the facilities. There will be a vote to approve these changes at the next School Committee meeting.

Item #031616-002 Charter School Legislation Position Statement

- Ms. Weber stated a number of School Committees are tackling this initiative that lifts spending caps on Charter Schools. School Committees believe the cap should not be lifted until Charter Schools are doing the job they are supposed to do. The reports out show the data are not comparing similar students. The lottery system is tainted by sibling preference.
- Mr. Murphy stated the School Committee should draft a letter to our legislative delegation. We understand the issues and we need them to represent our views.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution: That the Barnstable School Committee strongly opposes a lifting of the charter school cap and supports advocacy efforts and legislation to reform charter schools to be equitable for all students and public school districts in Massachusetts.

Item #031616-003 Foundation Budget Review Position Statement

- Ms. Weber stated School Committees are adopting resolutions to urge the legislature to take action on what the report suggests.
- Mr. Murphy stated that the School Committee rarely takes a public stand on issues, but the two issues tonight have School Committees across the Commonwealth taking stands. The state legislature created a report and the executive branch encouraged it. The report shows the state's equation as to what minimum level of school budget is not right. We are asking them to act on their findings.
- Ms. Weber read the position statement.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to adopt a resolution calling on the Legislature and Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future, as presented to the Committee.

Item #031616-004 FY'17 Budget Presentation and Public Hearing

- Mr. Butler stated that he and Mr. Markwell are presenting the Superintendent's recommended budget. This is a maintenance budget with level services, limited program enhancements and flexibility for the new Superintendent.
- Mr. Markwell spoke about the major highlights including educational services remaining consistent, having targeted program improvements, no reductions in the workforce, increasing historically underfunded budget lines, funding ELL and Special Education enrollment growth and no increase in user fees.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the assumptions including revenue, step increases, enrollment driven personnel adjustments, level fund supplies, utility budget with historical data and known contractual increases.
- Budget expenditures include level service, contractual obligations and program enhancements.

- The budget is being funded with appropriation, circuit breakers, school choice and transportation.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the district's budget history including steady increases each year. He spoke about future years with revenue and expenditures projections.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the budget by Cost Centers including the HyWest increase due to the Crossroads program; Athletics increase due to shortfalls from prior years; Curriculum and Instruction increase for K-5 reading program; ELL reduction due to one-time expenditures last year.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the level service changes. Mr. Murphy stated concern for adding 6+ FTEs and if that is sustainable. Mr. Butler stated the additions are for the Crossroads program and there will be a reduction in out of district placements to the Collaborative.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the enrollment data with an initial decline several years ago that has leveled off over the past few years and projects that will continue.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the anticipated class size for each grade and the increase in ELL and SPED enrollment.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the Crossroads program v. out of district placement.
- In Athletics, Mr. Markwell showed the deficient each year and why more money is being added this year.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the contractual obligations including Step and COLA costs.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the program enhancements including preventative maintenance, textbooks at BHS and a K-5 reading program.
- Ms. Harmon discussed the need for a K-5 Reading Program. The data shows:
 - A decline in Grade 3, 4 and 5 ELA Advanced and Proficient MCAS
 - Elementary schools at different levels in Grade 3 Reading Advanced or Proficient. All the students are going into the same 4th grade school. They are receiving different experiences at the different schools and there is a need for consistency.
- Mr. Murphy stated we do not know what MCAS 2.0 is going to look like and there is going to be a ballot initiative in November on whether MA should roll back curriculum standards to pre-core curriculum.
- Ms. Harmon stated the new test will have PARCC and MCAS items. The overlap between Common Core and pre-standards is strong. Any program that is common core aligned would position us well for going back to old standards.
- Mr. Murphy stated he is not against spending the money, he thinks the investment is a smart idea. He is concerned about the timing.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the budget development process.
- Ms. Weber opened the meeting to public comment on the budget.
- Brooke Styche, BTA President, teacher and parent, stated she has seen the increase of ELL students each year. Adding two ELL teachers is essential. There will be more of a need next year as the number of students increase each year.
- Ms. Weber closed public comment on the budget.
- Mr. Murphy stated he welcomed comments from Meg Mayo Brown at the next meeting. He is looking on to the budgets of the future and the need to figure out the ELL needs going forward. We also need to think about transportation in FY'18-20. Preventative maintenance needs to be growing each year. Curriculum investment will grow in the future. We might need to make tough decisions.
- Mr. Butler agreed transportation is going to be a concern given other districts are increasing around 30%. He would add health insurance to list of future concerns.
- Ms. Ellis asked about School Choice numbers. Mr. Butler stated more students go out than come in. Mr. Markwell believes we need to look at the lower grade levels and can allow more school choice students into Barnstable.
- Ms. Ellis stated Barnstable should do an assessment for in-district transportation. Barnstable needs to think about how to infuse technology in educational learning.

Item #031616-005 CIP Projects

- Mr. Kanyock presented a short summary of the proposed CIP projects supported by the Town Manager:
 1. Charter School roof and façade improvements for \$4,285,375
 2. BUE light pole replacement for \$100,000
 3. BUE restroom fixtures and hardware replacement for \$375,000
 4. Districtwide pump flange replacement for \$70,000

5. Districtwide unit ventilator replacement for \$250,000
 6. BHS/HYW walk-in cooler replacement for \$120,000
- Mr. Butler stated on April 7 these items will be presented to the Town Council.
 - Ms. Weber stated that the first item was a result of not having preventative maintenance funds.

Item #031616-006 Approval Accounts Payable Warrant FY '16 Warrant #15

Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2016 Treasury Warrant #38 in the amount of \$630,317.82.

Adjourned 9:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant