

The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Chris Joyce, Committee members Mike Judge and Patrick Murphy. Also present were Bill Butler and Kristen Harmon, along with Student Envoy Saarah Murphy and Town Council Liaison John Flores. Stephanie Ellis was not present.

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

- Brent Jansen, DECA club advisor, stated the club offers life lessons. The students are here tonight to share their experiences.
- Mia Surprenant spoke about what DECA is, how members compete and the different types of events the members complete in. She spoke about her experiences competing on a team last year and individually this year.
- Emily Ahearn spoke about the costs of the events and their fundraising projects. She talked about the club's ultimate goal of establishing and maintaining business relationships in the community.
- Mr. Jansen spoke about the future of the club and the lack of classes that the DECA club supports.
- Grace Kilroy spoke about her experiences with the DECA club and competitions.
- Caitlynn Dawson stated she competed in a team event last year and an individual event this year in Marketing. The club and competitions have helped prepare her for college and life.
- Mr. Joyce asked how many students are involved in the club. Mr. Jansen stated over 60 and Barnstable is one of the faster growing chapters in the state.
- Ms. Weber stated she is impressed with the success of this club.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

Report of the Student Envoys

Ms. Murphy thanked everyone who came out to see BHS' production of Godspell. She spoke of the many awards BHS students have received. Teacher Mike Gyra was the winner of the Kennedy Center Award this year. Prom season is here and many prom dresses have been donated to BHS.

Public Comment

- Kathy Bent, parent of 4 children one of whom receives SPED services, commented that there is a slow response to the academic SPED issues that are brought forward. Last September, parents of student with Down Syndrome were invited to participate in a survey. The report, dated in November, was finally made available in March, when they met with the consultant. In April, they are still waiting to hear about the follow-up to the meeting in March. There needs to be some process in place to prevent this large amount of time lapsing.
- John Flores, Town Counsel Liaison to the School Committee, spoke about the plan to create a new playground at BWB. The original playground was deemed unfit and was taken down. There have been many discussions about how to replace the unique playground and not something cookie cutter. He supports the BWB Playground Committees' plans.

School Committee Comments and Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports

- Mr. Murphy stated the MSBA conference is in Boston this weekend and he will be attending. It is a great opportunity to speak with School Committees from MA and other states: to hear about their challenges and successes.

- Mr. Judge attended the Youth Summit last month and the Youth Commission did an excellent job putting together a forum about opiate addiction.
- Ms. Weber stated that she attended the Youth Summit, as well. Michael Devlin and his mother were speakers and were excellent. Congratulations to the Youth Commission.
- Ms. Weber thanked Senator Dan Wolfe and the team of senators looking at Charter Schools and budgeting.

Interim Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Butler stated the Youth Commission sponsored a screening of the documentary "Not Yet" last Thursday at PAC. He received a follow-up email from a parent who saw film and suggested it be shown to student in school. He has referred the suggestion to the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Student Services to decide whether the documentary is appropriate to use in drug prevention.
- Last month the Governor signed the opioid bill which has a significant requirement on school districts. Verbal screening requirement for students in a couple of grades for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as a requirement to update the policy. It will be brought to the next School Committee meeting for 1st reading.
- Last Friday, at the Cape and Islands Superintendent's meeting, a representative from Children's and Families discuss new procedures and policies. Also discuss was the increase in cases involving human trafficking and sexual exploitation in southeast MA including the Cape.
- There is a SEPAC meeting on April 7 at BCHMCPS at 6pm, where the election of 2016-2017 officers will be held.
- The girls' softball program had an increase in the number of students trying-out this year. As a result, there was a request for funding for a freshman coach. A donation from the Softball Boosters Club partially funded this new position.
- Mr. Butler included a memo from the zoning board of appeals dated April 13 regarding a permit for condo units at Lincoln Rd. Ext. and Castlewood Circle in Hyannis. They currently have 16 units with 2 bedrooms and 4 units with 1 bedroom for adults with disabilities. They are looking to add 8 units with 1 bedroom. Mr. Butler sees no reason for the School Department to object, but wanted to bring the matter to your attention.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Harmon congratulated the BHS music department for being named one of 2016's Best Community for Music Education.
- Mr. Butler and Ms. Harmon presented the School Department to the Barnstable Citizen's Academy on March 29. They spoke of the schools, staff and programs here in Barnstable along with getting a tour of the high school from Principal Clark.
- Congratulations to Kevin Harrington, a graduate of BHS, for finding a new galaxy.

Item #040616-002 BWB Playground Request

- Jennifer Mullin and Sally Vektorino, BWB Playground Committee members, gave background information on the old BWB playground. BWB has had losses this year including its long time principal, Halloween parade, playground and swing sets. They spoke about what the Committee has done so far and the plan for the new playground.
- Mr. Joyce stated the School Committee has been playing catch up in playground area. Barnstable has built 5 playgrounds in the last 5 years. He understands there is 30 years of history with the old BWB playground and that's the only reason this plan is being entertained. He asked who is going to be the point person for the community build. Whitney Wright, an original playground builder who was a foreman and builder, spoke about being a foreman for the new playground project. The people from the design company gave exact plans and oversaw the build with 10 foremen and the plan is the same for the new playground.
- Ms. Mullin stated she will be the point person for the project.
- Ms. Weber stated that the Committee and Town are looking for a way to make this work. The School Committee does not have enough information right now. She asked how they will get volunteers, will the company train and supervise the build and who is responsible for the liability once the playground is built. She is interested in David Anthony and David Kanyock's opinion.
- Mr. Murphy applauded the Committee for their big vision. There will be a playground; the School Committee needs to decide if it's the big vision or more standard.

- Mr. Kanyock stated that he and Mr. Anthony have the information. Mr. Butler stated he needs to meet with Mr. Kanyock and Mr. Anthony and present the information to the Committee.
- Ryan Coholan, BWB Playground Committee member, stated they do not have to do something because that is the way it has been done.

Item #040616-001 Community Use of School Facilities Policy

- Mr. Butler stated this is a revision of the school policy changing the approval body from the School Committee to the Superintendent to approve the individual, private or commercial use of facilities.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve revised policies KF and KF-R on community Use of School Facilities, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

Item #040616-003 School Choice Adoption for 2016-2017

- Mr. Butler explained that School Committees only need to vote if they are opting out of School Choice, but it has been this Committees past practice to vote on its intent to offer School Choice.
- Mr. Markwell stated the slots have not been published yet, but should be my mid-week next week.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to affirm the School Committee's intent to offer inter-district school choice for the 2016-2017 school year, subject to Committee's policy on school choice.

Item #040616-004 FY'17 Budget Adoption

- Mr. Markwell stated that tonight is the budget vote. The process started at the end of last summer and he explained each step through tonight's budget adoption vote. The budget is transitional intended to support existing initiatives while being flexible for new leadership.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the major highlights including the level services, targeted program improvement, underfunded budget lines, ELL growth and bringing some SPED programs in-house.
- Mr. Markwell discussed the budget expenditures, budget sources, level service changes from 2016 to 2017, contractual obligations and program enhancements including maintenance, high school textbook replacement and a reading program for K-5.
- Mr. Judge asked about the length of the contract for the reading program. Mr. Butler stated it is a 6 year program paid over 3 years.
- Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Markwell to explain the work with the town and the revenue agreement. Mr. Markwell stated there is a meeting with Town Manager, Superintendent, Finance Director and himself. They agreed upon a 60/40 split where the school receives 60% of the town revenue.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated she appreciated being a part of the budget process. This is a significant investment the community makes in the schools. With the MTSS framework in mind, the budget is designed to support Tier I and the reading program is evidence of this. There is a need for ongoing investment including professional development for teachers. Technology needs to be a long term investment as well.
- Ms. Weber thanked everyone involved in this process, especially the Interim Superintendent. The goal is to keep things steady and get the work done and we have done exactly that.
- Mr. Murphy recused himself on the first motion. Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to adopt a budget of \$3,682,519 for the cost center entitled "West Villages Elementary School" for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Judge, and the Committee voted unanimously to adopt a total budget of \$66,050,000 for the School Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, to be funded by an appropriation of \$63,119,885, subject to change depending on the final state aid received by the town, an expenditure not to exceed \$2,091,115 for the Circuit Breaker revolving fund, an expenditure not to exceed \$225,000 from the Transportation Fees revolving fund, and an expenditure not to exceed \$614,000 from the School Choice Tuition revolving fund.

Item #040616-005 Approve Accounts Payable Warrant FY'16 Warrant #41

Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2016 Treasury Warrant #41 in the amount of \$2,294,341.86.

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 conduct a strategy session for collective bargaining negotiations with the Barnstable Teachers Association.

Adjourned 8:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant