

The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Chris Joyce, Committee members Stephanie Ellis and Patrick Murphy. Also present were Bill Butler and Kristen Harmon.

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

Mr. Butler spoke about the Superintendent Academic Excellence Awards and the qualifications. Alex Damielcki and Norah Murphy were this year's winners of the award. He spoke about Alex's academic achievements and athletics accomplishments and Norah's academic and artistic accomplishments.

Approval of the Minutes

- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings on September 2, 2015; November 4, 2015; December 2, 2015; December 11, 2015; December 16, 2015; February 3, 2016; March 2, 2016; and April 6, 2016.

Report of the Student Envoys

No student envoy report.

Public Comment

- Jay McEachern, student at BHS, spoke about the need for a schedule change to 7 blocks of classes. Due to the MassCore requirements, some students cannot take arts or languages classes. Barnstable offers the most classes on the Cape, but has the least number of blocks.
- Vicky Mitchell, parent and Co-President of Friends of Barnstable Music, spoke about music education being a vital part of education. Students have to take the core classes, leaving no room for other classes like music. She is asking for a 7th block of classes for students.

School Committee Comments and Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports

- Mr. Joyce stated last Wednesday was the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on School Start Times. Busing is the biggest issue and there was a presentation from the Director of Transportation at the meeting. The Committee will meet again in a few weeks and look at the cost of busing given different scenarios.
- Mr. Murphy spoke about his daughter who received the award this evening. She decided to take art and music outside of school. He wants to make sure students follow their passions. It works out as his daughter will be attending Harvard in the fall.
- Ms. Weber congratulated Meg Mayo-Brown who is at the White House being honored as one of the country's great educators for her work in Fall River.
- Ms. Weber stated that she and Mr. Murphy attended MASC Day on the Hill where they listened to legislators speak about education reform.
- Ms. Weber congratulated Barnstable Little League on a successful opening day.

Interim Superintendent's Report

Mr. Butler stated he was going to forgo his report in light of the length of the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Harmon stated that Barnstable hosts a number of student teachers, mainly from Bridgewater, each year with 10 student teachers this year. Last week she mock interviewed a number of the student teachers. The coordinator of the Bridgewater program told her that student teachers that come out of Barnstable Schools have the highest placement rate.
- BPS is in the middle of PARCC/MCAS testing with two more weeks to go.

Item #050416-001 BWB Playground Request

- Mr. Anthony spoke about the details of liability of playgrounds as well as the build and procurement process. The insurance industry has ramped up over the past 7 or 8 years. The design, materials, installation and maintenance is where the liability lies. Having one contractor do all the work is what Barnstable does and is known as risk transfer. In a community build, there are more moving parts. There will be one firm who will design, one or more companies that the materials will come from and another company or community build that will install the equipment. If something fails, it's going to be difficult to associate liability. Maintenance can be contracted out or you could teach in-house employees how to maintain the equipment
- Mr. Anthony spoke about purchasing with a single vendor transaction. There are 10 different contractors on the state list. The company will design, acquire the materials, install the equipment and maintain the equipment. In a community build, there could be 5 or 6 bid contracts. He discussed the bidding process and timeline. When it comes to insurance, a single vendor is transfer of liability. In a community build there is more liability and the premiums will go up.
- Mr. Joyce stated that if BWB had never had this type of community build playground, then this wouldn't be a conversation. He has three concerns: purchasing, liability and maintenance.
- Mr. Joyce asked if a vendor is willing to take on the responsibility of construction with volunteer help, would they have the liability. Mr. Anthony stated it would be difficult to find a vendor to take on that liability.
- Ms. Ellis stated the charm of Barnstable is the village elementary schools. She would love to see the community be a part of this build. The actual playground has to be as safe as it can possibly be.
- Mr. Murphy stated the Playground Committee had some drill down ideas about who some of the people are that they want to use. We have to go through a procurement process and can't promise who the vendor is going to be. The community needs to raise the money it is going to raise.
- Mr. Joyce asked how this is dealt with in other communities. Mr. Anthony stated every town interrupts the law to suit their own purposes.
- Mr. Joyce asked if the Committee could set up an LLC for the playground. Mr. Anthony stated there is a 25 year life on the playground and someone has to be responsible for it. Mr. Butler stated the problem with an LLC is it requires ongoing compliance with state and federal regulations.

Item #050416-002 New Online Registration

- Dr. Hurley spoke of the online registration process. She spoke of the benefits including the ease of the process for parents and staff. She spoke of the steps taken so far and hopes to go live between June and August.
- Mr. Murphy asked is the kindergarten campaign will still happen. Dr. Hurley said yes, just the process will change.
- Ms. Ellis asked if paper forms will still be available for those families that don't speak the languages available online. Dr. Hurley stated it is the same challenge with the language barrier whether it's on a computer or paper.
- Ms. Ellis asked about the cost savings compared to the cost of the site. Ms. Orr stated there is a cost savings for paper and the administrative assistants' time. Mr. Butler stated there was a backlog at the high school at the beginning of the school year for registrations. Students missed school for a week or two. There were also overtime costs.

Item #050416-003 Marine Biology Student Field Trip To Yucatan, Mexico in April 2017

- Mr. Butler stated the Marine Biology students take an annual trip and this year's destination is the Yucatan in Mexico. He recommends approval.
- Ms. Ellis asked if the trip was over April vacation. Mr. Butler stated it was with one day of instruction missed.

- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve a field trip to Yucatan, Mexico, for the BHS Marine Biology Class from April 15 through 22, 2017, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Interim Superintendent.

Item #050416-004 Student Residency Policy Update

Mr. Butler stated with the focus on online registration, the residency requirement is outdated. There are a variety of different living arrangements today. The updated policy updated the definition of residency and expands upon the documentation needed for verification. This is the first reading and the policy will be voted on at the next meeting.

Item #050416-005 Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, And Drugs Policy Update

Item #050416-006 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use By Students Prohibited Policy Update

Item #050416-007 Drug-Free Workplace Policy Update

Mr. Butler stated that he is going to speak about the next three policies at the same time. The updates to these policies are required by the opioid legislation passed in March. This is the first reading of these policies and they will be voted on at the next meeting.

Item #050416-008 2016-2017 School Committee Meeting Schedule

- Ms. Weber stated the 2016-2017 School Committee meeting scheduled is based off the 2015-2016 schedule with meetings the first Wednesday of month.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Committee meeting schedule for 2016-2017, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Chair.

Item #050416-009 Assistant Superintendent/Legal Counsel Position

Mr. Butler stated this item would be tabled until after Executive Session.

Item #050416-010 Participation in Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) On-Peak Hours Resource Program

- Mr. Butler met with Richard Elrick, Town Energy Manager, and Charles McLaughlin, Town Attorney, about options for solar at BHS.
- Mr. Anthony spoke about an opportunity to participate in the ISO-NE program.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve participation in the Independent System Operator – New England On-Peak Hours Resource Program by Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the Barnstable School Department with reference to installed solar capacity atop various school department buildings for a period of one year.

Item #050416-011 Possible Lease of Ground and Air Rights for Purpose of Installing Solar Car Ports at Selected School Department Sites

- Mr. Butler stated as part of same meeting above, there was a discussion about exploring air and ground leases of town and school parking facilities.
- Mr. Anthony stated there would be a land and air rights lease for 20 years to build canopies with solar panels. Barnstable would receive payment whether the panels produce or not.
- Mr. Murphy asked how bids would be evaluated. Mr. Anthony stated he would evaluate bids with a consultant.
- Mr. Joyce asked about the esthetics. Mr. Anthony stated they looked at several properties and narrowed it down to the airport, high school and middle school.
- Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the administration to issue a Request for Proposals to lease ground and air rights for the purpose of installing solar car ports at selected school department sites either independently or in cooperation with the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Item #050416-012 Food Services Contract Approval

- Mr. Markwell stated the Aramark food services contract ends on June 30, 2016. He discussed the bid process and what the group was looking for: technical requirements, responses to certain questions and financials. On March 22, 2016, the RFP was sent out and in April two responses were received from Aramark Education and Whitsons

Culinary Group. On April 25, 2016, the group reviewed proposals and the initial ranking was Aramark at number one prior to the presentations. On May 3, 2016, both companies made presentation and the group ranked Aramark at number one. The group unanimously recommended a contract with Aramark.

- Mr. Joyce stated the past experience with Aramark is good and the Director is engaged and helpful.
- Ms. Ellis asked if it is a one year contract. Mr. Markwell stated it is a one year contract with a two year roll over.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal of, and award a contract to, Aramark Education to manage the district's food service program for the 2016-2017 school year, with options on the part of the district to renew the contract for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, as recommended by the Chapter 30B RFP evaluation committee,

Item #050416-013 Approve Accounts Payable Warrant FY'16 Warrant #45

Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2016 Treasury Warrant #45 in the amount of \$185,417.96.

Executive Session

- Motion by Ms. Ellis and the Committee unanimously approved in a roll call vote to go into executive session – 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); to conduct a strategy session in preparation for, and/or engage in, negotiations with nonunion personnel (William Butler) pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2); and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding the case of William Smith v. Town of Barnstable et al., Barnstable Superior Court Civil Action No. 13-00065-A, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3).
- Ms. Weber stated is regards to Item #050416-009, the School Committee has discussed the position with Mr. Butler and he has agreed to stay on at BPS as Assistant Superintendent/Legal Counsel.
- Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve a job description for the position of Assistant Superintendent/Legal Counsel, as presented to the Committee; appoint William Butler to the position of Assistant Superintendent/Legal Counsel effective July 1, 2016; and approve an employment contract for William Butler for the position of Assistant Superintendent/Legal Counsel for a term of one year, beginning July 1, 2016, at an annual salary of \$134,750, and on such other terms and conditions as have been presented to the Committee.

Adjourned 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant