The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, September 7, 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 Meg Mayo-Brown and Kristen Harmon, as well as, Student Envoys Sydney Crook and Makhai Dickerson-Pells. School Committee member Mike Judge 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.

Bill Butler
- Ms. Weber made a statement about Bill Butler and his passing. She asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Bill Butler. She offered her condolence to his family and stated donations may be made to the Barnstable Education Fund (BEF) in his memory.
- Mr. Joyce spoke about Bill Butler and their working relationship and friendship.
- Mr. Murphy spoke about Bill Butler and how Mr. Butler was a mentor to him.
- Ms. Ellis spoke about knowing Mr. Butler professionally and as a friend.

Highlight on Education
- Nicole Caucci and Stephanie Markwell spoke about the changes the early learning center has gone through in the past few years. They worked with consultant Mary Larrivee and she provided them with a status report. Ms. Caucci and Ms. Markwell discussed the early learning center’s program, mission, programming, enrollment and screening process.
- Ms. Caucci discussed the assessment tool and how there is an enthusiasm for learning with both students and staff. This year they surveyed all families and she discussed the results which were largely positive.
- Mr. Murphy congratulated the early learning center’s staff on their success.
- Ms. Weber congratulated Ms. Caucci on working with the consultant and doing the report.

Approval of the Minutes
Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Ellis, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

Student Envoy Report
- Ms. Weber welcomed the new student envos, Sydney Crook and Makhai Dickerson-Pells, to the meeting.
- Mr. Dickerson-Pells stated the 8th grade and new student orientation took place in August. Representatives from colleges will be conducting information sessions this fall starting with Colby this Thursday. Many clubs at the high school are meeting this week and in the weeks to come.
- Sydney Crook stated that on Monday and Tuesday computer labs were open for college application. A representative for the Army will be in the cafeteria on September 20. Fall sports are in full swing. This Friday seniors will receive their Credit for Life survey.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Superintendent’s Report
- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that she would be discussing the Summer Leadership Institute and District Priorities later in the meeting.
- Ms. Mayo-Brown stated Barnstable had a great convocation this year to welcome the staff back to school. There was a tribute to Bill Butler.
• Barnstable welcomed over 5000 students on August 31st. Ms. Mayo-Brown has been in all schools except BWB, but is planning on being there tomorrow morning. Student enrollment has increased 108 students from last year.
• Ms. Ellis asked if the change in enrollment in grade 4 was due to grade 3 moving in. Ms. Lovett stated for the most part yes, but there are students coming in and leaving the district.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report
Ms. Harmon stated that 35 new teachers were welcomed to the district at the New Teacher Orientation at the end of August. She spent 3 days orienting teachers and staff to district.

Item#090716-001 Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Presentation
• Ms. Ciborowski stated that this screening is part of a law that passed last year. Letters were sent of the parents of 7th grade students that the screenings would take place at the end of November or the beginning of December. The screenings will be for 7th graders this year and 9th graders will be added next year. The screening is 4-5 questions that the nurse will ask the student privately. There are follow up questions if nurses are concerned about answers. The cost of the screenings is about $2500 for substitute nurses and will be paid with a grant. The screenings will take about a week and a half to complete.
• Ms. Ellis asked how much loss learning time is there for the students. Ms. Ciborowski stated that screening takes about 5 minutes and they will do other mandated screenings at the same time.
• Ms. Ellis asked if parents can opt out of the screening and Ms. Ciborowski answered yes.
• Ms. Weber wanted to clarify that this is not a drug screening, student are just asked questions.

Item#090716-002 Superintendent’s Entry Plan
• Ms. Mayo-Brown stated that it is a best practice to have a written entry plan for a new Superintendent. In Phase I, Ms. Mayo Brown will learn about Barnstable Public Schools though individual and group interviews. Phase II will consist of sharing the data that was collected with the interviews. In Phase III, Ms. Mayo-Brown will make sense of the data and have a plan for where Barnstable Public Schools will go from here. Ms. Mayo-Brown discussed the individuals and groups that she plans on meeting with. She needs help identifying community groups that she should interview.
• Ms. Weber suggested she speak with people inside and outside of the district.
• Mr. Murphy suggested speaking to others regionally, such as other regional Superintendents.
• Ms. Ellis was glad Ms. Mayo-Brown included interviewing the police, fire and DPW departments.

Item#090716-003 Summary of Summer Leadership Institute and District Priorities
• Ms. Mayo-Brown summarized the 3 days at the Summer Leadership Institute.
• Ms. Mayo-Brown has been meeting with principals to go over their SIPs and will give an update at October’s School Committee Meeting.
• Patrick Clark discussed District Priority 1: Enhance the quality and consistency of curriculum through a cycle of continuous curriculum review and refinement in alignment with Massachusetts Curriculum Standards.
• James Anderson discussed District Priority 2: Build capacity at the school level to consistently design and deliver high quality, rigorous Tier 1 instruction aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards.
• Kirk Gibbons discussed District Priority 3: Create and embed systems for a multi-tiered system of support to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students.
• Kathi Amato discussed District Priority 4: Implement a comprehensive assessment and decision-making system to guide instructional practices.
• Ms. Mayo-Brown showed a video explaining social-emotional learning.

Item#090716-004 Delegate for MASC Resolutions
Ms. Weber suggested tabling this item to the October meeting as Mr. Judge expressed interest in serving, but was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.
Item #090716-005  District Legal Representation

- Ms. Weber stated the district needs to have legal counsel for a number of issues. The arrangement with Bill Butler was unbelievable. The Committee needs to discuss what is in the best interest of the district: hire a law firm to do legal work or post a job description for in-house counsel.

- Mr. Murphy stated that we need to have a contract with an outside firm or see if lightening will strike twice for in-house counsel. He asked Ms. Mayo-Brown to think about what she would like to do with the open administration position. This decision should not be rushed.

- Ms. Weber stated that the district has pressing needs. It might be best to continue the relationship with the outside firm Barnstable is using now. Barnstable needs to have counsel for contract negotiations and other legal issues.

- Mr. Joyce stated that Barnstable should use the outside firm under retainer for now. Barnstable will never replace Bill Butler, but as a School Committee member, he likes having a school attorney. Barnstable would be best suited to hire a school attorney.

- Ms. Ellis stated that it is not traditional to have an in-house attorney. It was unique that Barnstable had an attorney on salary. Bill Butler was an excellent attorney but also had institutional knowledge and Barnstable will be unable to replace Bill Butler. Last year, Barnstable had to utilize outside counsel and would like to see Barnstable continue the current relationship with the outside counsel. Moving forward, she agrees with Mr. Joyce that having an attorney on staff at negotiations and meetings is beneficial if Barnstable finds the right person.

- Mr. Murphy asked if there was any guidance needed now from the School Committee. Ms. Mayo-Brown stated Barnstable needs legal counsel relative to employment law.

- Ms. Weber asked if there is any action needed by the Committee to continue to keep the current outside counsel on retainer. Mr. Markwell stated that legal counsel is exempt from procurement law.

- Ms. Weber stated at the next meeting she would like to hear from Ms. Mayo-Brown and the School Committee seriously needs to think about their options.

Item #090716-006  Approve Accounts Payable Warrant FY’17 Warrant #10

Motion by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2017 Treasury Warrant #10 in the amount of $292,519.59.

Adjourned 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant