

The Barnstable School Committee met on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Committee members Fran McDonald, Chris Joyce and Patrick Murphy, Town Council Liaison Sara Cushing and Student Envoys Saarah Murphy and Robert A. Welsh IV. Stephanie Ellis was not in attendance. 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 explained that Ms. Gifford presented “School Bus Safety” at the Administrator’s Retreat in August and he asked her to present to the School Committee tonight. There were a couple of incidents last year where students were approached by strangers at bus stops. Ms. Gifford did research this summer and came up with materials and the following presentation.
- Ms. Gifford stated the first day of school went well. This summer she researched bus stop safety materials and there is not a lot out there. There is general school bus safety about never speaking to strangers. School bus drivers themselves are a great resource. They are the ones who see everything going on around the bus and around town. Parents need to get involved in getting their children to the bus stops. They need to show their children a safe route to walk (no vacant lots or walking past homeless shelters.) One suggestion is to have a safe house the child can go to if they can’t go to their house. Ms. Gifford handed out materials at the bus pass pickup.
- Ms. Weber asked if the information was available at the transportation office and Ms. Gifford stated it was. Mr. Butler said we will put the information on the Barnstable website.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2015.

Report of Student Envoys

- Mr. Welsh stated today was the 1st day of school and the sports teams are in full swing with the first football game against D-Y taking place on 9/11. There has been a lot of talk about the new parking permit system – both positive and negative feedback.
- Ms. Murphy stated the drama club is preparing for the 25th annual haunted house and the production of “Almost, Maine”. B2BTV Ch. 22 has four new interns filming and producing programs. Girls’ Volleyball has their first game tonight.
- Mr. Murphy asked if the parking permits have a fee. Ms. Murphy said there is a \$10 fee if the pass is lost.

Public Comment

- Steve Scannell of Hyannis spoke about the designer drug issues in Barnstable and wanted student support and brainstorming. Ms. Weber stated that the Student Youth Commission is made up of students on Cape Cod and had a drug education conference in the spring.
- Town Councilor Sarah Cushing stated an item on the Town Council agenda tomorrow night that allows police enforcement when it comes to designer drugs.

School Committee Comments and Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports

- Mr. Murphy congratulated Mr. Butler and everyone involved in the opening day presentation on MTSS. It was very well done. He stated that MTSS focuses on all children succeeding in school no matter what challenges they have. The strategy has been attached to tactical work through the budget process.

- Ms. Weber attended the opening day ceremony and presentation on MTSS, as well. The staff has spent the last year working on it. She also attended the Administrator's Retreat in August. The MASC Conference is coming up in November.

Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Butler stated the opening day for staff was on Monday. The National Anthem was performed by three seniors from Chamber Choir: Maggie Orlando, Joao Santos, and Raini Strong-Callahan. There were speeches from School Committee Chair Margeaux Weber, Town Manager Tom Lynch and BTA President Brooke Styche. The keynote presentation on MTSS was presented by Steve Kukik. Following the opening day convocation, teachers went back to their buildings to set up classrooms and attend staff meetings. Today was the first day of school for students. The Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center had an open house today. Everything went well today. As of today there are 5221 students registered at BPS, last year there were 5224 students.
- Mr. Butler thanked Dave Kanyock and his staff for getting the schools ready especially the Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center with the delay in furniture.
- Mr. Butler stated the BHS marching band received a proposal to participate in a Cape Cod Chip Company commercial. He wanted to bring this proposal to the School Committee's attention for any feedback. The commercial will be shot off site and transportation to the off site location is unknown.
- Mr. Joyce said he thought this was great.
- Mr. Murphy stated the company is a respected business in the community for many years. If there is an interest and cost are covered, then he is supportive.
- Dr. McDonald stated that this is a great idea if the band is interested.
- Ms. Weber stated that as long as there is no cost, she is supportive. She also asked about parental notification and permission. Mr. Butler stated that parents would have to sign releases.

Assistant Superintendent Report

- Ms. Harmon reported that the new staff orientation took place August 24-26 and there were 45 new staff members to BPS that attended. She introduced the new staff to programs, directors, educator evaluation system and MTSS. She noted they are a fabulous group with a lot of enthusiasm and passion. There are teachers new to teaching as well as veterans. A few veterans told her they had researched their move and they wanted to be in Barnstable from what they had discovered.
- Breakfast in the Classroom at HyWest began today due to a grant from the EOS Foundation. Students eat breakfast in the classroom rather than the cafeteria. Studies had shown having breakfast decreases behavior problems and increases focus and academic achievement. There was a 93% participation rate today. Food Director Dave Badot's role in this program has been incredible.
- Mr. Joyce asked if the breakfast was for the entire year. Ms. Harmon said yes, the program is grant funded by a family foundation and Barnstable is lucky.

Item #090215-004 Early Learning Center Cobb Trust Gift Acceptance

- Mr. Butler stated that Steve Heslinga recently gave a \$50,000 from the Enoch T. Cobb Trust for furnishings and equipment for the Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center. This check is the first of two installments with another \$50,000 gift to come next year.
- Mr. Heslinga stated that he is pleased to make this grant and commit to the grant next year. The Trust has firm financial footing and has the ability to make more substantial grants in the future. In addition to the enrichment activities each year, the Trust would like to help to enhance other experiences.
- Mr. Murphy stated the Enoch Cobb Trust was established in 1876 by a gentleman who was forward thinking to help the students of Barnstable.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. McDonald, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept with thanks and gratitude a gift of \$50,000 from the Enoch T. Cobb Trust for furnishings and equipment for the Enoch Cobb Early Learning Center.

Item #090215-003 West Villages Grant Acceptance

- Mr. Gibbons stated that at the end of last school year, officers of the WVE PTA came to him and offered a grant of \$12,000 to purchase technology for the school. The funds were used to install mobile smartboard onto the walls in the classrooms. Mr. Gibbons thanked the WVE PTO for their generosity.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. McDonald, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept with thanks and gratitude a gift of \$12,000 from the West Villages Elementary School PTO for the purpose of installing smartboards in classrooms at the school.

Item #090215-001 Superintendent Search

- Ms. Weber invited the Superintendent Search Consultants, Glenn Koocher of the MA Association of School Committees and Paul Hilton of the Cape Cod Collaborative, to give an overview of the search process. Ms. Weber will then present the Superintendent Search Committee nominees.
- Mr. Hilton stated the search is a cooperative venture between the Cape Cod Collaborative and the MA Association of School Committees. Once the search committee is established tonight, the next step is an orientation meeting.
- Ms. Weber gave an overview of the proposed schedule including opening the search on September 7th and closing the search on October 9th, screening candidates beginning on October 18th, conducting interviews the first couple of weeks of November, School Committee interviews and school visits in December and a decision by January 1, 2016.
- Ms. Weber announced the nominees for the Superintendent Search Committee: Margeaux Weber, Stephanie Ellis, Kristen Harmon, Matt Scheufele, Kathi Amato, Kelly Lawrence, Catherine Richards, Moira Bundschuh, Kathy Bent, Sara Cushing, John Norman, Sheila Burns and Lynne Poyant. Brooke Styche will be the BTA Liaison and Bill Cole will be the Human Resources Advisor.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. McDonald, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the list of nominees to the Superintendent Search Committee presented by the Chair.
- Mr. Murphy thanked Ms. Weber for getting the search committee together. He asked about the scope and scale of superintendent searches in MA, how many searches are going on, and what the average turnover is. Mr. Koocher stated that there are a half dozen searches starting up. Barnstable will attract the best candidates and end up with a very good Superintendent.
- Mr. Joyce asked if anyone has contacted them about the position. Mr. Koocher stated that four people have inquired about the position. The brochure is on the MASC website, but the search is not open yet. 85 – 90% of applicants come in the last five days.
- Mr. Joyce asked how many superintendent searches there were last year. Mr. Koocher stated there were at least 50 transitions.
- Mr. Joyce asked if there are only 6 searches now, are we starting too early. Mr. Koocher stated by mid-year there will be 25 and they know the superintendent is leaving often before the School Committee or the superintendent.
- Mr. Joyce asked that knowing our district and our pool will you reach out to people. Mr. Koocher said yes, we know who the candidates are. There are 1300 people on the list who will get the brochure. If candidates call you directly, please refer them to us.
- Mr. Murphy asked about a nation-wide search as opposed to just a MA search. He is not aware of a successful superintendent coming into a MA position from an outside state. He asked if this was a lack of knowledge on his part or is there something unique about MA. Mr. Koocher stated that some candidates come from out of state to come home or back to MA. He stated that they do not see a lot of candidates from outside of MA, which could be due to the regulatory climate and MA is not known for being the most welcoming of cultures. Many find the northeast daunting and they are terrified of the weather and snow. Mr. Hilton stated that you'll see candidates from New England. He noted that there was a strong interest with superintendents at the conference this summer.
- Mr. Murphy stated that Dr. Czajkowski is a fan of Barnstable as is her predecessor Dr. Greiner.
- Mr. Koocher stated there will be focus group meetings in Barnstable in September or October where the community can become involved. Also, an online survey will going up on the website in mid-September.
- Mr. Murphy asked what the average tenure of superintendents in MA was and Mr. Koocher stated slightly over 4 years.
- Mr. Murphy stated that Barnstable is not a starter district for superintendents, so we tend to attract candidates towards the end of their careers.

- Mr. Hilton stated based on the strength of the School Committee, district and financials, Barnstable is very attractive for candidates.
- Ms. Weber thanked everyone who contacted her about the Search Committee and chose nominees based on the balance of interests of all stakeholders.

Item #090215-002 Superintendent Goals

- Mr. Butler stated that he had asked the School Committee if it was necessary for them to evaluate him and was told yes. He is required to propose the three types of goals: Professional Practice Goal, Student Learning Goal and District Improvement Goal:
 - Professional Practice Goals: Visit schools two days per month to observe classroom instruction and/or observe principals and other evaluators engaged in educator supervision and evaluation.
 - Student Learning Goal: Continue to develop the blueprint for a single integrated, tiered system of supports responsive to the needs of all students (MTSS) so that all schools are familiar with, trained in, and utilizing the MTSS Problem Solving Process.
 - District Improvement Goals: 1. Develop a District Improvement Plan and 2. Update or develop a long-range plan for the use and possible renovation of school buildings (including consideration of the impact of potential enrollment growth and movement around the town).
- These goals are based on challenges that came up in the District Review last year. There has been renovation and maintenance of the lower grade buildings, but we need to look at the grades 4 – 12 buildings. Redistricting, either minor or major, may need to be looked at. K-3 has increased 12% in the last four years and they will work their way up to high grades. Mr. Butler asked that the School Committee consider his goals, offer suggestions as to what he should change and there can be a vote at the next School Committee meeting.
- Mr. Murphy stated that he liked the district improvement plan goal focus on the budget. Mr. Butler stated there was significant confusion on how district goals are related to and align with the SIP in the District Review.
- Mr. Murphy stated it looks like we are moving toward a multi-year improvement plan. Mr. Butler stated a three year plan was the recommendation from the Department of Education.
- Dr. McDonald stated he liked Mr. Butler’s perspective on site visits – a healthy and different perspective.
- Ms. Weber stated the district improvement plan has been a site based system. She likes the move from a system of schools to a school system. Mr. Butler stated the district improvement plan has not been in place when SIPs are required.

Item #090215-005 Approval Accounts Payable Warrant FY ’16 Warrant #10

Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. McDonald, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2016 Treasury Warrant #10 in the amount of \$385,966.82.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce to go into executive session, and the Committee unanimously approved – not to reconvene in public session – to discuss the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Ronald Beaty against the School Committee, which was received by the Committee on July 26, 2015.

Adjourned 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant