

The Barnstable School Committee met on Thursday, January 15, 2015, in the Town Hall Hearing Room. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Stephanie Ellis, and Committee members Patrick Murphy, Fran McDonald, and Chris Joyce. Also present were Dr. Mary Czajkowski, Kristen Harmon, Bill Butler and Student Envoys Olivia Brodt and Donnie Brodd.

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 on Education – Hyannis West 21st Century After School Program’s Service Learning Project

- Ms. McCarty spoke of the Hyannis West 21st Century After School Program’s Service Learning Project.
- Students presented their projects including Stella Randall and Neil Woolery’s “Books Games Puzzles Oh My!”, Kearstin Cotell’s “Pets and Other Friends”, Brianna Hanniford and Alecia Silva’s “News You Can Use”, Nicholas Seidel and Haley Whittmore’s “Healthy Lifestyles”, Jeremiah McMorrow’s “Friends of All Ages”, and James Urgiles and Izabelle Dereszynski’s “Green Paintbrush Planeteers.”

Minutes

Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, December 8, 2014, and the special meeting of Monday, December 22, 2014.

Student Envoys

- Ms. Brodt congratulated BHS teacher Ms. West for procuring a \$100,000 grant for the Science Department. The BHS Celebration Committee will be hosting their annual silent auction and comedy night on Friday, January 23rd. BHS Student Council contributed 1083 Toys for Tots in their annual drive at the high school. The Spanish Honors Society raised \$2,100 for Camp Sunshine. The Alternative Learning Program created relationships with 37 African students in Kenya’s Flying Kites Home and School for Orphans. The Military Support Club has over 40 members who have participated in activities such as putting flags on veterans’ graves and collecting items for care packages to be sent to troops.
- Mr. Brodd mentioned mid-terms are about to begin, winter sports are in full swing and the drama clubs “Anything Goes” is preparing to open in March. BHS Senior Justin Aristide passed away in December and a Go Fund Me account has been set up to help with expenses.

Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

School Committee Comments and Sub-Committee Reports

- Ms. Ellis thanked Ms. Boulette at BIS for her 29 days of giving in the community. Ms. Ellis commented that the Search Committee for the new BWB Principal is a great, dedicated, and eager group.
- Ms. Weber spoke of attending the first round of BTA negotiations. She attended the MTSS District Leadership Team breakfast last Friday. She and Mr. Joyce have had meetings and visited sites regarding the Field of Dreams. Ms. Weber and Mr. Murphy are on the Interim Superintendent Search Committee. There are two options: Interim Superintendent or a Leadership Team for the interim. It was decided at a the December 22 special meeting that now was not the optimal time to start a Superintendent search.
- Mr. Murphy stated that the Committee does not have to make the choose right now. The Committee will look at both paths simultaneously. Barnstable has a very strong bench of when it comes to its administrators, but the Committee does not want to overburden the administrative team.

Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. Czajkowski mentioned she has mixed feelings, but has accepted the Superintendent position in Lexington. This has been communicated to the staff. She thanked everyone for their understanding and congratulations. Barnstable has a strong leadership team and it has been a privilege and honor to have worked with this community.

- Dr. Czajkowski spoke of the loss and tragedies to the BPS community over the holiday season and asked for a moment of silence for:
 - Justin Aristide, BHS Senior
 - Billy Bridges, BPS bus driver and husband of WVE Kindergarten teacher Staci Bridges
 - Tom McPhee, son of high school math teacher Pam Peek
 - Marjorie Claire Roche, Mother of School Committee Vice-Chair Stephanie Ellis
- Dr. Czajkowski and Mr. Cole, as part of the BWB Principal Search Committee, sent out a questionnaire to staff and parents asking what is working well at BWB, what are the challenges, and what characteristics should the next principal possess.
- Dr. Czajkowski spoke of a transition meeting with the new Interim Preschool Director, Nicole Kucci.
- Dr. Czajkowski attended the CFAC meeting with Mr. Markwell on Monday night to discuss CIPs. The Town discussed their top priority projects and the School Department had 7 of the top 10 projects in the Town and 12 of the top 20 in the Town.
- Dr. Czajkowski had budget meetings with Mr. Markwell this past week. This year they met in administrative teams rather than individually with principals.
- There is a School Committee Workshop on January 21st where the topics will be Phases II and III of the modular project and a revised plan for the Field of Dreams.
- On January 22nd there will be a Joint Workshop with the Town Council and School Committee on the budget.
- Dr. Czajkowski spoke of the MTSS work that has been done with the district team as well as the building teams all day meeting. The teachers are engaged in these meetings, even staying after work to meet.
- Dr. Czajkowski met with principals regarding their proposed building schedules.
- Dr. Czajkowski spoke of the letter from the Zoning Board of Appeals for Habitat for Humanity. They are planning on building two houses approximately 2 miles from WVE. Mr. Butler added that the School Committee has no interest in this property. They are required to send notice to the School Department.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

- January 30th is a ½ day in service day where teachers will continue to work on DDMs. Ms. Harmon met with 15 facilitators this week and will meet with 25 facilitators next week for training. To complete the project, they need to have two DDMs by the end of the year for each subject.
- The PARCC test is 10 weeks away. To keep staff updated and informed about the test, Ms. Harmon has been sending out weekly updates on the test.
- At the December School Committee Meeting, the School Committee asked about the two half days of school during which time, the parent conferences occur in grades 7 and under. There was an 83-94% turnout in the elementary schools and in grades 4-5, there was a 93% turnout of the parents.
- BIS grade 7 held their fundraising event – Penny Wars. \$2000 was raised for the BIS Needy Fund which helps families during the holidays.
- BHS 8th orientation will take place on January 22nd for all incoming 7th graders and those in 9-11th grade considering a transfer into BHS.
- The support to staff and students during the holiday tragedies was tremendous. People came together quickly and gave their time. There was a real sense of family in the Barnstable community.

Item # 011515-001 BCHMCPS Enrollment Policy

Mr. Butler stated there was nothing new to report and the item was tabled until next meeting.

Item # 011515-002 Student Release Policy

- Mr. Butler spoke of an amendment to co-curricular and extracurricular activities. He added a requirement that no student may participate in any extracurricular activity unless the student's parent or legal guardian has executed a release of liability in a form approved by the School Attorney.
- Mr. McDonald asked if a family signed a waiver, does it apply to all activities for the year. Mr. Butler said yes.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve an amendment to Policy JJ entitled "Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities," as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Superintendent.

Item # 011515-003 2015-2016 School Calendar

- Dr. Czajkowski discussed the calendars options A and B and recommended option B with a school start date before Labor Day.

- Mr. Murphy stated that since Labor Day was late this year, that starting before seemed prudent.
- Ms. Weber felt if the school start date was after Labor Day, there would only be 2 days of wiggle room for snow days.
- Ms. Ellis stated that the half days in December for parent teacher conferences is disruptive and she disagrees with the two half days. Dr. Czajkowski stated that they would have to negotiate in the teachers' contract to come back in evening if the two half days were removed. Mr. Joyce stated that the School Committee could always alter the calendar if needed.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Option B for the school calendar for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Superintendent.

Item # 011515-004 Amendment to Community Use of School Facilities Regulations

- Mr. Butler spoke of the proposed changes to the policy including prohibiting tobacco use, dogs and other pets on school property, public use of high school stadium and track weekdays during the school year from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., public use of school athletic fields from dawn to dusk weekdays during the school year, public use of tennis courts 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and authorizing the posting on signage by the Facilities Director.
- Ms. Ellis stated that there are canine demonstrations on kids' day on school property.
- Mr. Joyce stated dogs are an issue with urination since we do have kids playing on these fields. The signage needs to be large. These proposed changes are for safety and health.
- Mr. Murphy suggested the draft policy be posted on the BPS website for informational purposes. He noted this is a change for the community and the community should be heard.
- Ms. Weber agreed that this information needs to get out to the public for comment. She agreed with posting the draft policy on the BPS website and perhaps have an article in the newspaper.

Item # 011515-005 Naming of the Barnstable Early Learning Center

Mr. Butler stated the policy for naming school buildings was being followed for the Early Learning Center except for the input of the School Council since one does not exist for the Early Learning Center.

Item # 011515-006 Approval of WVE Exterior Mural

- Mr. Gibbons explained the mural project was part of project grant and how a local artist has worked with the students to create the mural.
- Mr. Murphy asked if the weather would be kind to the mural. Mr. Gibbons stated they are sealed and made with weather grade materials.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve installation of a school mural on the exterior of West Villages Elementary School, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Superintendent.

Item # 011515-0067 BHS Program of Studies for 2015-2016 School Year

- Dr. Czajkowski explained the BHS schedule of classes needed to graduate.
- Mr. Clark went over program of studies explaining the gaps in classes and how those gaps were filled including more IT offerings, Mandarin 4, AP computer science, and an English language offering of an ELL boot camp.
- Mr. Murphy stated the program of studies is impressive, wide, and deep. AP computer science has been talked about for years and Mr. Murphy is glad to see it.
- Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the program of studies for Barnstable High School for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented to the Committee and recommended by the Superintendent and BHS Principal.

Item # 011515-008 Domestic Violence Leave Policy

- Mr. Butler explained the Domestic Violence Leave Policy is required by state law. It is a new policy that the legislature passed for employers with more than 15 employees.
- Mr. Joyce asked is this policy is just following the state mandate. Mr. Butler stated this policy parallels the domestic violence law.
- The Domestic Violence Leave Policy will be on the February School Committee agenda as an action item.

Item # 011515-009 Background Checks Policy

- Mr. Butler explained this Background Checks Policy will replace the current CORI Policy. The only difference is the addition of the language pertaining to new fingerprint requirement.

- Mr. Joyce asked Mr. Butler to elaborate. Mr. Butler explained that MA requires CORI checks for all employees which is a check based on MA criminal charges and convictions. MA changed the law to require fingerprint which checks the FBI database. Fingerprinting needs to be done once unless the Superintendent wants it done more often.
- Ms. Ellis asked if there is a change in fees. Mr. Butler stated there is no fee for CORI reports. There is a fee for fingerprinting and the process is more complicated. One must register online, go to an agency for the fingerprinting, and then the information is sent back. Fingerprinting is optional for volunteers and neither Mr. Butler nor the Superintendent is recommending it for volunteers.
- Mr. Murphy questioned whether fingerprinting for volunteers is needed. Mr. Butler stated people might be less willing to volunteer due to the cost of fingerprinting.
- Ms. Weber asked us to find out from principals if there are any volunteers not under direct supervision. There should be a discussion at the next meeting about fingerprinting for this subset of volunteers.

Item # 011515-010 Option to Renew School Transportation Contract

- Mr. Markwell explained in 2012, BPS signed a 3 year contract with First Student which ends at the end of this school year. In the contract, there is an option for a 24 month extension for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Mr. Markwell believes the cost is competitive and recommends the extension.
- Mr. Joyce thanked Mr. Markwell for the area transportation comparisons, as they show Barnstable would be receiving a competitive rate.
- Ms. Ellis asked if this was for a 3 tiered system and Mr. Markwell answered yes, but there is a cost structure for a 2 tiered system in the contract that he did not have with him, but would email to the School Committee.
- Mr. McDonald asked if fuel costs were included in the rate. Mr. Markwell said no, fuel costs are additional.
- Mr. Butler stated that no decision was needed tonight; the School Committee has until May to make a decision.
- Ms. Weber asked about the ramifications if BPS moved from a 3 tiered to 2 tiered system during this contract. Mr. Markwell stated he would look into this and report back.

Item # 011515-011 Early Learning Center Modular Contract & Construction Update

Dr. Czajkowski spoke of a recent meeting with Triumph regarding HVAC and the exterior of the building. She was told by Mr. Kanyock the contract will be signed tomorrow. She will reach out to Chair when the groundbreaking ceremony is planned.

Item # 011515-012 Approve Accounts Payable Warrant FY'15 Warrant #28

Motion by Ms. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve FY2015 Treasury Warrant #28 in the amount of \$88,969.35 and FY2015 Treasury Warrant #29 in the amount of \$105,711.59.

Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Ellis to go into executive session, and the Committee unanimously approved – not to reconvene in public session – to discuss collective bargaining and collective bargaining strategy. Meeting in an open session may have detrimental effects on the School Committee bargaining position.

Adjourned 8:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant