

The Barnstable School Committee met on Thursday, April 9, 2015, in the Town Hall Hearing Room for the District Leadership Council Meeting. Present were Chair Margeaux Weber, Vice-Chair Stephanie Ellis, and Committee member Chris Joyce. Also present were Dr. Mary Czajkowski, Kristen Harmon, and Bill Butler.

Ms. Weber called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

Ms. Weber stated there were three topics to be discussed at the meeting: PARCC testing, a brief presentation of the budget and the Superintendent transition.

PARCC Testing

- Ms. Harmon stated the presentation was going to be a progress report on the PARCC testing and the future of the test is unknown. First round of testing wraps up on Friday and there will be an end of year assessment in May.
- Ms. Harmon spoke about the test being performance-based with open ended questions, bubble tests and multiple choice. ELA had 3 sessions and there were 5 sessions for math.
- Her initial thoughts based on feedback from the principals: timed sessions were both good and bad; amount of planning and coordination was extreme; overload of communication from DESE; instructions not comprehensive; expectations on 3rd graders were excessive; special student populations struggled; and some students felt the test was easier, while others were frustrated.
- Ms. Harmon is glad we did PARCC this year as BPS will be a step ahead for next year. We will know how to prepare students both educationally and emotionally.
- Ms. Amato said the majority of students finished on time.
- A teacher commented that three of her students did not finish, but that had to do with their personalities. The students felt they did well. One issue was that some of the questions spread over multiple pages due to the test being on paper rather than taking it on the computer.
- Ms. Weber said she is hearing from parents about the stress level of the students over this testing. The testing is not a School Committee decision, but rather a state decision.
- Mr. Scheufele stated that changes will come over time to make the test better. MCAS started out a certain way and improved over time.

Budget Update

- A parent attending the meeting believes BUE has not had a lot of change while a new principal hired. So no big decisions for allocating resources were made until a permanent principal was in place.
- Dr. Czajkowski stated that over the last 2 years, BUE has been working on a new math curriculum: Go Math. There were no staffing changes and no budget reductions. There has been a discussion about the foreign language program at BUE. There was talk about removing a Behavior Prevention Specialist, but that did not happen. Also, BUE needed a Reading Specialist and one was added. The program System 44, an intervention for reading, was also added.
- Dr. Czajkowski went over goals for the FY'16 Budget. The highlights include a 3.5% increase from FY'15, \$2.8 million being spent on school facilities, and a focus on MTSS, Gateway and AP courses at the high school.
- Mr. Markwell stated the 3.51% increase is consistent with other districts on the Cape. He reviewed expenses including salaries/wages, supplies and operating/contract services. He went through the funding including appropriations, circuit breakers, transportation fees, school choice and the school savings account.
- Dr. Czajkowski stated the budget process began last October and changes have been made right up until last week. She went through a summary of the changes including the Quality Full Day Kindergarten Grant that was cut a few weeks ago. She sent letters to Senator Wolf and the district's Representatives to appeal to the Governor's budget cuts concerning education. She stated the next steps in the process are the School Committee approving the budget tonight and then it goes to the Town Council for their approval. The Governor's Budget is not set yet, so there could be more changes.

Superintendent Transition

- Ms. Weber announced that school Attorney Bill Butler will be stepping in as Interim Superintendent beginning on July 1, 2015. There was a meeting with outside council today to ensure a smooth transition. Bids for a superintendent search firm is on the School Committee Meeting agenda this evening. The School Committee will

put together a search committee that will meet with administration, parents, teachers and other groups and are counting on the district leadership team.

- Mr. Butler stated the message he takes from the School Committee is they want to make sure the district has continuity. The leadership has built momentum and they want to keep moving forward. He plans to focus on the same priorities that were the focus of this year including capital projects, union contracts, MTSS work and the construction and running of the ELC. There will be challenges and Mr. Butler appreciates the support of the leadership team.
- Dr. Czajkowski spoke of the new BWB principal and the search for a new ELC principal.

Adjourned 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant