

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT'S ASSOCIATION**MINUTES OF MEETING****9-8-09****ATTENDANCE**

Joe Hurley, Mike Messore, Nicole Varone, Karin Wetherill, Chris Barton, Laurie Lennon, Paula DeSisto, Tracey Hoyt, Anita Chiulli, Kathy Sanford, Camilla Hemingway, Mary Murphy, Pauline Groetelaars, Denise Javery, Lisa Browning, Tracey Rizzuto, Stacie McLaughlin, Sheila Quigley, Sara Donohue, Sallie Newton, Keri Cronin, Anna Clancy, Cindy Brosnan, Stephanie Edwards, Elaina Lucas, Susan Coogan, Dee Walton, Jean Douglas, Giacinta Drummy, Debbie Rota, Liz Halladay, Patrice Franco, Zoë Alley, Kristin Rojas, Janice Primiano, Ann Martin, Sue Grieve, Bill Daugherty, Heidi Dolan, Renee Reilly, Chris Cuthbertson, Robin Barlow, Kate Brody, Linda Johnson, Jamie Triebwasser, Martha Wallick, Judy Dennis, Martha Ellicott, Wendy Ridgell, Mary Mainella, Frank Mainella.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Co-President Karin Wetherill. She introduced herself and asked that everyone in the room introduce themselves. She announced that the Highlights newsletter will now be offered by email and explained that those who would like to receive the newsletter should send an email to the Parent's Association (bhspa@bpsmail.org) requesting the Highlights and Student Directory. This information will also be announced at the High School Open House on 9/23/09.

Minutes

June Minutes were approved. Karin announced that minutes will be posted on the Parent's Association web page after they are approved each month.

Treasurer's Report

Paula DeSisto presented the budget for 2009-10. The budget was approved as presented by the treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

Guest Speakers: Joe Hurley, Mike Messore, Nicole Varone

Joe Hurley reviewed the new homeroom schedule and reported that next month the exchange students will come to the meeting along with the new staff. He reported on new staff and new initiatives

New Staff

- New staff includes Nicole Varone who is now a Vice Principal who is dealing primarily with grades 10 and 12. She was formerly a Social Studies teacher here in Barrington. Sasha Friedman is new to the Social Studies department and is teaching U.S. History, International Studies, and Economics. Megan Corr is new to the English Department this year, and Ed Purdum is now a full time teacher after working as a full time substitute

teacher for the last few years. Joe reported that Science teacher Diane Siliezar had a baby and will be out on maternity leave for the first quarter. Amy Shenamo is substituting for her. Bob Marley of the Math Department is also out on a medical leave for 3-4 weeks as he recovers from heart valve replacement. Jackie Rodgers is substituting for him. Sarah Bhuta is out for a one year leave of absence and Chrissie Bergeron is filling in for her. Nicodemus McGinn is our new Chemistry and Physical Science teacher this year. Diana Baxter is replacing Colleen Friend teaching ceramics and another art class. We also have two new Phys Ed positions: Michaela Kenwood replaces Judy Squires and Justine Boisvert will be part time at the Middle School and the High School.

- The Science and Math Departments have smart boards in all areas and there is also one in a World Language Room.
- Barrington High has a formal mentor program for all new teachers. Mentors are trained for 10 hours and paired by department if possible with new staff. A mentor stays with the new staff member for one year.

New Initiatives

- Common Planning Time (CPT) will be held every other Thursday. This allows students to arrive one hour later, by 8:46 AM. Buses will run on the same schedule and there will be staffed study areas for students that arrive at the normal time by bus. On alternate Thursdays students will have advisory for the first hour of school.
- There is no longer homeroom. Instead students will hear the morning show during the first 5-8 minutes of their first period class. The morning show will not run on CPT days but will run on Advisory days.
- There is a new “no electronics” policy. In the past this policy applied only to cell phones but this is a simpler policy and is working well so far.
- The Administration is considering more senior privileges. These might include picnic tables outside the cafeteria for senior use. They are also considering a senior lounge but this is more difficult due to space considerations.
- There are changes to the High School web page. These include a new link to the school calendar and the addition of the names of administrators on the home page.
- The first dance will be held on Friday, September 11th. There has continued to be some controversy regarding breathalyzers. All students entering the dance will blow on a breathalyzer. Any student testing positive will be taken into the nurse’s office for a follow up test. Breathalyzers will be administered by Joe Hurley, Mike Messoro, Nicole Varone, and George Finn. The goal of the breathalyzer program is to ensure that the dance is a safe and alcohol free event.
- Mike Messoro explained the RTI (Response to Intervention) program. This is a national movement stemming from the No Child Left Behind initiative. If a student is under performing a team approach is taken to help get the student back on track. CPT is also a time that teachers can use for student evaluations and meetings.
- 9th grade MAP testing will take place on 9/22 and 9/23/09.
- NEASC is planning a visit in March of 2010. Reports have been written and need to be voted on and finalized by faculty.
- Finally, Joe Hurley reported that there was an intruder to the girl’s locker room after school on the first day of school. This individual was a 27 year old male who was later

apprehended in the Barrington Public Library. No one was hurt. Faculty and students have been notified about school security. Throughout the district security is considered to be of prime importance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

School Committee

Pauline Groetelaars reported that at the last school committee meeting SAT results were reviewed by Dr. McIntyre with the following results: 53% of students were 600 or above in math, 40% of students were 600 or above in critical reading, 39% of students were 600 or above in writing, and 92% of students took the test. There was also a discussion about swine flu with the recommendation for people to check the website for relevant information. The district will be monitoring absentee rates. Ron Tarro reported on the budget. He reported an approximate 491K surplus net of revenue and expenses. He also reported that state aid will be cut in 2010 from 2.6M to 1.9M and that the budget deficit will be made up of stimulus money from the federal government. There was an informal discussion about use of breathalyzers at upcoming High School dances. There was also a discussion about synthetic turf for the High School. Andy Souter talked about the surplus money from the recreational bond \$\$\$\$. He is looking for school committee support. Dr. McIntyre remarked that there is no \$\$ for this in the school budget. There is a \$6000 annual cost to maintain the turf and it should last from 12-15 years. The school committee will vote next meeting to see if 250K of money can be used for this purpose. Mention was made of PBGR (Performance Based Grad. Requirements). School Committee started reviewing the schedule and agenda for the future meetings of the 2009/2010 school year.

Denise Javery reported on the August 4th school committee meeting. On June 18th; the school committee voted to endorse the inclusion of language in the student handbook relevant to use of the breathalyzer. The committee discussed building a procedure for use in support of the administration to keep our kids safe. This is not a cure all but one small step. There was further discussion on the definition of the use of “suspicion less testing”. Testing all is inclusive and perhaps eliminates the chore of selection profiling. There was a proposal to secure language that allows suspicion less testing at voluntary school events. Administration can continue to use testing for suspicion during the school day. BHS Policy is that if a student does not pass the test, the parent, guardian or emergency contact is notified to come and pick them up. Student is then released to the parent. After a lengthy discussion, all members of the School Committee did agree to permit BHS to implement the “suspicion less testing” policy allowing use of the breathalyzer for entry into all optional events such as dances... etc.

Hospitality

Camilla Hemingway reported that the Hospitality Committee is looking for parents to help out with the refreshment table at Open House, and passed around a signup sheet.

Publicity

Nothing to report.

School Improvement Team

Lisa Browning reported that SIT will meet next week.

SEAC

Nothing to report.

Membership

Anita Chiulli reported that the membership committee is requesting that each family make a membership donation of \$20. This is the only money that the Parent's Association collects as we do not hold fundraisers. At this point membership has collected \$1200 from 80 families. A table will be set up at Open House to collect membership dues. Anita passed around a signup sheet for volunteers to work at the table and asked all volunteers to plan to work at the table from 6:30 – 7:00 PM at Open House.

Nominating

Stacie McLaughlin reported that all but one position is currently filled. They are still looking for one more parent to help attend School Committee meetings. She urged any parents that want to get involved to let her know as we can always find ways for everyone to participate.

Library

Chris Barton announced that there are volunteer opportunities to help out in the library.

After Prom

Linda Johnson reported that the After Prom Committee has met a few times over the summer. They will be at Open House and will have fliers to pass out at that time. They haven't decided on a theme yet and at this point no senior has elected to organize the After Prom Party for their senior project. The committee will have their own Gmail account and hopes to have a web page at a later date.

Bay Team

Sallie Newton and Stacie McLaughlin reported that the Bay Team is a substance abuse task force comprised by parents, students and people from faith groups in Barrington. They meet monthly and welcome new members to their committee. Their first event this year is family dinner week starting on Monday 9/28.

OLD BUSINESS

- Karin reported that for Mr. Gray's retirement gift the Parents Association bought a tree and had it marked with a plaque and planted outside the school. They also bought a gift

card for a restaurant in Kennebunkport for Mr. and Mrs. Gray. He sent a nice thank you note. Also, Suzanne Costa sent a thank you note for the gift to the library.

In closing Chris Barton reported that the Booster club is looking for help with the Eagle's Nest during athletic events and is also welcoming new members and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.