Barrington School Committee
Barrington Middle School
261 Middle Highway, Barrington
September 11, 2025

School Committee Chair Thomas Peck **welcomed** and called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM.

Roll Call: Thomas Peck, Frazier Bell, Tim McNamara, Karen Rasnick, Christopher Ashley, Doug Fiore, Ruth Corley, Heidi Harris, and Legal Counsel Aubrey Lombardo were present. Lillian Weinstein, the student representative, arrived tardy. Elizabeth Singh was not present.
Pledge of Allegiance

School Committee Business:
Mr. Peck requested a motion to seal the executive session minutes. Mr. Bell moved, and Mr. McNamara seconded. The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative. Mrs. Rasnick had stepped out of the room.
Mr. Peck further reported that no votes were taken during the executive session.

Mr. Peck requested a motion to move agenda item D to this point of the meeting. Mr. Bell moved, and Mr. McNamara seconded. The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative. Mrs. Rasnick had stepped out of the room.

Superintendent Report:
Mr. Ashley, Acting Superintendent, relayed the statement he sent to the community earlier today, regarding the social media post that an employee posted this week. The staff member is on administrative leave pending an investigation.
Mr. Ashley then announced many student achievements.

Mr. Peck reminded the public to avoid naming individuals during public comment.

Public Comment:
Anna Redaki - Ms. Redaki spoke about her disapproval of the social media post.
Molly Magnesium - Ms. Magnesium spoke about the troublesome social media post.
Jarren Ryan - Mr. Ryan spoke about the disturbing social media post and the upset in his family.
Kiela Daley - Ms. Daley spoke about the social media post and the SC doing the right thing.
Heather Ryan- Mrs. Ryan spoke about the social media post and the removal of the staff member.

School Committee Business
Mr. Peck requested a motion to move agenda item h to this point of the meeting. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Strategic Plan Update
Mr. Scott Fuller joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Peck thanked him for attending. Mr. Fuller provided an update on the strategic plan. Mr. Peck suggested scheduling a workshop to integrate the School Committee and highlight the strategic plan with Mr. Fuller, possibly during the second meeting of the month.

Mr. Peck requested a motion to move agenda item f to this point of the meeting. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Interim Superintendent candidates:
Mr. Peck thanked Kim and Karen for organizing the process. Mr. McNamara reviewed the process of the interim superintendent search. The School Committee agreed that the final two candidates for interim superintendent were excellent and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with both of them.

Mr. McNamara made a motion to appoint Mr. Robert Mitchell as Interim Superintendent. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.
Mr. Peck made a motion to authorize legal counsel to work with Mr. Mitchell to develop a contract for the position of interim superintendent of Barrington Schools. Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Peck asked for a motion to move agenda item g to next in the meeting. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

School Construction Project: Mr. Peck announced that the School Committee and Town Council will hold a joint meeting on Monday, September 15, to discuss the school construction project. He welcomed Project Manager Chris Spiegel, who provided an overview of the project, including the timeline, scheduling, costs, phases, logistics, upcoming meetings, and plans for ongoing community communication. The plan is to begin construction during April break 2027, starting with the High School, Primrose, Nayatt, and Sowams. The School Committee then engaged in a discussion regarding the project.

Advisory Committees memberships: Mr. Peck explained this is a yearly item to discuss. The committee discussed who was on each advisory committee. The committee requested to add the School Safety and Behavioral Health Committee (SSBHC).and eliminate SEL as those are combined. The Committee agreed that COA and Budget Forecast are not advisory committees. They will discuss the roll out for membership at the next meeting.

Personal Electronic Device Policy: Mr. Peck requested that Attorney Lombardo provide the committee with examples of local community policies to review and use as a basis for determining the final policy in Barrington. The student representative, Lilian reported what she has observed at the High School with the pouches, seems to be working effectively and that students are generally attentive to teachers. While students are not entirely happy with the change, she has not heard of any specific issues. The committee engaged in a discussion.

Donation from Lakeshore to Nayatt School: Mr. Fiore explained the furniture donation to Nayatt school.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the donation from Lakeshore to Nayatt School. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Donation from Lakeshore to Primrose Hill School:
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the donation from Lakeshore to Primrose Hill School. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Attendance Coordinator Position: Mr. Peck started the conversation. It has come to his attention that Barrington does not have this position. It is in regards to Attendance, Residency, and Truancy. Attorney Lombardo noted that other districts have this position. We have had to "borrow" the person from other districts. The School Committee and Administration engaged in a discussion. It was agreed the district needs support in place for students not coming to school.

Job Charter Initiative: Mr. Peck opened the discussion by thanking Heidi Harris for her great work on this job charter. Ms. Harris shared samples of her own job as the job charter. She stated a job description is flat and gets to what the job is. A job charter has more details and gets to the why and the how. It allows us to build smart goals in the job charter.

Field Maintenance: Mr. Peck opened the discussion about field maintenance. He is not suggesting that DPW not maintain the lawns. He is looking for expectations, schedules, and having care and control of the schools and property. The committee engaged in a discussion. The committee has a sincere appreciation of DPW. They want to eliminate confusion and work out a schedule.

BHS Assistant Principal Contract Addendum: Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the BHS assistant principal contract addendum. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

BHS Assistant Principal Contract Addendum: Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the BHS assistant principal contract addendum. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

MOA Acting BHS Assistant Principal: Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the MOA for individual assisting with administrative duties at the BHS. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Addendum to HMS Assistant Principal contract as Acting Principal of Primrose Hill School: Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve addendum to HMS assistant principal contract as acting principal of PHS. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Leave of Absence request BHS teacher: Mr. Peck stated that the committee and administration think very highly of this individual. They hope this individual will return to BPS and have a long career in Barrington. Due to contractual reasons, Mr. Peck made a motion to deny the request for a LOA of the BHS teacher. Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.
Mr. Peck asked the Acting Superintendent to relay warm regards and future success to this individual.

OM-25-29 Brier v. Barrington School committee and Barrington School Building Committee:
Attorney Lombardo provided background on the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Mr. Peck noted that, given the project, it is fair to say the committee could have done a better job explaining the purpose and establishing frameworks that would allow individuals concerned about sharing candid feedback to do so anonymously, while still enabling the committee to benefit from that information. Attorney Lombardo explained that it is common in Rhode Island to conduct interviews in executive session and then hold discussion afterward in executive session. Mr. Peck also addressed a complaint raised by an individual who reported being asked not to film during a school committee meeting. He clarified that the law does permit recording of meetings, though the individual claimed they were told otherwise.

Public Comment:
Lisa Daft - Dr. Daft thanked the committee initiating the Turf Field. She fully supports the School Committee. Dr. Daft also stated that many OMA violations in the past by previous school committee members. She also requested that they end DEI committees.
Jeanine Wolf - Ms. Wolf had objections to a contract with Momentum.
Benjamin Cho - Mr Cho spoke on behalf of the teacher on admin leave.

Consent Agenda:
Mr. Peck asked the administration to explain the Momentum contract. Attorney Lombardo informed the committee that it is for students with IEP's.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the open session and executive session minutes from August 21st 2025. Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Peck seconded the motion.The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative. Mrs. Rasnick abstained.
Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the open session and executive session minutes from July 11, 2025. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, and Mrs. Rasnick voting in the affirmative. Mr. Bell abstained.
Mr. Peck asked for a motion to approve the Open session and executive session minutes from June 30, 2025. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, and Mrs. Rasnick voting in the affirmative. Mr. Bell abstained.
Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the open session and executive session minutes from June 24, 2025. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, and Mrs. Rasnick voting in the affirmative. Mr. McNamara abstained.
Mr. Peck made a motion to table consent agenda item 8. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mr. McNamara and Mrs. Rasnick voting in the affirmative.
Mr. Peck made a motion to approve consent agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 3–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, and Mrs. Rasnick voting in the affirmative. Mr. McNamara abstained.

Mr. McNamara is not comfortable approving contracts he has not read. Mr. Peck stressed the need to have contracts available for the public and school committee 48 hours in advance. He will strike the contract if it is not in the packet 48 hours in advance.

Agenda Setting:
HMS bussing to YMCA, expand afterschool care,

Adjournment:
Mr. Peck asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bell moved, and Mrs. Rasnick seconded.The motion passed 4–0, with Mr. Peck, Mr. McNamara, Mrs. Rasnick, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative.

Adjourned:10:05PM
Approved: October 9, 2025