Barrington School Committee
Barrington Middle School
261 Middle Highway, Barrington
Thursday, August 6, 2026

Roll Call:
School Committee: Chair TJ Peck, Frazier Bell, Tim McNamara, Karen Rasnick, Liz Singh were present.

School Administration: Superintendent Holly Hageman, Assistant Superintendent, Ruth Corley, Alex Prignano, Matthew Bobola, Heidi Harris, and Rebecca Trahan were present. Attorney Andrew Henous was present

School Committee Business:
Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Peck requested to seal the executive session minutes. Mr. Bell moved, Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Peck announced no votes were taken in the executive session.

Public Comment:
Carley Sternborn, Maxwell Court, would like the school district to look into electric school buses. She is concerned about our planet and the emissions are 10 times worse for children.

Mr. Peck stated that the School Committee voted to hire a transportation consultant and that could be part of the analysis.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to move agenda items p,q, and r to this point in the meeting. Mrs. Singh moved and Mrs. Rasnick seconded.The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

School Committee Business:
Assistant Principal, Barrington High School Contract:
Dr. Hageman welcomed Drew Bernard to the meeting and spoke about his experience, noting that he is a great addition to the team.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the Assistant Principal at BHS contract. Mrs. Rasnick moved, Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.
The School Committee welcomed Drew to the district.

Assistant Principal, Hamden Meadows Contract:
Dr. Hageman welcomed Chrissy Squatrito to the meeting and spoke about her experience in Barrington. She noted that Lisa and Chrissy make a great partnership team and expressed her enthusiasm for supporting this leadership transition.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the Assistant Principal at HMS contract. Mrs. Rasnick moved, Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.
The School Committee welcomed Christina to the district.

Co-Director Pupil Personnel Grades Pk-5 Amended Contract:
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the Amended Co-Director of Pupil Personnel Contract. Mrs. Rasnick moved, Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Superintendent Report
Mr. Peck welcomed Dr. Holly Hageman to the district. He expressed that the School Committee is excited to have her and noted that Barrington is very fortunate to have her as Superintendent.

Dr. Hageman shared that she has met with staff, visited all of the schools, and met with collective bargaining unit leaders. She also offered opportunities for community members to meet and greet with her. Dr. Hageman noted that she has been in the office for 14 days and that it has been very busy but enjoyable. She expressed that she is honored to be in Barrington and looks forward to serving and collaborating with the school community.

Review of July 2026 Financial Reports:
Mr. Bobola reported on the district's revenue and expenses. He noted that the current budget surplus is $1.37 million, which is less than 2% of the overall budget. Mr. Peck suggested that, at next month's meeting, Mr. Bobola provide a more detailed review of the budget variances. Mr. Peck also noted that the current administration was not in place during the fiscal year budget development process.

Consent Agenda
Mr. Peck began by asking if any school committee members had concerns about any items on the consent agenda. Seeing none. Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

School Committee Business:
School Construction OPM Update:
Mr. Peck stated the project remains on schedule, on budget. Chris Spiegel will present the amendments.
Mr. Spiegel began by thanking the project team and the School Building Committee. He reviewed the Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract, budget, insurance, and schedule amendments for Nayatt School, Sowams School, Barrington High School, and Primrose Hill School.

Mr. Spiegel then reviewed the milestones and progress of the ongoing work at each school. Mr. Spiegel noted that the construction website includes videos outlining the logistics plan.
The School Committee members had several questions and comments regarding the project.

Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the Shawmut Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract Budget, Insurance, and Schedule Amendment for Nayatt School.
Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the Shawmut Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract Budget, Insurance, and Schedule Amendment for Sowams School.

Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the Shawmut Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract Budget, Insurance, and Schedule Amendment for Barrington High School.
Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the Shawmut Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract Budget, Insurance, and Schedule Amendment for Primrose Hill School.
Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Peck requested a motion to move agenda items L and N to next in the meeting. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Middle School Field Lighting Proposal:
Joe Merrill, Chair of the Barrington Parks and Recreation Commission, spoke about the Commission's discussions regarding the possibility of installing lights at the middle school athletic fields.

The School Committee discussed the idea and agreed that feedback from neighboring residents should be considered. Members expressed that lights could be a positive addition and indicated that they would be open to reviewing a formal proposal. The Planning Board may bring the matter back to the School Committee once a definitive proposal has been developed.

AlphaBEST:
Executive Education Consultant Chris Malone, Mary Russo, Regional Director of AlphaBEST, and Jessica Bullis, Area Manager for the Barrington region, provided an overview of what Barrington can expect from a partnership with AlphaBEST.
The School Committee discussed several aspects of the proposed partnership, including risk management, hiring practices, financials, insurance, waivers.

Mr. Peck made a motion to talk about District Wide Enrollment Projections next. Mrs. Rasnick moved, Mrs. Singh seconded.The motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, and Mr. Bell voting in the affirmative. Mr. McNamara stepped out of the room.

District Wide Enrollment Projections:
Dr. Hageman began the discussion by reviewing classroom enrollment data for each school. The School Committee was pleased with the presentation and review of the data. Dr. Hageman noted that the current enrollment “bubble” is concentrated in Grades 2 and 3.

Dr. Hageman suggested hiring teacher assistants or utilizing building interns to provide additional classroom support. Mrs. Singh expressed concern about the kindergarten class sizes at Primrose Hill School, stating that the numbers are not acceptable. She emphasized the importance of striving for smaller class sizes and requested clearer guidelines regarding class size expectations.

Dr. Hageman suggested adding class size guidelines to the agenda for a future meeting when the budget process begins, allowing the School Committee to discuss and establish concrete guidelines for planning purposes.

School Safety Working Groups:
Mr. Peck reported that the Safety Groups have been planning and meeting for approximately 18 months. He inquired whether a Behavioral Threat Assessment process has been developed. He also asked about the status of the Cybersecurity RFP and requested that the Cybersecurity Working Group meet again. Mr. Peck requested that Kate schedule the IT team to meet and connect with Steve O'Donnell.

School Safety Measures, Updates, and Next Steps:
Mr. Peck would like the groups to provide an update on the topics and areas they have been reviewing.

District Wide Strategic Plan Update:
Mr. Peck stated that he had spoken with Dr. Hageman about the strategic plan. Dr. Hageman will meet with the consultant to develop a more substantive discussion focused not on what the strategic plan is, but rather on how to build upon the good work and products that have already been completed and put them into a format that can be implemented during this school year or the next.

Student Screen Time Practices and Technology Use During the School Day:
Mr. Peck stated that screen time would be a topic for the September meeting. He noted that the School Committee has general concerns regarding screen time and would like to hear from professionals about what is considered healthy screen time for different age groups, how technology is being used, and how its use is being tracked to support students. The School Committee discussed their concerns regarding screen time.

Second Read Media Policy:
The School Committee did not have comments.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the Media Policy. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Engagement Agreement BSC and Brennan, Scungio & Kresge (BSK) regrading investigation Services:
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the engagement agreement for BSC. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Raptor Technologies School Safety Platform Purchase and Subscription Service Agreement:
Ms. Trahan spoke on the Raptor Technology. It was recommended by Steve O'Donnell. It's a device that all visitors scan their license before entering the building. Dr. Hageman has used Raptor and stated it is a very useful tool.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve theRaptor Technologies Subscription Service Agreement. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

School Resource Officer Policy and MOU:
The School Committee requested an overview of the mental health professionals currently employed by the district, including their roles, benefits, and associated costs. They also requested data showing the growth in the number of mental health professionals added to the district over the past five years.
Mr. Peck noted that there is a possibility that the Town Council may not approve funding for an additional School Resource Officer (SRO). If that occurs, the School Committee would like to explore alternative options, including the possibility of hiring an employee independently.
Mr. Peck noted that Joel, the district's current SRO, is responsible for coverage of all schools and is not assigned to the district during the summer months. He would like the School Committee to begin developing a contingency plan in the event that funding for an additional SRO is not approved.
District Website Review and Enhancement Initiatives:
The school committee would like the website to be easily communicated to all our stakeholders is essential and ours does not meet that mark.

Technology/Cybersecurity RFP Update:
Mr. Peck stated that the Technology Working Group will schedule a meeting to discuss the RFP.

Food Services Consultant RFP Update:
Mr. Peck stated that the district entered into a one-year contract with Chartwells and has approximately 10 months remaining on the contract. During that time, he would like the administration to explore other options for the district's food service provider. He noted that while the state recommends Chartwells as a way to achieve approximately 10% in savings, cost savings are not the primary driver of the School Committee's decision-making. The School Committee would like to evaluate the district's current food service vendor and consider available alternatives.

Transportation Consultant Update:
Mr. Peck stated that there are a limited number of transportation providers in Rhode Island. He would like the administration to engage a third party consultant, or professional to assist the district in evaluating its current transportation services and determining how to improve the next transportation contract.

Policy on Elementary Curriculum Pacing:
The School Committee expressed its appreciation for Ms. Corley's excellent work on curriculum. The Committee would like Ruth, educators, and other administrators to develop a policy regarding appropriate curriculum pacing.
The School Committee acknowledged that there are state-mandated curriculum requirements but noted that teachers have expressed concerns about the pace of implementation and the challenges associated with learning and implementing new curricula.
Mr. Peck made a motion to direct the administration to develop a policy regarding elementary curriculum pacing. Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Sandy Hook Promise Foundation and BPS MOU:
Dr. Hageman provided an overview of the contract with Sandy Hook Promise and the various components it offers. She highlighted the anonymous reporting component, which promotes a "See Something, Say Something" approach to school safety. The program would include training for adults and students in Grades 4–12.

Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve The Sandy Hook Promise Agreement. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Deferred Maintenance Log:
Capital Expenditures Schedule:
Mr. Peck spoke about the Deferred Maintenance and Capital Expenditures Policies, noting that building systems have become increasingly complex and that there is a need for an electronic platform to track and manage repair and maintenance needs. It was suggested that this topic be added to the October meeting agenda. The expectation is not that the work will be completed by October, but that the district will have a clear game plan for compliance with both policies.

Employee Handbook Signature Protocol:
Ms. Harris explained the process and timeline for employees to review and sign off on the employee handbook. The School Committee engaged in discussion regarding the process and suggested exploring options to automate the handbook acknowledgment and sign-off process.

Bus Transportation Policy/Protocol:
Mr. Peck stated that, due to previous concerns regarding students crossing Middle Highway, the district increased bus transportation for kindergarten and first-grade students. He noted that it has come to his attention that the building-level policy does not allow students to be released from school independently until third grade. This has created a gap in which second-grade students cannot be released independently but may not be eligible for bus transportation.

Mr. Peck stated that he would abstain from the discussion and vote on this matter due to the fact that it has impacted his family.

The School Committee engaged in discussion regarding safety concerns, traffic patterns, bus capacity, and the need for families to sign up for or opt out of bus transportation. Suggestions included allowing parents to provide written permission for second-grade students to walk home independently or extending bus eligibility to second-grade students. The Committee agreed that the decision should be data-informed, with input from First Student.

Mrs. Singh made a motion to add second grade to the existing kindergarten and first-grade radius for busing eligibility. Mrs. Rasnick seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0, with Mr. Bell, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative. Mr. Peck abstained from the vote.

School Committee Business Meeting Schedule SY2026-27
It was discussed that Katie would send the School Committee meeting dates for September, October, and November for confirmation. The Committee will work on finalizing the remainder of the meeting calendar. .

MOA with NEAB NBPT and Other National Certification Stipends:

Ms. Corley provided a brief summary of the contract negotiations and the work completed by the various working groups. She explained that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reflects the agreement reached and the corresponding changes to the contract language.

The MOU provides for a $2,000 stipend for employees who hold a national certification.

The School Committee engaged in a discussion. Contemplating whether to table the item or if it was part of the
Mr. Peck made a motion to approve The MOA with NEAB NBPT and other National Certification stipends. Mr. McNamara seconded. The motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative. Mr. Bell had stepped out of the room.

RCM Educational Consulting Contract:
Dr. Hageman spoke on the RCM Educational Consulting Contract which is grant funded.
Mr. Peck made a motion to approve The RCM Educational Consulting Agreement. Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Contract with Brooke Haberle Coaching, Consulting and Training:
Dr. Hageman spoke on the Contract with Brooke Haberle Coaching, Consulting and Training.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve The Brooke Haberle Coaching, Consulting and Training Contract. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

District Copiers Contract:
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the District Copiers contract. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

First Read Academic Integrity Policy:
Mr. Peck requested a motion to table First Read Academic Integrity Policy. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

First Read/Amendment Student Use of Cell Phones & Other Personal Electronic Devices:
Ms. Trahan spoke of the amendment to the Policy.
Mr. Peck requested a motion to approve the Amendment of Student Use of Cell Phones. Mrs. Rasnick moved and Mrs. Singh seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mrs. Rasnick, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Bell, and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Public Comment
None at this time.
Superintendent Announcements
Dr. Hageman read the new hires and welcomed new staff to the district.

Agenda Setting
Projected class size
Adjournment

Mr. Peck made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rasnick seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Mrs. Singh, Mrs. Rasnick and Mr. McNamara voting in the affirmative.

Adjournment: 9:45 pm

Approved: September 10, 2026