

The School Committee Goals Subcommittee met on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in the School Administration Building Conference Room in Hyannis. Present were Jennifer Cullum, Andre King, and Sara Ahern.

Ms. Cullum called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

Draft School Committee Goals for 2024-2025

- Ms. Cullum asked what the timeline for this Subcommittee would be in developing goals. Dr. Ahern stated a couple of meetings or however long it takes, but she did not foresee it taking many meetings to formulate draft goals for the School Committee.
- Ms. Cullum stated community engagement is a priority for her. She wants Barnstable to be seen as one town working together and not the Schools' issues happening in vacuum.
- Ms. Cullum asked Mr. King for his thoughts on School Committee goals for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Mr. King stated teaching and learning is important to him. He wants to retain the high achieving students in the district and address some deficits, such as MCAS scores. He wants to support the growing population of EL students.
- Ms. Cullum suggested a goal might be to invite more groups to the School Committee meetings to highlight different group to the community of Barnstable.
- Dr. Ahern stated the metrics that schools are judged by, such as MCAS scores and AP numbers, is not the end all be all.
- Ms. Cullum is interested in having dual language learning in Barnstable Schools. Dr. Ahern stated it would be a huge draw.
- Dr. Ahern stated there is a movement in shifting schools learning models. Ms. Cullum believes having EL students is an asset, rather than a liability.
- Mr. King spoke about having language classes at the elementary level. Ms. Cullum spoke about her experience learning Spanish.
- Ms. Cullum suggested having mini-Workshops during the School Committee meetings to educate the community.
- Dr. Ahern spoke about having a meeting a couple of times a year with all the PTO leaders. There are equity issues based on the funding of the PTOs. This would be an action item for a broader community engagement goal.
- Ms. Cullum wants to get the word out about what is going on in the schools to the community, so they are invested when the Schools ask for the debt exclusion.
- Mr. King said there is a communication piece for the School Committee that can be incorporated into a goal. There are school employees that grew up in Barnstable and love being a part of the school and community that they grew up in.
- Ms. Cullum stated the more the community is involved in the schools, the more there will be a sense of belonging and pride with the homegrown employees in the Town.
- Mr. King stated he gives a slide show of the good things happening in the schools each School Committee meeting because he felt that was not being communicated to the community. The district needs to acknowledge the number of high needs students in the schools today. The district is different demographically than it was 10 or 20 years ago. He wants the staff feel supported with the changes the district is experiencing.
- Ms. Cullum spoke about the appreciation of the Police Department in Barnstable and the Blue Coat Group that receives donations from the community to purchase items for the Police that the budget is not able to capture.
- Dr. Ahern stated that the conversation is circling around community engagement and communication towards teaching and learning. She brought up the Facilities needs as another possible goal.
- Dr. Ahern spoke about the return on investment to the community with the education of the students.
- Ms. Cullum spoke about having a 20 minutes presentation on various topics at every School Committee meeting.
- Ms. Cullum suggested speaking with Mark Ells about providing information in a collaborative manner.
- Dr. Ahern stated there are vacancies in the Schools due to the cost of living and lack of affordable housing in the area.
- Ms. Cullum spoke about highlighting one teacher at each School Committee meeting in recognition of the work they are doing.
- Ms. Cullum spoke about listening and solving problems of the staff members, even if they are small issues.

Next Steps

- Dr. Ahern stated she will synthesize the discussion today into a few big buckets for potential goals.
- Ms. Cullum suggested meeting prior to the June School Committee meeting and presenting the draft School Committee goals at the June meeting.
- The Committee agreed the next meeting will be May 29 at 4:00PM.

Motion by Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:14PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant