



Barrington Public Schools

Empowering All Students to Excel

FY17-18 Budget Update 4/26/2017

Good afternoon:

I am writing to update you on the budget development process for the 2017-2018 school year. Last night, by a 4-1 vote, the Committee on Appropriations (COA) voted to allocate \$47,966,398 million to the Barrington Schools for next year, the same amount as the allocation for the current year. In doing so, the COA rejected the proposal the Barrington School Committee submitted on April 11 for \$49,168,846 million, which included the increased costs of operating the school district next year.

It is important to understand that with this proposed allocation, the Barrington Public Schools cannot fully maintain the programs and services currently provided. The COA's recommendation does not take into account, for example, the \$794k increase associated with contractual obligations for staff salaries and benefits, nor the \$370k increase in special education services. Therefore, if the current allocation is not increased, we will be forced to identify approximately \$1.2 million in reductions from programs and services for next year.

We realize that members of our school community have numerous questions about which cuts the administration will propose for the School Committee's consideration. We are exploring various options across the board, with a goal of minimizing the impact on teaching and learning to the extent possible. However, in order to meet all state and federal mandates, as well as our contractual obligations, we will have to make difficult decisions to account for the shortfall in expected local funding.

We will continue to keep you informed. Please note the following upcoming steps in the budget deliberation process:

The School Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss the latest developments: Thursday, April 27, 7:00pm, School Committee Room, Town Hall.

The COA recommendation will be presented to the public at the Budget Hearing: Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 pm at the Barrington Middle School.

Residents will vote on the COA's final recommendations on the Town and School Budget at the Town Financial Meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 7:00 pm, Barrington High School Auditorium.

Thank you for your continued patience and support. We will continue to work diligently to secure the financial resources needed to provide an outstanding education to the students of our community.

Sincerely

Michael Messore

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