

Minutes of School Committee Budget Workshop 02/04/2016

A budget workshop of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Guida, Ms. Odjakjian, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, and Mr. Tarro. Dr. Shea arrived at 8:20 p.m.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Guida moved and Mrs. Clancy seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Megan Crossman, Barrington Middle School, Mathematics Specialist. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore announced the resignation of Mr. Patrick Sullivan, Barrington High School, Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach.

Budget Workshop

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro described the basis for the proposed operating budget for FY 2016-2017.

Mr. Messore stated that the proposed budget is aligned with the District Strategic Plan and will support curriculum and instruction; a budget overview included continuation of the school safety FY16 initiative with the School Resource Officer in a joint municipal/schools collaboration, and the capital program for school improvement efforts to address identified safety needs on elementary playgrounds and to provide continued support for Year 2 of the 1:1 initiative per the District Technology Plan approved in December, 2014.

Mr. Tarro provided enrollment history comparison data and enrollment projection comparison data incorporating data from both the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and the McKibben Demographic Research report. Mr. Tarro reviewed the following FY17 budget components: external factors, major budget categories in the operating and capital budgets, and staff reconciliation. FY17 new initiatives include an increase in the transportation contract for the change in school start times, a proposed increase of 5.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions including 1 FTE social worker for PreK-5, 1 FTE Instructional Coach at Hampden Meadows School, 3 FTE K-3 Intervention Specialists and (0.5) FTE Barrington Middle School Technology Fellowship and a proposed (0.6) FTE at Barrington High School, World Languages, to meet increased course enrollment needs.

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro provided budget highlights data including a total increase in the proposed operating budget of \$1,879,491 or 3.98% for a total of \$49,048,280. The Capital Budget for Technology is \$275,000 and the Capital Budget for School Improvement on the Elementary Playgrounds (funded from the School Capital Reserve account) is \$100,000. The tax impact for the proposed operating budget, including the FY16 State Aid Estimated Increase of \$120,669, is \$1,758,822 or 3.73%.

Mr. Tarro noted that the previous anticipated increase in State Aid was \$340,000; the anticipated reduction in State Aid in the Governor's proposed budget reflects a change in the State Share Ratio

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relative to Poverty, Enrollment and property assessed value in Barrington. FY17 and FY18 will be the final two years of increases in State Aid in the School Funding Formula as enacted in 2010.

The School Committee asked a number of questions of the Administration, including questions relative to the return on investment for current program initiatives, clarification of the roles and job descriptions of the instructional coach and intervention specialists per the proposed increase in FTEs, the impact of the anticipated increase in enrollment of 60 students at Barrington High School due to the size of the current Grade 8 student cohort, and evaluation of the capacity and efficiency of current teaching loads to ensure that staffing matches enrollment needs.

Dr. Shea arrived at the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

School Committee members posed a series of final questions, asking for additional details from the Administration including the current complement of instructional coaches by building, the possibilities under consideration to shift funds to accommodate identified teaching and learning needs and closer scrutiny to evaluate all programs to maximize efficiency for reallocation of personnel.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 8:25 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation with National Education Association Barrington (NEAB) and United Steelworkers. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Guida moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Guida moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 8:43 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Shea, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.