

## **MINUTES**

### **JOINT MEETING**

#### **BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE. BARRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL. BARRINGTON COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.**

**Thursday, May 12, 2016**

**7:00 p.m.**

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM**

The Barrington School Committee, Barrington Town Council and Barrington Committee on Appropriations held a Joint Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2016 in the School Committee Meeting Room, Administration Building.

Barrington Town Council President Dr. June Sager Speakman called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Barrington School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody continued the School Committee meeting post recess from its 6:00 p.m. meeting at 7:10 p.m. Barrington Committee on Appropriations Chair Mr. Geoffrey Grove called the Committee on Appropriations meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Town Council Vice President Ms. Kate Weymouth and members Mr. Michael Carroll, Mr. Steven Primiano and Ms. Ann Strong, School Committee members Mr. John Alessandro, Mrs. Anna Clancy and Mr. Patrick Guida, Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., Superintendent of Schools Michael B. Messoro, III, Barrington Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, and Barrington Public Schools Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald D. Tarro. School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Robert Shea, Jr. was absent. Committee on Appropriations Vice Chair Mr. Chad Mollica and members Mr. Peter Dennehy and Ms. Melissa Horne were present at the meeting; absent was member Mr. Richard Staples. Invited guests present at the Joint Meeting were Mr. Samuel Bradner, The Peregrine Group, Mr. Brian Solywoda, Kaestle Boos Associates, Mr. Daniel Tavares, Compass Group Architecture, Owners Project Manager for the Barrington Middle School Building Project, and Mr. Lawrence Trim, Kaestle Boos Associates.

Mrs. Brody reviewed the rationale for the sense of urgency relative to the timeline for requesting Town Council consideration of a request from the School Committee for endorsement of a resolution in support of enabling legislation for a bond referendum for a new Barrington Middle School. Mrs. Brody noted that Representative Joy Hearn, D-66, had provided the School Committee, at its April 14, 2016 meeting, with an overview of the timeline for the legislative process as it relates to the Barrington Middle School Building project. Representative Hearn had stressed the importance of having a bill submitted to the General Assembly by the end of May to ensure that it is placed into the pipeline for a floor vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to the end of the current legislative session in June, 2016. Representative Hearn noted that there were multiple bills, including sponsored legislation, that were not heard in the last legislative session due to its adjournment in early June, 2015.

Mr. Guida, Barrington Middle School Building Committee Co Chair, led the discussion relative to the media presentation on the Barrington Middle School project. He noted that the Building Committee, by unanimous vote at its May 9, 2016 meeting, recommended "to the School Committee and Town Council that they present to the General Assembly and the Rhode Island Department of Education that Barrington desires to build a new Middle School for Grades 6-8 as detailed to date by the preliminary plan and project budget prepared by Kaestle Boos Associates for an amount not to exceed \$74,604,818. The Committee acknowledges that the estimated project cost has already been decreased by approximately

\$10 million and further recommends that the design and cost estimate process continue to reduce the total cost of the project.”

Discussion topics included the clarification of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning, rationale for collaborative space in the building design, current status of the existing building, contingency costs as a percentage of the total project cost, differentiation of stages in the construction design process and clarification of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) formula used to determine the School Construction Reimbursement (Housing Aid) for Barrington. Mr. Dan Tavares, in response to a question relative to the rationale for the escalation in project costs given the status of the Rhode Island economy, cited a number of factors including increased costs of materials in the construction industry at 3% per year with an average of 16% over the past 4-5 years and a spike in 2015; he noted that the workforce boundaries between Rhode Island and Massachusetts are virtually invisible, as pressure from the Boston market has had a profound impact on the Rhode Island market.

A lengthy discussion was conducted relative to concerns about the total estimated project costs and its associated burdens to Barrington taxpayers. The moratorium on new school construction in Rhode Island has impacted the ability to obtain current valid reference data. Thus, comparative reference for new middle school construction in Massachusetts cites 2015 estimated construction and total project budget cost data at schematic design for nine (9) new schools at a range between \$415 and \$572 cost per square foot.

The School Committee, prior to the discussion relative to the request for Town Council endorsement of a resolution in support of enabling legislation for a bond referendum, voted to arrive at a “not to exceed” cost of \$68,400,000 for a new Barrington Middle School. Mrs. Clancy moved, and Mrs. Brody seconded the motion, to reduce the “not to exceed” amount from \$74,604,818 (per recommendation of the Building Committee) to \$68,400,000 for the resolution for the bond referendum. The motion carried by unanimous vote, with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion. Mrs. Brody noted that the basis for the reduction of \$6,204,818 (8.3%) was the Massachusetts current reference data; a \$450 per square foot cost for the current new construction schematic plan design estimate of 152,000 square feet yields the total of \$68,400,000.

The Town Council conducted a discussion including concerns relative to the specificity of the language for the proposed resolution. Mr. Carroll moved, seconded by Mrs. Weymouth, that the Council hereby accepts the request by the School Committee to place on the November 2016 ballot a referendum authorizing the expenditure of up to \$68.4 million for the construction of a new middle school contingent upon a commitment from the State of Rhode Island of a sum equal to 35% reimbursement of the amount deemed eligible by the State for the construction project, and, further, that the Town’s delegation to the General Assembly propose appropriate legislation authorizing the bond referendum and that legal counsel be engaged to draft said legislation. The motion passed 3-2; in favor, Mrs. Speakman, Mrs. Weymouth and Mr. Carroll; and opposed, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Primiano.

Mrs. Brody thanked the Town Council for providing the opportunity to progress to the next step in the legislative process for consideration of a new Barrington Middle School.

Mr. Guida moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded the motion, to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:44 p.m. Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mrs. Clancy and Mr. Guida voted in the affirmative for the motion.