

MINUTES

JOINT LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND BARRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, November 16, 2015

8:00 a.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM

The Barrington School Committee and Barrington Town Council held a Joint Legislative Breakfast with Representative Joy Hearn (D-66), Representative Jan Malik (D-67) and Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne (D-32) on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the School Committee Meeting Room.

Barrington Town Council President Dr. June Sager Speakman called the Town Council meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Barrington School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody called the School Committee meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Present were Town Council Vice President Ms. Kate Weymouth and members Mr. Michael Carroll, Mr. Steven Primiano and Ms. Ann Strong, School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Robert Shea and members Mr. John Alessandro and Mr. Patrick Guida, Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., Town of Barrington Finance Director Ms. Kathy Raposa, Superintendent of Schools Michael B. Messore, III, and Barrington Public Schools Director of Administration and Finance Ronald D. Tarro.

A moment of silence was held for the victims of the November 13, 2015 tragedy in Paris, France. School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody offered an overview of the meeting as a collaborative municipal and schools effort to provide an opportunity for a joint conversation with Barrington's legislative delegation to identify advocacy priorities for the General Assembly in the 2016 legislative session.

The Town Council introduced the following topics as issues of concern for the Town of Barrington:

Dr. June Sager Speakman: the status of Nayatt Road as a priority for resurfacing (at the request of the Conservation Commission), the status of discussions relative to a statewide ban on plastic bags at the point of sale, the speed limit on Washington Road,

Ms. Ann Strong: funding for the Bristol County Water Authority,

Mr. Steven Primiano: relief from the Affordable Housing mandate, support for any action to include members of the General Assembly in the regulations set forth by the Ethics Commission, support for continued local governance ability, and opposition to consideration of a statewide teachers contract,

Ms. Kate Weymouth: primary importance of action to include members of the General Assembly in the regulations set forth by the Ethics Commission, concern relative to a redundant source for water supply,

Mr. Michael Carroll: acknowledgement of the goal to increase affordable housing as a "noble act" yet concern relative to the Affordable Housing Act as less than desirable legislation,

Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr.: concerns relative to the following issues: labor laws and the impact of binding arbitration on the ability of the Town to negotiate collective bargaining agreements, unfunded mandates imposed by the State, and replacement costs, quoted as \$57,000 for new construction, for the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) bus shelter at the Congregational Church, i.e. White Church.

The School Committee identified the following advocacy priorities for 2016: continued support for full funding of the School Funding Formula, the status of the process for approval by the new School Building Authority of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) for new construction and/or gut renovation and addition of Barrington Middle School and support by the Rhode Island General Assembly

for approval of a referendum in June, 2016. The School Committee shared the timeline for the Barrington Middle School Building Project, as established by the Building Committee on November 10, 2015, with the Town Council and legislative delegation. Mrs. Brody provided a brief synopsis of the presentation at the October, 2015 Funding Formula Working Group meeting at which time Barrington was referenced as an example with the current formula, including the low state share ratio and low state share per pupil data. Mr. Guida, Co Chair of the Building Committee, noted the critical importance of transparency and communication with the community throughout the process and noted his concern relative to the potential for opposition to the project based on its anticipated costs.

Representative Hearn noted that she had recently met with Speaker of the House Nicholas Mattiello to address her concerns relative to the status of the School Funding Formula; Speaker Mattiello requested that Representative Hearn assure the Barrington community that the current funding formula will be preserved in its intended format for Barrington as a receiving community, i.e. receiving additional funding, through year seven of the formula, i.e. FY 2018.

The legislative delegation members shared their individual perspectives and collective feedback relative to advocacy issues. Representative Hearn, Representative Malik and Senator Coyne requested that the Town Council and the School Committee feel free to continue to reach out to them relative to emerging and ongoing advocacy issues that are of importance to the Barrington community.

Representative Malik noted that February 28, 2016 is the last day for submission of legislation by members of the General Assembly and suggested that another Joint Legislative Breakfast be scheduled in early March, 2016 as an opportunity to have updates and follow up on issues presented at this meeting. Town Council President Speakman and School Committee Chair Brody will confer in early 2016 relative to logistics for that meeting.

Dr. Speakman and Mrs. Brody shared their thanks on behalf of the community for the dedication of the legislative delegation and expressed appreciation to all participants for their role in this collaborative initiative.

Mr. Patrick Guida moved and Dr. Robert Shea seconded the motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:10 a.m. Mrs. Brody, Mr. Alessandro, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voted in the affirmative for the motion.