

Town Council, Appropriations Committee and
School Committee Joint Meeting
Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.
Council Chamber, Barrington Town Hall

TOWN COUNCIL

Present: June Sager Speakman, Kate G. Weymouth, Cynthia Armour Coyne,
William C. DeWitt and Ann P. Strong

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Present: Kathryn D. Cadigan, Timothy R. Sweetser, Geoffrey Grove, Rosetta Narvaez and
Joel Hellmann

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Present: Robert E. Shea, Jr., Kate D. Brody, Scott W. Fuller, Paula S. Dominguez and
Patrick A. Guida

Also Present: Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., Finance Director Dean M. Huff, Jr.,
Assistant Finance Director Ann Andreozzi, Tax Assessor Michael R. Minardi,
School Superintendent Michael B. Messore, III, Director of Administration and
Finance Ronald D. Tarro

Council President Speakman called the meeting of the Town Council to order. Appropriations
Committee Chairwoman Kathryn D. Cadigan called the Appropriations Committee to order.
School Committee Chairperson Robert E. Shea, Jr. called the School Committee meeting to
order. **Introductions** were made.

Discuss and Act on Frequency of Meetings

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

School Committee Update and Summary of the 2012-2017 Barrington Public Schools Strategic Plan

Dr. Shea introduced Michael B. Messore, III, Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Messore explained
that the Barrington Public School Strategic Plan 2012-2017 had just been adopted. It is a guide
to the direction our schools will take in the next five years. This plan is the result of
collaboration with the faculty, School Committee, and Administration. It includes Race to the
Top initiatives which are State of Rhode Island goals to develop a high quality school system.
School Committee member Dr. Dominguez, Chair of the Technology Sub-committee of the
School Committee added and with that comes costs.

Municipal Contracts Updates

Town Manager DeAngelis reported that all four municipal contracts have been ratified and run
through June 2014.

Teachers' Contract Negotiation Update

Dr. Shea announced that they had hired a law firm to negotiate; the process was delayed until
after the election process. Mr. Tarro reported that their first meeting is January 31st. Mrs.
Cadigan is concerned with the lateness of the process because typically the Appropriations
Committee receives the school budget the second week in February. Mr. Sweetser questioned
the lateness. Dr. Shea explained they did not know who would be on the School Committee
until after the November election and swearing-in would not be until December. The school
contract ends August 2013.

Update from School Building Committee

Immediate Health and Safety needs at the Barrington Middle School total \$2.4 million.

Barrington Middle School – new construction cost is estimated at \$36 million and the
estimated cost to gut and refurbish the existing building is \$39 million. Current state
reimbursement for new buildings is 35%; there is currently a moratorium on new construction.

**Projected Debt Service Relating to the Construction or Refurbishing of Barrington
Middle School** - \$25, \$30 or \$36 million. Town Council approval is needed for all bond
referendum and RI Dept. of Education would not allow the Town to overbuild in relation to the
population of the community.

Discuss and Act on Sharing of Municipal/School Services and Resources

Mr. DeWitt said there may not be a lot of money to be saved but there is some. There could be sharing of resources, libraries, gyms, custodians and people. We need to take a meaningful look at this. Mr. DeWitt is in favor of re-establishing the Ad Hoc Budget Forecasting Committee as an advisory committee to the Town Council and to change the charge of that committee. The Committee is made up of two members from each body meeting tonight and Mrs. Coyne and Mr. DeWitt are willing to represent the Town Council and Mr. Grove and Mr. Sweetser are willing to represent the Appropriations Committee. Mr. Guida said the School Committee would like to deliberate on this first. Each group will meet and decide on its own.

Discuss Impact of Senate State Mandate Budget Cap

Town Manager DeAngelis explained that we are restricted on both sides of our government; there is a 4% spending cap and a 4% levy cap which impacts the total budget. The Finance Director determines the amount that 4% represents on the levy and the school department takes their 4% out of that levy and the Manager is left to work with the remainder.

Discuss Capital vs. Operational Budgets

The School Department does not have its own capital budget. The RI Department of Education specifies that large acquisitions of technical items need to be maintained in a capital account so per pupil cost is not skewed (either up or down). Mr. Tarro recommends that purchase of Ipads and laptops goes in the capital budget for tracking and reporting purposes. Technology should not be in the operational budget.

Discuss and Act on the Future of the Ad Hoc Budget Forecasting Committee

Motion by Mr. DeWitt and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to add to the charge of the Ad Hoc Budget Forecasting Committee the responsibility of reporting back how resources can be better shared between but not limited to the school district and municipal government and recommending ways to save money. Passed unanimously.

Discuss and Act on Frequency of Meetings (out of order)

They will meet twice a year, after the Financial Town Meeting and in January with recommendations from the Ad Hoc to be discussed at the June meeting..

Motion by Mr. DeWitt and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:10 P.M. Passed unanimously. Motion by Mrs. Brody and seconded by Mr. Shea to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:10 P.M. Passed unanimously. Motion by Mr. Sweetser and seconded by Mrs. Cadigan to adjourn the Appropriations Committee meeting at 9:10 P.M. Passed unanimously.

Linda H. James, Town Clerk