

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 05/07/14

A meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in the Administration Building conference room following the Joint Meeting with the Committee on Appropriations (COA). Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messori and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Tarro provided an overview of the net \$288,000 difference between the operating budget that the school district had proposed and the COA was prepared to support. Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messori presented the School Committee with some options for closing the gap. The net \$288,000 difference reflects an offset of \$30,000 due to an additional All Day Kindergarten grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education that would be realized with the implementation of All Day Kindergarten in the district. Mr. Tarro pointed out that the proposed budget had included \$50,000 for a communications plan and that this figure could be reduced by \$35,000 to allow for partial implementation for 2014-2015 (i.e., \$15,000 would be allocated for the communications plan). Mr. Messori suggested that there may be additional support for mathematics at Barrington Middle School that could be provided in a different manner, but the consensus of the School Committee was that academic support in Middle School mathematics was a priority for next year and rejected this proposal. Mr. Messori indicated that the only option remaining is positions, and that it may be that positions for All Day Kindergarten can be reexamined based on final enrollment. Mr. Messori suggested that a counter offer of \$1.150M from the school district would reflect reductions in positions and some other decreases in materials, and requested permission from the School Committee to make this counter offer to the COA.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to authorize the Superintendent to amend the school district's budget with the Committee on Appropriations in a manner that does not adversely and materially affect the district's programs.

Dr. Shea voiced his concern for the impact in the decreased budget.

The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody indicated that she will prepare a budget narrative for distribution at the Financial Town Meeting. Mr. Tarro stated that he would contact Mrs. Brody on May 8 on the budget narrative, and that any feedback to the School Committee would take place via communication from Mrs. Levesque, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.