

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 05/13/14

A meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, in the Administration Building conference room. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Dillon.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore indicated that their conversation with the Committee on Appropriations (COA) had been productive and respectful, and that the COA's final allocation decision for the school district's 2014-2015 annual budget was \$1,038,000, or \$100,000 less than the School Committee's most recent budget request. School Committee members asked what options remained for trimming \$100,000 from the budget, and Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore stated that the most recent enrollment information for All Day Kindergarten suggested that fewer FTEs than anticipated may be required.

School Committee members described the limited number of options available so close to the Financial Town Meeting. The consensus was that the School Committee should pursue a decision suggested by Mr. Guida, to move forward with the COA's budget as presented and look for efficiencies during the course of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. School Committee members discussed several scenarios related to All Day Kindergarten enrollment and their potential impact on the schools' budget. If enrollment is larger than current numbers, the School Committee may have to draw on the district's reserve account, go back to the COA during the year to request additional funds, or cut some other area of the budget. Mr. Tarro described how the financial reserves are reinvested into the school district's fiscal plant, resulting in savings to Barrington taxpayers. Both Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore reflected that the tenor of this year's series of discussions with the COA, compared to those of previous years, have been positive.

Building Committee Update

Mr. Tarro described the Building Committee's efforts to continue with its planning for Barrington Middle School construction. Mr. Tarro indicated that there are challenges associated with building on an existing site, and that he would like to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to architects in an effort to determine what their recommendations might be for siting the new middle school and managing its construction during the school year. He anticipated a two-week turnaround on responses to the RFQ and recommended another School Committee meeting to discuss the replies in two to three weeks. He described the format of the presentations with conceptuials from the architects who respond to the RFQs, noting that they frequently generated good ideas. The outcome of the presentations would be a short list of architects to bid on the project and potential fee structures for consideration by the School Committee. Mr. Tarro noted that some money may be needed from the cash reserve fund to cover the costs of the plan development.

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The School Committee discussed the need for bonding for the new construction, which will require community outreach and communication.

Bid Award – Construction Immediate Health and Safety Project – Office of Civil Rights Voluntary Compliance

Mr. Tarro stated that five sealed bids had been received, ranging from \$139,000 to \$197,000, and presented a bid tabulation sheet prepared by Mr. Thomas Lonardo, architect, that depicted the different bids and the firms offering them. Mr. Tarro indicated that he had received good references for the lowest bidder, All State Builder. Mr. Tarro also stated that the end-of-year deadline for the construction appeared to be ok.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to award the construction immediate health and safety project – Office of Civil Rights voluntary compliance bid to the lowest, evaluated, and qualified bidder, All State Builder, for the amount of \$139,000. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.