

MINUTES

JOINT LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

BARRINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND BARRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, March 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, March 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 Kate Weymouth and members Michael Carroll, Steven Primiano and Ann Strong, School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Paula Dominguez and members John Alessandro, Patrick Guida and Dr. Robert Shea, Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., Town of Barrington Finance Director Kathy Raposa, Superintendent of Schools Michael B. Messori, III and Barrington Public Schools Director of Administration and Finance Ronald D. Tarro.

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.

Discussion topics introduced by the Town Council included Belton Court and issues surrounding aging in place, historic tax credits, Rhode Map Rhode Island, the status of affordable housing legislation, challenges associated with unfunded mandates, an interest in not mandating shared services by statute with a preference to leave that decision at a local level. The consensus was to identify and support opportunities for ongoing reciprocal conversations with the legislative delegation, including communication with Dan Beardsley, Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns.

The School Committee identified the following advocacy priorities for 2015: support for full funding of the School Funding Formula, the status of Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) approval for new construction or/gut renovation and addition of Barrington Middle School and an update on the ongoing work of the Barrington Middle School Building Committee with a need for deliberate speed as a priority for the community, and support for removal of the current moratorium on school housing aid and the reimbursement for approved school construction repair and renovation projects supported by bonds or capital reserve funds; a request was made that the legislative delegation consider including teacher leader language in education related legislation in the future.

The legislative delegation provided a synopsis of the scheduling and hearing process for proposed legislation and 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 reach out to them relative to emerging and ongoing advocacy issues that are of importance to the Barrington community.

Dr. Dominguez departed the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

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.