

**Barrington Public Schools
Barrington School Committee
Meeting Minutes 3/6/2017**

A special meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Monday, March 06, 2017, in the Administration Building. School Committee Chair Kate D. Brody called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Vice Chair Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Mr. Messore, and Mr. Tarro. Absent was Mrs. Pine.

Mrs. Brody explained that the purpose of this special meeting is to reconvene the School Committee to amend the FY18 proposed operating budget of \$49.8m to ensure its compliance with the FY17 approved local school allocation, including a statutory 4% limit on the increase in local spending. She stated that the discussion at the March 2 School Committee meeting had focused on the 3.75% increase to taxpayers in the total proposed operating budget in the effort to reduce the total impact to the taxpayer. Mrs. Brody noted that it was not the intent of the School Committee to have approved a FY18 proposed operating budget that exceeded the local share limit.

Mr. Tarro explained that, in fact, the previously approved budget proposal of \$49.8m would have required a 4.6% increase over the current fiscal year in the Town's contribution to the school district budget. The statutory 4% limit on the increase in local spending relates to the increase from local taxpayers, not the total proposed operating budget. Mr. Tarro discussed the historical trend data since FY96 relative to the average increase in the operating budget, noting a 10 year average increase of 2.70% and 3 year average increase of 1.90%. He provided data relative to the average impact to taxpayers, noting a 10 year average increase of 2.41% and a 3 year average increase of 1.03%; he stated that the district has never approached proximity to reaching or exceeding the tax limit since FY10. Mr. Tarro noted that the loss of approximately \$54,000 in State Aid is a contributing factor in the impact of the FY18 proposed operating budget on the local share increase. .

Mrs. Brody clarified that the local increase calculation of \$1,588,214, with an adjusted budget of \$49.5m based on the local increase calculation, will now yield a level services budget with a 3.75% net increase in local spending; this level services budget will include funding to cover the increased costs of all existing programs and services. This represents a 3.2% increase in spending over the current FY17 operating budget.

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to approve the FY18 proposed operating budget with a 3.75% net increase in local spending, equating to a level services budget, and forward the amended budget to the Committee on Appropriations.

Discussion ensued relative to the following topics: impact of the level services budget on the ability to implement district initiatives, including the School Start Time initiative, frustration with the significant shift in the budget that removes the ability to consider implementation of the change in school start times as approved by the School Committee in 2016, impact of contractual obligations on the ability to address future initiatives absent cost neutral options, clarification of increases to specific budget items that contributed to higher costs, including salaries and benefits, support services for students with disabilities, transportation, out of district tuition and charter school tuition, the need to highlight positive budgetary investments, and continued discussion surrounding opportunities for improvement relative to the budget process, the budget timeline, and schedule options and implementation of the Homework Policy to support student health.

Mrs. Brody called for a vote on Mrs. Clancy's motion.

The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, and Mr. Alessandro voting in the affirmative for the motion. Dr. Douglas opposed the motion.

Mr. Messore requested that he have an opportunity to review a cost neutral option with the Start Time Advisory Committee at its next meeting in early April and report back to the School Committee in April. It was the consensus of the School Committee to accommodate Mr. Messore's request.

Mrs. Brody reiterated that the Administration will forward the amended budget to the Committee on Appropriations today. Dr. Douglas requested that the Administration ensure that budget communications to be as explicit as possible with regard to the effect on the taxpayers to ensure clarification. .

Mrs. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 a.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mrs. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, and Dr. Douglas voting in the affirmative for the motion.