

Barrington School Building Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2022 3:45 p.m.
Barrington Middle School Student Union

Present were Ms. Bae, Ms. Crean, Dr. Dillon, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Fiore, Mr. Glum, Mr. Guthlein, Mr. McCrann, Dr. Rosengard, Mr. Messore, Mr. Sangiuliano, Mr. Valentine, and Mr. Wilmarth

Also present was Ms. Jessup, Mr. Schmigle, and Mr. Trim of KBA, Dr. DaSilva, Ms Kentor, and Mr. Trimble of RIDE School Building Authority

Ms. Bae called the meeting to order at 3:52 p.m.

Discussion of next steps towards Stage II submission

Dr. DaSilva, Ms. Kentor, and Mr. Trimble toured the four (4) elementary schools earlier in the day with school Administrators and shared their thanks to all staff who support the upkeep of the schools.

Dr. DaSilva and Ms. Kentor reviewed the [Statewide School Construction Bond](#) - funds made available to all Districts in the state to address critical needs including overcrowding, creating learning environments for 21st century, addressing requirements for special needs learners, etc.

Mr. Trimble, Senior Finance Officer reviewed the [Funding for School Construction](#) including six temporary bonus incentives and pay-as-you-go funding to support approved projects. The General Assembly will be voting on whether to extend or make permanent the six temporary bonuses (Health & Safety, Educational Enhancements, Replacement, Decrease Overcrowding, Newer & Fewer, and Increase Utilization).

Discussion of new legislation RI 45-53-10

Ms. Bae stated State Representative, Liana Cassar was contacted for more background information on this new legislation and get a sense for what it means for the Town of Barrington

- 45-53-10 is a package of bills (11 in total) aimed at enabling municipalities to find creative solutions for addressing the issue of getting to the 10% affordable housing in communities due to the housing crisis within the State.
- The bill is aimed at enabling legislation for municipalities that want to use decommissioned school buildings to address affordable housing demands; it is not a mandate by the State and it does not require municipalities to utilize decommissioned school buildings to address housing needs.

Discussion of options for long term educational vision and possible vote

Mr. Fiore opened the floor to questions from committee members regarding the presentation from the previous meeting and discussion ensued.

KBA prepared a summary of the options which was reviewed

- [Memorandum - Barrington Schools Master Plan Pathways Summary](#)

After the overview and discussion, Committee members were asked to vote by a show of hands on each option for their top three options from the Pathways Summary:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ○ Option 1A – 5 votes | ○ Option 2B – 11 votes |
| ○ Option 1B – 4 votes | ○ Option 3 – 10 votes |
| ○ Option 2A – 0 votes | ○ Option 4 – 1 vote |

Building Committee members were then asked to vote by a show of hands for one final option to move forward to submit to the School Committee.

- Option 1A – 1 vote
- Option 2B – 10 votes
- Option 3 – 1 vote

Mr. Fiore stated there is a clear consensus from building committee members that Option 2B will be advancing to the School Committee

Approval of Minutes 7.14.22

- Mr. Fiore asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 7.14.22 meeting. Ms. Bae so moved, Mr. Guthlein seconded the motion, and the committee approved unanimously with Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Messoro abstaining

Public Comments

Mark Hanchar, 25 Frederick Drive. Mr. Hanchar questioned the amount of debt service to the town to support this program using his calculations. He also stated concerns with the potential traffic issues during construction that would occur by using the Primrose Hill School location as a swing space as well as the length of time the neighborhood would have to deal with the traffic.

Mary Alyce Gasbarro, 14 Robbins Drive. Ms. Gasbarro stated the Committee needed to do a better job with communication and informing the public about possible plans. She also feels that neighborhood schools are very important to the town.

Susannah Holloway, 64 Fales Avenue. Ms. Holloway asked the Committee to slow down the process and get more meaningful community engagement. Ms. Holloway also spoke about not being invited to the deep dive visioning sessions. She is concerned about the lack of elected officials currently on the school building committee.

Elizabeth Kirk, 5 Owing Stone Road. Ms. Kirk is a real estate agent and stated that the schools plan of eliminating neighborhood elementary schools will turn the real estate market on its head and impact property values. She stated potential home buyers are often drawn to Barrington for the schools.

Mr. Fiore asked for a motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Motion was so moved by Ms. Bae, seconded by Mr. Guthlein, and approved unanimously.