



General Library Item

Name Meeting Highlights - December 11, 2017

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Scarsdale Board of Education Meeting Highlights December 11, 2017

Work Session

At 6:30 p.m. William Natbony, President of the Board of Education, convened a Work Session that included a group of Scarsdale High School students, accompanied by High School Principal Ken Bonamo and other High School staff, to discuss the students' experiences in the High School.

Business Meeting

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Natbony convened the Business Meeting, reporting that all Board members were present. Mr. Natbony observed the importance of the evening for the Scarsdale Schools, the Board, the administration, and the community, as the Board concluded its deliberations on SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) and the 2018 Bond Proposal; he noted that the night's meeting marked the culmination of a long process during which input was sought from all stakeholders and considerable community comment was encouraged, all of which informed the Board's decision-making process. Mr. Natbony declared that the community now has the opportunity to enhance the Scarsdale Schools' program and facilities. He went on to refute a charge that had arisen that the Board was "rushing through" its decision, noting the considerable time and effort over the past three years on the part of the Board, administration, and District consultants, and the years of discussions and public comment that have gone into this process. He commended community members who have come forward both in support and in respectful disagreement, and urged the Scarsdale community to be "educated consumers," basing their opinions and decisions on factual information.

Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools, thanked Mr. Natbony for his comments, and expressed his heartfelt thanks to Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, and his team, including John Trenholm, Director of Plant and Facilities, and Jeff Martin, Business Manager/Finance Officer, for their hard work, and deep appreciation to Board members for all their time and dedication throughout this entire facilities planning process. Dr. Hagerman stressed that although this has been a conversation by adults, at the core, this proposed bond is about the children of Scarsdale, both currently and for decades to come.

Scott Silberfein, Board of Education Vice President, reported that the Board is currently engaged in its annual visits to all seven schools.

Dr. Hagerman reported on follow-up activities concerning Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) testing at Greenacres. The District recently commissioned air quality screening at the school in response to concerns expressed by staff and other members of the Greenacres community. Out of the 400 tests performed, there were a few elevated scores for mold. The District followed all the recommendations for remediation outlined by the Hygienist, Ernest Coon of Regulatory Compliance.

A letter was sent to the Greenacres community detailing the remediation work conducted over the Thanksgiving break, and the results of re-testing the affected areas, which was conducted on November 28th. Dr. Hagerman reported that all remediated spaces had results in normal ranges, and no further action is needed at this time; however, as an extra precaution, re-testing will be conducted within one month, and at regular intervals thereafter. The follow-up report from November 28th can be found [here](#).

Dr. Hagerman reported that at the request of the Board, the administration had created a four-pronged approach for District-wide air quality monitoring, to be considered as part of the annual budget process: 1) immediate response to

problems as they occur; 2) comprehensive air quality testing for all schools, conducted on a two-year cycle; 3) identification and ongoing monitoring of vulnerable areas; and 4) monitoring, testing, and remediation of areas showing water infiltration. Dr. Hagerman noted that there is a significant financial impact involved, with estimates of approximately \$25 thousand annually for elementary schools and \$50 thousand for the Middle School and High School.

The Board then heard further details from Mr. Trenholm, Mr. Coon, and Fred Seeba of BBS Architects & Engineers, on air quality testing, water infiltration monitoring, and overall structural evaluation at Greenacres. Mr. Trenholm reported that, when water infiltration is found throughout the District, it is promptly remediated. Mr. Coon reported that the few, elevated scores found at Greenacres are not unusual, in his experience working with many school districts over the years. Mr. Seeba reported that, prior to making their recommendations about Greenacres, BBS conducted three inspections of the school's foundations and concluded that the building structure was sound and in good condition.

Mr. Mattey presented a brief update on the SEQR report, noting that all revisions requested by the Board were included in the report.

Dr. Hagerman and Mr. Mattey presented an update of the 2018 Bond Project, reviewing the District Administration's final recommendations contained in a detailed, 94-page report, which includes an Executive Summary, a review of Board deliberations since November 13, an update on SEQR, estimates of financial impact, a review of community feedback, and the official resolution, for a referendum to be conducted on Thursday, February 8, 2018. The report may be accessed on the District website [here](#).

Community members were invited to address the Board, and three did so:

- Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez, Fox Meadow Road, speaking on behalf of the Scarsdale Forum, thanked the Board for its thorough presentation on the Bond Project, and reported that the Education Committee wants to focus on long term financial planning and the concept of a world class education, but not Greenacres, as the members are deeply divided on that issue. She also noted that the Forum's traffic study will be released soon.
- Gregory Loten, Montrose Road, commended the Board for its work on the Bond Project as an exemplary model of critical thinking.
- Robert Berg, Tisdale Road, also praised the Board for exemplary work on the Bond Project, encompassing careful study and community input, and noting that the process could not have been more open.

The Board approved items on the consent agenda, including a Personnel Report presented by Dr. Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development.

Mr. Mattey presented an initial report on planning for the 2018-2019 Annual Budget. His presentation included information on the budget development process, historical and projected 2017-18 expenses, revenue and fund balance, and the budget process calendar. The report is on the District website under 2018-19 Budget Documents [here](#).

Mr. Mattey also discussed work undertaken on long term financial planning, focusing on trend analysis. The Board engaged in a discussion with Mr. Mattey on the limited ability to accurately predict future costs.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation, presenting the third of four payments (and the second of three installments pursuant to the promissory note between the Foundation and the District dated November 8, 2016) for the creation of the Fitness Center and the Design Lab at Scarsdale High School.

The Board took action on the SEQR report, unanimously adopting a "Negative Declaration of Significance," and unanimously adopted the Bond Resolution calling for a referendum on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

Community members were invited to address the Board a second time, and one did so:

- Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez, Fox Meadow Road, speaking as co-chair of the Scarsdale Forum Education Committee, thanked Mr. Mattey for his presentation on long term financial planning.

The Board accepted with thanks a gift from Scarsdale Youth Lacrosse in the amount of approximately \$11,369.70 to replace the electronic scoreboard at the Middle School.

Mr. Natbony noted that a report on written communications to the Board was included in the meeting agenda online.

Mr. Natbony conducted a wrap-up of the meeting and Mr. Silberfein announced upcoming Board meetings on January 8 and January 22, 2018, and a Bond Referendum on February 8, 2018.

The Board adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

The Board meeting may be viewed on the District website (under Scarsdale Cable TV) [here](#).