

**General Library Item**

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**Scarsdale Board of Education  
Meeting Highlights  
October 16, 2017**

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Special Meeting

At 6:30 p.m. the Board of Education convened a Special Meeting for a discussion with members of the Executive Board of the Scarsdale Teachers Association on matters of common interest.

Business Meeting

At 7:30 p.m. William Natbony, President of the Board of Education, convened the Business meeting, reporting that all Board members were present, but noted that Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools, was not able to attend. Mr. Natbony also reported on the meeting held earlier in the evening with representatives of the Scarsdale Teachers Association.

Board Member Arthur Rublin commended an article in last week's Scarsdale Inquirer by reporter Valerie Abrahams, which detailed the various student services projects underway throughout the District to aid victims of the recent hurricanes and others in need.

Board Vice President Scott Silberfein reported on his attendance at a retreat held by the Center for Innovation to review its first five years, and discuss present and future endeavors.

Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development, presented the Personnel Report, in which he noted that the New York School Public Relations Association had presented an Award of Honor to District public information officer Victoria Presser for her work on the District's community newsletter, Insight.

Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, presented an update on 2017 Bond Project planning. He reported on the work to date of the Greenacres Building Committee, which is reviewing construction and renovation plans at that school and offering its recommendations; and the District-wide Facilities Committee, which is reviewing the entire scope of the project, including recommendations made by the Greenacres Building Committee, and has been asked to present a recommendation on whether air conditioning should be added to the bond, and to assist in development of a communication plan.

Mr. Matthey reported that the Greenacres Building Committee has made the following recommendations (based on an informal consensus - formal votes were not taken):

- Final configuration and allocation of spaces as reviewed and approved by the committee
- Additional air and noise monitoring during construction (additional cost: \$140 thousand each)

- Additional parking along Huntington Avenue (additional cost: \$597 thousand)
- Renovation of nine small classroom bathrooms and two larger bathrooms (additional cost: \$530 thousand)
- Temporary HEPA filtration for air intakes (additional cost: \$35 thousand)
- Temporary air conditioning in two large rooms situated near construction (the library and Old Multi-Purpose Room) (additional cost: \$169 thousand)
- Security monitor for outdoor areas, primarily along Huntington (additional cost: \$140 thousand)
- Six temporary portable classrooms for contingency use in case of construction delays, and as flexible additional space (total cost: \$1.2 million\*, plus about \$340 thousand in leasing costs that can't be included in a bond, and must be covered by the annual budget)

**[\*this figure has since been revised to just under \$1 million for costs included in the bond and \$330 thousand that must be covered in the annual budget]**

In discussion following Mr. Mattey's presentation, it was noted that if asbestos abatement is required, it cannot and will not take place when students are in the building.

Mr. Mattey also noted that the timeline has been updated, with the Board of Education scheduled to adopt a bond resolution at its November 27th meeting, for a referendum vote on Wednesday, January 24th.

Mr. Mattey then introduced representatives of BBS Architects & Engineers, the District architects (Kevin Walsh and Fred Seeba), who presented an update on the bond scope, Greenacres construction plans, and use of the field opposite the school for the construction staging area and modular classrooms (if approved), and also reviewed the scope of the Energy Performance Contract in relation to the bond scope. The Board asked for further details on bond projects sorted by priority level, and for the District's experience with its previous Energy Performance Contract.

Following the BBS presentation, James Wojcik and Gary Gonzalez of Park East Construction presented updated project cost estimates based on Greenacres Committee recommendations (an additional \$2 million, approximately), and also reviewed construction staging at Greenacres, and details and phasing of the work scope throughout the District.

The slides for all three reports may be viewed on the [2017 Bond Project Planning Information page](#) located on the District website.

The Board sought clarification on costs associated with modular classrooms: setup, including sewer pipes and utilities; lease vs. purchase; and dismantling. Mr. Mattey reported that a meeting was held with Greenacres teachers who expressed several reservations about the use of modular classrooms, and did not see a need for them in terms of construction noise.

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

- Joanne Wallenstein, 13 Colvin Road, a member of the Greenacres Building Committee, asked the Board not to take the committee's recommendations as an endorsement from all the members of the committee, noting some of her objections, and requested that the Greenacres SEQRA process include a traffic study.
- Robert Berg, 32 Tisdale Road, asked the Board to consider the High School petition requesting official recognition of September 11.

The Board approved items on the consent agenda, including the Personnel Report presented by Mr. Patrick.

The Board heard a report from Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, on a grant from the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation supporting the pilot Student Entrepreneurship Program; information from Eric Rauschenbach, Director of Special Education and Student Services, on the draft Academic Intervention Services Plan; a Financial Summary Report for the school year ending June 30 presented by Mr. Mattey; information from Mr. Patrick about proposed ratification of contracts and agreements with two District employee unions; and a list of proposed new textbooks, presented by Ms. Shain.

The Board accepted the Foundation gift with thanks, and approved revisions to three Board policies, a contract with the District's secretaries union, and a Standard Workday Resolution for certain titles in the District. The Board tabled approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the District's transportation union, pending clarifications.

Community members were invited to address the Board for a second time, but none did so.

The Board voted to accept with thanks a gift from the Edgewood PTA for classroom furniture that allows for more flexible use of classroom space.

Mr. Natbony noted that a report on written communications to the Board was included in the meeting agenda online. In response to community questions, he reported that a traffic study is indeed part of the SEQRA process, and that the Board has asked the Administration for a recommendation on appropriate District-wide recognition of September 11.

Mr. Natbony conducted a wrap-up of the meeting and Mr. Silberfein announced the scheduled upcoming Board meetings on October 23, November 13, and November 27, and a Public Forum on the 2017 Bond Projects scheduled for Monday evening, November 6.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 10:02 p.m. to discuss litigation and particular personnel matters.

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

### **Administrative Content**

### **Executive Content**

Last Modified by Honore Adams on October 26, 2017