



General Library Item

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Scarsdale Board of Education
Meeting Highlights
November 20, 2017

Special Meeting

At 6:30 p.m. William Natbony, President of the Board of Education, convened the Special Board Meeting and noted that all Board members were present.

Mr. Natbony noted some corrections to erroneous information that had been reported to the community from sources outside the District. First, the Board had not expressed opposition to the air and noise monitoring recommended by the Greenacres Building Committee; rather, the Board did not come to a definitive consensus and decided to discuss the matter further after receiving additional information. Second, the Board did indeed come to a definitive consensus concerning the use of modular at Greenacres, unanimously rejecting the recommendation.

Board Member Arthur Rublin reported on the Young Writers Workshop held the previous weekend, noting that 320 students participated in 29 workshops.

Mr. Natbony reviewed the proposed projects and recommendations that the Board had not reached a consensus on at the previous meeting, and opened the Board discussion.

Greenacres Noise and Air Quality Monitoring: Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, along with Park East representatives Francesco Borgese and Gary Gonzalez, presented additional information on the monitoring process and a revised cost estimate, which now stands at \$100,000 each for noise and air quality monitoring, but might be able to be combined as one contract, resulting in a lower cost. Board members discussed the advantages of additional monitoring, including a faster response time to various issues, and noted its importance to the community. The Board came to a consensus to support air quality and noise monitoring, particularly if the staffing could be combined.

Greenacres Security Monitoring: Mr. Matthey, along with the Park East representatives, presented additional information on the monitoring process and a revised cost estimate, which now stands at \$100,000. The Board discussed whether this service was necessary to supplement the daily on-site monitoring to be conducted by Park East. The Board's consensus was to reject this recommendation. However, in further conversation later in the meeting, the Board recommended that additional staff may be necessary to monitor student safety while crossing Huntington. Rather than being a bonded item, additional monitoring would be included as part of the regular budget, since it is a longer term need.

Greenacres Kitchen Facility: The Board discussed in detail the merits of proactive versus reactive food service planning. The Board reached unanimous consensus to support the inclusion of constructing a full kitchen facility as part of the Greenacres Spatial Needs part of the bond. The Board also indicated interest in studying the feasibility of installing kitchen facilities at Edgewood, Fox Meadow, and Heathcote elementary schools.

Districtwide Air Conditioning: Mr. Mattey presented additional information on the cost implications of installing air conditioning, a survey of the prevalence of air conditioning in nearby school districts, and average local temperatures in late spring and early fall over the past few years. The Board then discussed the rationales put forth for air conditioning. The Board concluded that it was not ready to support either including air conditioning in the present bond scope, or in presenting it to the community in a separate bond at the same time. The Board noted that it was still interested in the issue, and will ask the Administration to continue work on the topic.

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

- Megan Simon, Cambridge Road, Greenacres PTA President, noting that the construction staging area will be in the middle of the playground, urged the Board to reconsider additional security monitoring; inquired about approval of temporary air conditioning in the old multi-purpose room and library; and asked about contingency plans in the event of construction delays.
- Mary Beth Evans, Edgewood Road, Chair of the League of Women Voters Bond Study Committee, asked for more information on inside security cameras; the deletion of the Middle School security vestibule; annual expenditures on plant and capital improvements; Greenacres asbestos, lead, and mold testing results; architectural renderings for interior and courtyard work at Greenacres; and demographic data projecting a decrease at Greenacres.
- Patricia Schwartz, Walworth Avenue, member of the Greenacres Building Committee, thanked the Board for supporting air and noise monitoring, urged the Board to reconsider additional security monitoring, and asked about contingency plans in the event of construction delays.
- Robert Berg, Tisdale Road, commended the Board for its open discussion and debate in working through complex issues, and spoke in opposition to District-wide air conditioning.
- Joanne Wallenstein, Colvin Road, member of the Greenacres Building Committee, asked if an SED variance was needed in changing the Greenacres footprint; requested further information on the basement dehumidifier; noted that air conditioning in the old multipurpose room and library was not yet resolved; asked about the impact of a Greenacres cafeteria on deliveries, trash removal, and parking; and asked about cost per square foot of the Greenacres renovation and new construction.
- Claudine Gecel, 10 Kent Road, expressed concern regarding new home construction projects planned in Scarsdale and the potential impact on school demographics.

In the wrap up portion of the meeting, Mr. Natbony noted that the Board still needs to discuss temporary/permanent air conditioning in the Greenacres old multi-purpose room and library, which had been deferred at the last meeting pending a discussion on District-wide air conditioning. In light of the postponement of the consideration of air conditioning, the Board reached a consensus to support the recommendation.

Addressing other questions raised, Mr. Mattey noted that contingencies for construction schedule delays are part of the specifications to which contractors must adhere. He also explained that building committees will take part in the decision of security camera placements, that security measures are not public documents, and that the Middle School vestibule project was withdrawn due to concerns about logistics. Dr. Hagerman noted that interior renderings incur considerable expense, which would not be undertaken until after passage of the bond. Dr. Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development, reviewed the demographic methodology employed by District demographic consultants. Mr. Mattey reported that the Greenacres plans are within SED guidelines, and that a kitchen facility will have little or no impact on deliveries, trash removal, or parking.

Mr. Silberfein announced scheduled and upcoming Board meetings on November 27 and December 11, and a Public Forum on the 2018 Bond Projects scheduled for Monday evening, December 4.

The Board adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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

Please refer to [this chart](#) for the latest scope of the proposed 2018 bond that resulted from the Board's discussion at this meeting.

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Executive Content

Last Modified by Honore Adams on November 22, 2017