



General Library Item

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Scarsdale Board of Education Meeting Highlights November 6, 2017

Special Meeting

At 6:00 p.m. William Natbony, President of the Board of Education, convened the Special Meeting, and moved into Executive Session to discuss current litigation.

At 6:30 p.m. Mr. Natbony reconvened the Special Board Meeting and noted that all Board members were present.

Stuart Mattey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, presented an overview of the scope of projects under consideration, along with updates on the work of the Greenacres Building Committee and the District-wide Facilities Committee. Mr. Mattey also reported on a clarification of issues discussed at the Greenacres Neighborhood Association meeting on October 19; a review of future facilities work under consideration; and an updated timeline for action on a bond referendum, with a vote now set for Thursday, February 8, 2018.

The slides for this update may be viewed in the [2017 Bond Project Planning Information page](#) on the District website.

Following Mr. Mattey's report, Mr. Natbony thanked Mr. Mattey, other administrators and staff, and the volunteers of the Greenacres and District-wide committees for all their work in this endeavor, and noted that he and Board Vice President, Scott Silberfein, sent out a letter last week concerning the Board's work to date on the consideration of projects to be included in the bond, and the actions planned going forward.

Mr. Natbony then invited community members to address the Board with their comments and questions, and six did so:

- Linda Doucette-Ashman, Brite Avenue, Co-Chair of the League of Women Voters' subcommittee that is studying the proposed bond, requested additional assurance that proposed bond projects reflect community values, and asked that the Public Forum being planned allows for sufficient time in advance to obtain and understand information.
- Mary Beth Evans, Edgewood Road, Co-Chair of the League of Women Voters' subcommittee that is studying the proposed bond, submitted a list of questions concerning committee recommendations; how the elementary school lunch program may be impacted by the Greenacres food service; instructional functions of the learning commons; plans for the Greenacres library; Greenacres classrooms sizes, configurations and furnishings; provisions for outdoor learning spaces; the need for a formal traffic study; fiscal assumptions; definitions of Priority 1A and 1B projects; and additional costs.

- Mona Longman, Varian Lane, a member of the Greenacres Building Committee, questioned the cost of the Greenacres renovation and sought assurance that the Board had researched every option, including construction of a new building; and criticized the length of time taken to issue clarifications following the GNA meeting.
- Joanne Wallenstein, Colvin Road, a member of the Greenacres Building Committee, asked about inclusion of modular classrooms in the Greenacres work (Mr. Matthey responded in the affirmative); said she had heard that if the bond was voted down, there would be no further work proposed for Greenacres (Mr. Natbony refuted that rumor, he went on to note that the Board examined all options carefully and gave the administration direction on how to proceed; and that if the bond fails, the Board will have to review everything); inquired whether state aid was available for the renovation work (Mr. Matthey responded in the affirmative and explained that state aid is reported on the revenue side); and asked whether the new copper main at Greenacres was for water (Mr. Matthey responded in the affirmative).
- Bob Harrison, Fox Meadow Road, requested that a comfort station at the Middle School be included in the bond. Mr. Matthey responded with a history of that proposed project, noting it had been dropped from a previous budget due to various obstacles.
- Heather Gilchrist Meili, Walworth Avenue, requested renderings for planned changes of interior spaces, such as the learning commons and the gym skylights, in addition to the exteriors already presented.

Mr. Natbony noted that in the period of nearly two months between when the Board adopts the bond on December 11, and the referendum on February 8, many opportunities will be provided for public comment and discussion.

Mr. Silberfein announced scheduled and special additional upcoming Board meetings on November 13, November 20, and November 27, a Public Forum on the 2018 Bond Projects scheduled for Monday evening, December 4, and a Board meeting on December 11.

The Board adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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

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