

**General Library Item**

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**Scarsdale Board of Education  
Meeting Highlights  
June 12, 2017**

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**Executive Session**

At 6:00 p.m., the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**Retirement Recognition**

At 6:30 p.m., the Board of Education presented a salute to retiring staff, with words of appreciation from Lee Maude, Board of Education President; Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools; Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development; Leanne Freda, PT Council President; and William Natbony, Board of Education Vice President.

**Audit Committee**

At 7 p.m., Ms. Maude convened a meeting of the Audit Committee, which is comprised of all the members of the Board of Education. The Committee conducted its annual review of the engagement letter from the External Auditor (EFPR Group, CPAs) for the upcoming year-end audit. The Committee also reviewed a Risk Assessment Update Report, and an Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures (this year focusing on transportation), both presented by Richard Coffey, CPA, of Cullen & Danowski, LLP. The Committee voted to recommend Board approval of these reports at its July 6, 2017 meeting. Ms. Maude then adjourned the Audit Committee meeting.

**Business Meeting**

At 7:15 p.m., Ms. Maude convened the Business Meeting. She noted that the Board had received many emails from the community following the May 22 presentation by BBS, the District architects, and that the correspondence was constructive and helpful. She also noted that there would be two, public forums on Tuesday, June 20, from 9 to 11 a.m., and 7 to 9 p.m., both in the High School Auditorium, at which the community will hear further information from BBS, and have the opportunity to ask questions of BBS.

Dr. Hagerman reported that due to the full agenda, the Transition Plan updates would not be presented during the meeting, but instead, will be included in the next issue of the *'Dale Dispatch* and work on the Transition Plan will resume in the fall.

Dr. Hagerman noted that in the midst of the logistics and operational work, it is important to recognize the achievements of 26 teachers retiring this year, observing that they represent over 600 years of collective experience and

devotion to their work and the District. Dr. Hagerman then expressed his thanks to the Board for its leadership and dedication, his administrative colleagues, and to the entire staff for their hard work throughout the school year.

Board Member Arthur Rublin described a Popham, 6th grade Math Night he attended at the Middle School.

Mr. Natbony noted that this was Ms. Maude's last public meeting as President of the Board; he listed the many accomplishments of her tenure, including two successful budget votes, the advancement of curriculum, and open and transparent communication, and he thanked her on behalf of the Board for leading with dignity and passion

Mr. Patrick presented the Personnel Report, in which he introduced six recently hired probationary teachers and a second High School nurse.

Community members were invited to address the Board and 34 did so:

- Mark Bezos, 4 Heathcote Road, speaking as president of the Board of Directors of the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation, thanked Ms. Maude for her leadership, and announced that the Foundation's Board of Directors was pleased to offer to the District a gift of \$263,828 in support of the Design Lab and Fitness Center at the High School, as the second of four payments (and the first of three installments pursuant to the promissory note between the Foundation and the District dated November 8, 2016) toward the creation of these new facilities.
- Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez, 19 Fox Meadow Road, speaking as co-Chair of the Scarsdale Forum Education Committee, noted the work of the Committee this year, and urged the District to work on a long-term financial plan.
- Jon Krisbergh, 107 Greenacres Avenue, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres
- Bill Stern, 20 Rural Drive, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Linda Doucette-Ashman, 148 Nelson Road, speaking as co-President of the Scarsdale League of Women Voters, posed several questions to the Board concerning the capital projects process.
- Lynn Marvin, 14 Elm Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Mary Beth Evans, 16 Edgewood Road, speaking as Chair of the League of Women Voters bond proposition committee, posed several questions to the Board concerning the capital projects process.
- Brittany Harris, 4 Windmill Circle, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Brad Citron, 28 Oxford Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Deborah Benzel, 18 Brookby Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Pam Rubin, 18 Cohawney Road, speaking on behalf of herself and Diane Greenwald, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Valerie Greenberg, 121 Brite Avenue, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres.
- Jade Rahmani, 32 Aage Terrace, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Laura O'Connell, 136 Brewster Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Nathan Boynton, 134 Brite Avenue, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Laura Greenfield, 15 Windmill Lane, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Amrita Rahmani, 32 Sage Terrace, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Judith Schiamberg, 19 Elm Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Adam Libow, 87 Greenacres Avenue, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Li He, 165 Brite Avenue, expressed concern over renovation health hazards.
- Marnie Gelfman, 106 Brite Avenue, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres.
- Bob Berg, 32 Tisdale Road, urged the Board to conduct a broader sampling of community opinion.
- Barbara Wenglin, 152 Brewster Road, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres.
- Mona Longman, 8 Varian Lane, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Kyle Schurle, 17 Donellen Road, questioned cost contingency estimates.
- Andrew Sereysky, 57 Walworth Avenue, speaking as President of the Greenacres Neighborhood Association, offered to host the architects to address the issue of renovation vs. replacement at a meeting in the Greenacres neighborhood.
- Gabriel Streche, 122 Brewster Road, urged the Board to provide more choices.
- Sue Zhou, 11 Montrose Road, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres and in support of District-wide air conditioning.
- Harriet Sobol, 10 Claremont Road, noted she had originally supported renovation, but now leans toward support of a new school at Greenacres.
- Greg Loten, 6 Montrose Road, urged civil discussion and spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres.

- Amy Hosseinbukus, 26 Elm Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Raif Ezratty, 97 Garden Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres and urged pursuit of a road closing at Huntington Avenue.
- Lester Shearer, 106 Brewster Road, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres.
- Anne Moretti, 10 Pinecrest Road, a Realtor with Julia B. Fee, asked to hear more about educational excellence in the 21st century.

Ms. Maude noted that, as a rule, the Board of Education does not respond to community comments at meetings, unless there is a question of fact: she noted that the possibility of a road closing of Huntington Avenue adjacent to Greenacres had been pursued diligently, and found to be fruitless, as it would take an act of the State Legislature.

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

The Board reviewed the transmittal letter submitted by the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation.

Dr. Hagerman and Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, introduced representatives of BBS to give a presentation, after reviewing the historical context of the capital project planning work. Dr. Hagerman noted that this is a unique moment to take advantage of retiring debt to finance approximately \$60 million as tax-neutral, an opportunity that would not occur again for many years. Dr. Hagerman also noted that several pending issues are the purview of the District and not BBS, including parking, traffic patterns, construction logistics, cost analysis, and tax neutrality.

The BBS presentation included detailed information on cost estimates for recommended high-priority infrastructure work, and for facility improvements in support of educational priorities. The report included a cost estimate for a new building for Greenacres of approximately \$59.2 million, in comparison with the recommended renovations to the present building, estimated at approximately \$29.6 million. The PowerPoint presentation may be viewed [here](#).

Following the BBS presentation, Board members asked questions about construction staging, safety concerns, cost estimates, and contingencies calculations. Discussion ensued on debt service calculations, whether the scope of a bond should exceed tax neutrality, the lifespan of renovations, and the opportunity to undertake renovations that would be seen as making a positive impact.

Dr. Hagerman asked the Board for a direction, specifically on whether they would consider a bond proposal exceeding tax neutrality. The consensus of the Board was that it would consider such a proposal, if the additional amount was moderate and the scope of work justified.

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

- Ron Schulhof, 8 Springdale Road, expressed concern at the rapid pace planned for decision-making.
- Tony Corriggio, 157 Brite Avenue, expressed concern at the rapid pace planned for decision-making, and spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Madeline Hauptman, 150 Brewster Road, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres and preserving the Greenacres field.
- Xue Hu, 32 Kingston Road, spoke in support of renovation at Greenacres.
- Christopher Marvin, 14 Elm Road, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres.
- Andy Taylor, 37 Walworth Avenue, spoke in support of a new school for Greenacres, or a gut renovation of the present building.

The Board then resumed consideration of information items, including a review of Board policies on tutoring and school admissions, and the annual review of the District's Professional Development Plan and Code of Conduct.

The Board approved budget transfers; an agreement with Scarsdale-Edgemont Family Counseling to provide youth counseling services; appointment of a new municipal financial advisor; establishment of a tax certiorari reserve; a schedule for 2017-18 Board meetings; revisions to the Board Purchasing Policy and Purchasing Regulation; and a Memorandum of Agreement with MADSA (Managers and District Services Association).

The Board accepted gifts, with thanks, to their respective schools from the PTAs of Fox Meadow School, Heathcote School, Quaker Ridge School, and Scarsdale High School, and the gift of a piano to the District from an individual.

Ms. Maude conducted a wrap-up of the meeting, and thanked Dr. Hagerman and her fellow Board members for a wonderful two years in her tenure as President, and also thanked the PT Council, League of Women Voters, and the Scarsdale Forum along with its Education Committee for their participation and support.

The Board then announced a list of upcoming meeting dates, including the upcoming Public Forums on Tuesday, June 20 at 9-11 a.m. and 7-9 p.m., and the Board Reorganization Meeting, annual Code of Conduct Public Hearing, and Business Meeting, all on Thursday morning July 6th at 8:30 a.m., followed by a Board Retreat.

The Board then adjourned.

The Board meeting may be viewed [here](#).

### **Administrative Content**

### **Executive Content**

Last Modified by Honore Adams on June 14, 2017