



### General Library Item

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## Scarsdale Board of Education Meeting Highlights September 11, 2017

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### Special Meeting

At 6:30 p.m. the Board of Education convened a Special Meeting to discuss Board governance topics, including strategic planning, Board policy review, communication, and long-term financial planning.

### 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. Mr. Natbony welcomed all to the 2017-18 school year, and shared remarks he had made at the opening Convocation, in which he declared that the Board's focus this year would be Listening and Challenging, as expressions of its core values of partnership with the community.

Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools, noted the significance of the date - the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 - and its reminder of the importance of developing and maintaining caring communities. He reported that schools opened smoothly, despite the ongoing construction projects, and thanked the District custodians for their tireless work. He also thanked everyone involved in making the first week of school a great success - particularly the teachers, the lifeblood of our schools.

Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development, presented the Personnel Report, including a detailed review of enrollment and staffing as of the start of school. He also announced the impending retirement of Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, presented an update on capital improvement projects underway in the District authorized by the 2014 Bond, at four of our seven schools: Edgewood School, Heathcote School, Scarsdale Middle School, and Scarsdale High School. His report may be seen on the District website [here](#).

Mr. Matthey then introduced representatives of BBS Architects & Engineers, the District architects (Roger Smith, Kevin Walsh, and Fred Seeba), to give an update on their work for a proposed 2017 Bond. They noted in particular elements of flexibility and sustainable design across all projects, and recommended that the District consider

hiring an independent post-construction commissioning agent to review the work and ensure optimal operations. They also presented an updated overview of the proposed Energy Performance Contract, noting details such as LED lighting and solar panels for all flat roof replacements.

Following the BBS presentation, James Wojcik and Gary Gonzalez of Park East Construction reviewed their previous presentation on how they will conduct oversight and management of construction logistics, phasing, and costs, with a primary focus at all times on safety for students and staff. They discussed details of the phasing schedules, noting that the first summer's work would concentrate on projects with materials that have short lead-times, and scheduling projects that depend on longer lead-timed materials for the second summer, as materials procurement is a crucial piece in keeping construction on schedule. In response to a Board inquiry, they stated that they do not recommend removing all students from the school during construction, as carefully regulated protocols keep students safe.

Their reports may be seen on the District website [here](#).

Mr. Mattey reported that the Greenacres Building Committee began meeting last week and will continue to meet on a weekly basis for the next couple of months, and that it will be reviewing details concerning room use; location of the construction staging area; Huntington Avenue considerations; where music classes would take place during construction; and, most importantly, student safety issues. He announced that the District Facilities Committee membership is now complete, with five community members volunteering to serve on the Committee. The Committee will be meeting for the first time this week. Its charge is to review the overall scope of proposed projects, in particular the feasibility of air conditioning throughout the District, as well as a communications plan once the bond scope is finalized.

Mr. Mattey asked the Board to review eight areas (and their ballpark costs) that might be addressed in the bond, and to provide direction to the administration on whether it should move forward and further develop proposals in those areas:

1. Districtwide Building Systems (\$17.9 million)
2. Districtwide Security Vestibules and Security Systems (\$989 thousand)
3. Districtwide Roofs (\$9.26 million)
4. High School - Dean Field Renovation (\$1.4 million)
5. Districtwide Health and Safety Improvements (\$2.557 million)
6. Districtwide Building Structure (\$2.927 million)
7. Greenacres - renovation and expansion (\$29.202 million)
8. Energy Performance Contract (\$10.862 million)

Mr. Mattey also presented a comparison chart on costs associated with varying bond maturity spans, and further information concerning the possible closure of Huntington Avenue, noting that even temporary closures would require approval and support of the Village and a special act of the New York State Legislature.

Mr. Mattey's presentation may be seen on the District website [here](#).

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

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

- Mary Beth Evans and Linda Doucette-Ashman, Co-Chairs of the League of Women Voters' subcommittee that is studying the proposed bond, posed several questions concerning educational values and rationale underpinning proposed projects, consideration of Districtwide air conditioning, sustainability concerns, environmental impact, community input, and the decision-making timeline.
- Bob Harrison, 65 Fox Meadow Road, urged the Board to consider adding a comfort station at the Middle School playing fields to the 2017 proposed bond.
- Claudine Gecel, 10 Kent Road, commended the Board for its work on the proposed bond, and urged inclusion of District-wide air conditioning.
- Tony Corriggio, 157 Brite Avenue, expressed concerns about student safety during renovations and urged relocation of all students during the work.

The Board then conducted an extensive discussion of the eight areas presented by Mr. Matthey that might be addressed in the bond, in order to provide direction to the administration on whether it should further develop proposals in those areas. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board reached a consensus for the administration to move forward with detailed planning of the eight areas.

The Board heard an update presented by Jerry Crisci, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation, on the District's plans for using Smart School Bond funding, which will be presented for Board approval later on this year. The Board decided to defer to its September 25th meeting a review of bylaws amendments and resolutions proposed by the New York State Schools Boards Association (NYSSBA). Dr. Hagerman presented an overview of the status of proposed Board policy revisions; the Board approved two of those policies that were in final form, on Educational Research and Student Withdrawal from School. Dr. Hagerman reported that changes to instructional time will be revisited annually, and that a national expert on school scheduling issues, Dr. Michael Rettig, will be visiting the District this fall for consultations. Mr. Patrick reported that a replacement system for employee time clocks will be presented at the Board's next meeting.

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

- Mary Beth Evans, Co-Chair of the League of Women Voters' subcommittee that is studying the proposed bond, posed questions about the bond decision-making timeline, and the opportunity for community groups to address the Board with comments.
- Tony Corriggio, 157 Brite Avenue, urged that classroom trailers remain in consideration for Greenacres construction.

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 with regard to the bond timeline, the Board will make its decision on the scope of the bond on October 16, and bring the bond to the community for a referendum on December 14, and that the Board would reiterate the educational values that serve as the basis for bond projects. Dr. Hagerman noted that the Board had decided not to include a Middle School comfort station in a previous budget.

Mr. Natbony conducted a wrap-up of the meeting and Mr. Silberfein announced scheduled upcoming Board meetings on September 25th and October 16th, and a possible additional meeting on October 23rd.

The Board adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

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

## **Administrative Content**

## **Executive Content**

Last Modified by Honore Adams on September 15, 2017