

School Committee Joint meeting with Town Council  
Barrington Middle School, presentation room  
May 8, 2023  
Minutes

**Meeting Called to order:** 6:35

Pledge of Allegiance

**Roll Call:** In attendance: School Committee Members: Amanda Basse, Megan Douglas, TJ Peck, Patrick McCrann, Frazier Bell, Town Council Members: Kate Berard, Annelise Conway, Carl Kustell, Robert Humm, Braxton Cloutier. Others in attendance: Superintendent Mike Messor, Finance director Doug Fiore, Town Manager Phil Hervey, Attorney Aubrey Lombardo  
Joining via zoom Attorney Karen Grande

**School Committee:** Mr. McCrann, gave an overview of the Resolution of support enabling legislation for the Bond Referendum.

Mr. Peck spoke about the bond resolution and the maximum not to exceed numbers. Spoke of our OPM, FAQ, Tax grid, schedule. This has come together recently. We can't revise up, we can go down. OPM Downes has drafted a plan, it is not the plan it is a hypothetical plan. Renovations and additional construction at all elementary schools. Repairs at all five schools. BHS renovations up to new construction. He introduced the bond Attorney Grande.

**Attorney Grande** spoke on the resolution, the town being in support of the resolution. The format is not to exceed 215 Million. Standard to include RI pay as you go state grant. The Bond Act: not to exceed the number approved by the general assembly, advanced by voters for approval. This provides the Town Council to revisit that number. They can go lower (not higher) Then present that new number to the voters. The date deadline for the 2nd revision for election in November for the ballot question must be at the Secretary of State Office by August 1st (50 days in advance).

We will have a clearer idea of the plan and a more accurate number by the July Town Council business meeting of which voters will be voting on a more accurate number.

**Town Council:** Mr. Kustell asked, why we don't have a contingency plan for reimbursement.

**Attorney Grande:** advised against having a minimum level of reimbursement number on school bonds. RIDE can not confirm the level of bonus points until the project is complete.

Mr. Peck reiterated that the goal for any plan is to receive maximum reimbursement.

**Town Council:** Ms. Conway questions the tax increase, reassessment, senior residents. Mr. Peck explained the tax impact chart for residents. Ms. Bedard questioned the numbers solely for rehabilitation and longevity investment, being in a flood zone. What was looked at to determine rehabilitation rather than new construction. Mr. Peck discussed the bond, interest with longer maturities, the impact to residents and the aggressive plan with the state.

Town Council: Mr. Humm commented on the risk, benefits and the appreciation for the work done. Discussion of the cost- why will we not come close to 215 Million? Mr. McCrann answered, discussing the hypothetical plan. We will have more clarity prior to the vote. This price is a rough estimate. We say we won't get to the cost because we do not have the specifics.

**Public Comment:**

**Tom Brueckner** 4 Ellis Street, Mr. Brueckner spoke of replacing the high school instead of rehabilitating it. Why is the number low, are we held by the bond? Can we go higher?

**Jill Malafronte** special ed teacher at PHS. spoke about the space issues at PHS, that the pre-K and late addition of a grade 3 classroom have impacted the school space. What is the plan for SY23-24?

**Lisa Nelson** 19 John Street. Ms. Nelson has spent years researching and has written school construction laws. Ms Nelson spoke about school construction and the need for air filtration and the pick up and drop off plans for the schools She mentioned other major concerns that impact our children to consider when designing and building our schools. Children are not little adults.

**Lisa Daft** 5 Robbins Drive. Support resolutions, moving forward. Dr. Daft inquired about larger bonds falling off in the next couple of years? She inquired about taking the bond money at one time. She inquired about the School Department Capital Reserve Account? Will that money be used towards the projects, specifically the BHS roofing needs. Expressed concern with the Jacob's Rating done in 2016.

**TR Rimoshytus** 1 Howard Street. He supports schools and we are in need of the building renovations. One thing he would like to bring to the attention of the members is the need for Victory Field to be updated. The fields have not been updated since 1952. He would recommend asking for a 250 Million bond prior to going forward.

**Megan Lavigne** 17 Highview Avenue. Ms. Lavigne has questions regarding the timeline to use the bond. Mr. Peck informed her that we need to begin construction within five years. She also questions; KBA and Downes prices being so different.

**Maura McCrann** 4 Woodford Road Ms. McCrann thanked the School Committee for their work. Pleased with the work of Downes Construction.

**School Committee:** Mrs. Basse motioned to amend the proposed debt from 215 Million to 250 Million. Dr. Douglas seconded. **The motion passed 5/5 Mr. McCrann, Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Basse voting affirmative**

Mr. McCrann asked for a motion to have the Town Council endorse the amended resolution for 250 Million. Mr. Peck moved to approve, Mr Bell seconded. **The motion passed 5/5 Mr. McCrann, Mr. Peck, Mr. Bell, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Basse voting affirmative**

**Town Council:** Mr. Kustell moved to submit to state legislators the School committee resolution in support of enabling legislation for the bond referendum as amended and passed by the School committee. Mr. Humm seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5/0 Mr. Kustell, Mr. Humm, Ms. Conway, Ms. Berard, Mr. Cloutier voting affirmative**

**Adjournment:** Mr. Kustell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Humm moved all in favor **The motion passed 5/0 Mr. Kustell, Mr. Humm, Ms. Conway, Ms. Berard, Mr. Cloutier voting affirmative**

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM

**Adjournment:** a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. McCrann, moved by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Bell **The motion passed 5/0 Mr. McCrann, Mr. Peck, Dr. Douglas, Mrs. Basse, Mr. Bell voting affirmative**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Approved 6.8.2023