



**Barrington Public Schools**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

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Michael B. Messore III, Superintendent  
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**Residents approve financing for new Barrington  
Middle School at Special Financial Town Meeting**

*By vote of 590 to 349, lifting the tax cap approved to fund the \$68.4m project*

BARRINGTON, RI – Financing to construct a [new Barrington Middle School](#) received final approval from the voters of Barrington last night. At a Special Financial Town Meeting, by a vote of 590 to 349, residents approved exceeding the 4% cap on the increase in the town’s total tax levy in order to finance the \$68.4 million project.

Nearly 1,000 registered voters attended the meeting at Barrington High School. Following several hours of public comment, the measure was approved by paper ballot.

In November, voters overwhelmingly approved (63.8%) a referendum in favor of the middle school project. In January, the Town Council unanimously approved a resolution to exceed the 4% tax increase cap in order to finance the project through a 25-year municipal bond and scheduled the Special Financial Town Meeting. School officials estimate that up to 39 percent of the project costs will be reimbursed by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

According to Superintendent Michael B. Messore III, the middle school project can now be scheduled to go out to bid this summer, with construction estimated to begin in the fall. If the project remains on schedule, the building will open in August 2019, followed by demolition of the existing facility.

“We appreciate the continued support of the people of Barrington to move forward with this important opportunity,” said Superintendent Messore. “Today, we are closer than ever to replacing our outdated middle school with a first-rate educational facility.”

School Committee Chairperson Kate Brody emphasized a commitment to reducing the total cost of the project in order to minimize the impact on taxpayers.

“The School Committee, the Building Committee, and the Administration will remain vigilant throughout this process to identify cost-saving measures,” she said. “We are confident we will build the middle school our students need in a fiscally responsible way.”

Ms. Brody said that the School Committee will continue to receive regular updates on the project, and the Building Committee will include its periodic review of independent cost estimates.

School officials noted that the special meeting was called to take place separate from the Financial Town Meeting held annually in May, in part to secure the municipal bond before interest rates may increase. By locking in a rate in the near future, the town would likely secure the bond at an interest rate close to 3.4% or lower. At that rate, officials estimate that the residential property tax rate would increase by approximately \$1.12 per \$1,000, or about \$448 per year for a home valued at \$400,000.

For more information, visit [www.bmsproject.org](http://www.bmsproject.org).

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