

CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2016

School Committee Present:

James O'Brien
Andrew Cardarelli
Paula Kibbe
Andrew Soliwoda

School Committee Absent:

Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi

Also present:

Scott Knief, Superintendent
Brad Brothers, Chief Operations and Finance Officer
Meredith Cargill, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Technology
Jenna Sweeney, Student Council Representative

James O'Brien opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions:

Mary Willett, Mike Santos, Pam Reed and Roger King were recognized for their outstanding participation with the Unified Sports. Mary Willett presented an overview of the Unified and Special Education sports program including pictures of past and present athletes.

Phyllis Bowie, Gina Marie Rush, and Michael Schultz were commended for their coverage at MHS. They were thanked for their efforts beyond their regular assignment and responsibilities during the Term 1 while Mrs. Holley was on maternity leave.

Stephen Mahoney and Candie Barrie, technology specialists were commended for their work over and above all summer into the fall to deploy our new Chromebooks to Middle High School students.

I. Comments from General Public: None

II. Comments from EAPC: Tom Pinto, President, was pleased with overwhelming support for Vote No on Question 2.

III. Updates from Student and Captain's Council: None for Captains Council. Jenna Sweeney gave the following update for student council. Pep rally is set for November 22. A final decision for Lock In is being discussed. Upcoming events, MASC registration deadline 11/23/16; Best Buddies Leadership Summit with Silver Lake, Bocce Tournament in Rockland, January 8th. Possible Carver Elderly dance in December.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Paula Kibbe made a motion to approve minutes of October 17, 2016 meeting. Andrew Cardarelli second the motion. Andrew Soliwoda abstained . Approved.

Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to approve Minutes of Joint Meeting of School Committee and Board of Selectmen on September 29, 2016. Andrew Soliwoda second. Paula Kibbe abstained. Approved.

V. Communications:

A. Personnel Updates:

New Hires: **Stephanie Gillan**, *Bus Driver*, **Brian Mahoney**, *Technology Specialist*

Resignations: **Stephen Mahoney**, *Technology Specialist*,

Leo Chase, *Custodian* and **Heather Mento**, *Title I Math Paraprofessional*

B. Thank you letter to school committee from Paige Lawson and Shelby Richardi from the Post Vocational program was read. They have both turned 22 and will age out from our program. They thanked the school department for their support.

VI. Reports from Superintendent

Instructional Leadership - Standard I

A. Presentation 1:1 Google Drive by Maria Calvo-McEnelly, MHS Spanish Teacher. Maria Calvo-McEnelly highlighted the advantages of using the chromebooks both from the student and teacher perspectives. She showed how she uses google classroom to give assignments, to give immediate feedback, grade assignments/tests and keep open communication with her students. Mrs. Cargill thanked Maria for volunteering her time on the MHS technology committee who meet periodically to assist with sharing technology.

Management and Operation Standard II

A. October 1 Enrollment Report

Private Schools

Home Schooling

Enrollment reports for our schools, private school and homeschooled children were presented. Our overall student enrollment is down 14 students or less than 1% over the past year. This is reflective of the trend that is predicted for the district - that our enrollment will be steady over the next few years. As of October 1st, students enrolled in private schools total 219 and as of last January we had 220 choosing these options. The overview of the comparison is below:

| <u>2015-2016</u> | | <u>2016-2017</u> |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|
| Private/Religious | 51 | 44 |
| Vocational/Aggie | 97 | 95 |
| Charter | 33 | 38 |
| Home School | 38 | 40 |
| School Choice | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 220 | 219 |

B. Capital Outlay Plan

Brad Brothers reviewed our Capital Outlay Plan for FY18. The majority of the requests are at the MHS. There are some transportation and food service requests as well. The major request for FY18 will be replacing the rooftop units at the MHS. This would happen during the roof replacement over the summer as part of the accelerated repairs project. We have also identified updating the lighting system in the auditorium and upgrades to the Culinary classroom as part of the FY18 plan. After this year, we have identified five large capital requests and spread them over a five year period.

The items are:

- FY19 - Track and Field Project
- FY 20 - Locker room Replacement
- FY 21 - Student Lockers
- FY 22 - Auditorium Renovation
- FY 23 - New Door Lock System

Mr. Milanoski addressed the committee regarding where the cash flow comes from and how it is dispersed over the 10 year time line. Discussion: Mr. Cardarelli asked about the clock system replacement at the MHS. Mr. Knief said they are not repairable and are original to the school. The vote is to approve the estimated Capital Plan of ten years as presented tonight. Paula Kibbe made a motion, Andrew Soliwoda second. Approved unanimously.

C. Budget Updates:

Brad Brothers presented a comparison of the FY17 adjusted budget to the projected FY18 budget by DESE Code: District Wide Leadership and Organization, Instructional Services, Other Services (Athletics/Transportation), Operations, Benefits, and Out of District Program. The goal of the presentation was to assist people in gaining understanding of why we are projecting an approximately 1.1 million shortfall for FY18.

A few key points:

1. We started with a structural deficit from FY17 of over \$400,000 that we covered by using reserves from Circuit Breaker, School Choice, Foster Care and by reducing spending.
2. As we have built projections for FY18, we have built back supply line items and operating budgets for schools, transportation and custodial to original FY17 levels. We may make a decision to cut supply line items and operating budgets to meet the shortfall but wanted that to be part of the discussion.
3. The hardest hit was in the health insurance line item. Originally, in FY17 it was budgeted at \$2,485,876 - we really needed \$2,774,004 to cover health insurance for employees this year and with a projected 9% increase in health care costs we will need \$3,042,359 to cover expenses in FY18. That alone accounts for a \$556,483 difference between what was originally budgeted in FY17 and what will be needed in FY18.

4. The presentation is to not offer solutions but to make everyone aware of what we are facing. We need to discuss that all options are on the table including but not limited to staff reductions, increasing fees, gaining more support from the town, increasing revenue, opening negotiations with the EAPC to meet this shortfall. We will spend the next couple of months building a plan to alleviate the shortfall.
5. The 1.1 million shortfall if just accounted for through reductions in force would result in a layoff of approximately 22-25 positions if we had to cover their unemployment as well. The town has already indicated willingness to cover our unemployment costs. Still with this assistance from the town we would be looking at 15-18 positions to cover the 1.1 million dollar shortfall if done solely through reductions in staff.

Mr. O'Brien said this situation will take some serious conversation to take a look at all options for our budget shortfall. Mr. Soliwoda said we will need to be open to every option, be transparent, and work together as a committee to get the number to a more manageable amount. Mr. Cardarelli asked about health insurance breakdown. The committee will make working on this budget situation a priority, working with the town in a positive manner.

D. Request to Re-open Negotiations with EAPC

As a follow-up to the budget discussion, Mr. Knief asked the committee if they would be willing to vote to request the EAPC to re-open negotiations to determine if we will be able to negotiate some concessions to help meet the projected FY18 budget shortfall.

Andrew Soliwoda made a motion that the Carver School Committee ask the EAPC to consider opening the Unit A contract (teachers and other professional employees) for the purpose of negotiating over adjustments to salaries and other provisions, with the goal of reducing the budget shortfall anticipated for the 2017- 2018 school year. Second by Andy Cardarelli. Discussion: Mr. Soliwoda said we need to exhaust all options, this is one of many. Mrs. Kibbe said the situation is bleak, we have gone to our teachers before for painful money situations. Mr. Cardarelli and Mr. O'Brien said the goal is start conversations. Approved unanimously.

E. Updates from School Building Committee

Work has begun in earnest at the Elementary School. Erosion controls, construction fence and the temporary fence have been put up where they are working on the water lines, cleared the site, delivered construction trailers, and have begun work on connecting the current buildings to the well. The short term goal is to have water connected to the current buildings by the Friday after Thanksgiving and to move toward putting in foundations in December. Once work began they have moved quickly.

Starting next month, PMA will put out a monthly report on construction updates. Walter Hartley will attend December meeting to present information. These reports will be posted on school and town websites for the community to follow the construction of the school. Mr. Cardarelli asked if a webcam is going to be used for watching construction.

A discussion is underway for this topic. Next School Building Committee is December 13th.

F. Facilities Update: Mr. Brothers provided an overview of facilities issues including the completion of the gym floor project at the Middle High School, the approval of MSBA Board of Directors of our accelerated repairs project at the Middle High School and movement of athletic trainer office. Also update on the irrigation and field replacement at the Middle High School. The following were recognized for their assistance in upgrading and repairing our MHS athletic fields: A.D. Makepeace (READ Materials), Robert Ieronimo of New England Excavation, and Gary Garretson. Also Capital Outlay gave \$50,000 towards construction of MHS well. Mr. O'Brien asked the Superintendent to send letters of appreciation to these donors.

Family and Community Engagement Standard III

A. Calendar of Upcoming Events was shared for late fall and winter events including drama, concerts, etc.

VI. Recommendations from Superintendent

A. Vote to Approve MW 11.0 Energy Star Equipment and Appliances Resolution

As part of the New Elementary School project, we have agreed to go for the Collaborative for High Performing Schools (CHPS) certification. "The Collaborative for High Performance Schools believes kids learn better in schools with good lighting, clean air, and comfortable classrooms. That's why CHPS works with schools and experts to make changes to ensure that every child has the best possible learning environment with the smallest impact on the planet." By going for CHPS certification we have earned additional reimbursement points from the MSBA as part of our project. The certification process requires that the school make some agreements, pass some resolutions, and adopt some policies that support green initiatives.

Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to vote to approve CHPS resolution. The resolution states that the district will only buy equipment and appliances that are compliant with the specifications supplied through the Energy Star program. Paula Kibbe second. Approved unanimously.

Report from School Committee:

Mr. Soliwoda wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Cardarelli said the election brought a lot of good debate, hoping for a renewed importance for civics in our society. Good luck to football team on Thanksgiving. Mr. O'Brien gave a belated Veterans Day salute.

Andrew Cardarelli made a motion to adjourn at 9:18pm. Paula Kibbe second. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano