

CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
MINUTES of ANNUAL BUDGET PRESENTATION
February 27, 2017

School Committee Present:

Gina Marie Hanlon-Cavicchi
James O'Brien
Andrew Cardarelli
Paula Lowe
Andrew Soliwoda

Also present:

Scott Knief, Superintendent
Brad Brothers, Chief Operations and Finance Officer
Meredith Cargill, Director Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Comments from General Public: Bruce Skinner addressed the committee as a parent and Vice President of Music Boosters. He asked the Committee to consider the music program as a priority in the FY 18 budget and read a letter from the Music Boosters impressing the importance of music in the curriculum.

II. Comments from EAPC: Tom Pinto, EAPC President addressed the committee stating the layoffs of educators is catastrophic and that buildings and materials do not make education work, we need the teachers.

III. Budget Presentation: Scott Knief explained the Administrative Team has worked for several months on the school budget to come to the best possible solution to cover the 1.2 million dollar deficit over the town's budgeted number. During previous meetings, the budget was presented in three phases. Phase I – what could do without personnel cuts; Phase II – impacts which allow the school to maintain programs and Phase II, the elimination of programs.

Discussion on how the budget will affect class size indicated at elementary school grades K-4 will have 6 teachers, grade 5 will have 5 teachers and individual classes at MHS may increase. Also discussion regarding allied arts offerings at Elementary School occurred including looking at Carver's rotation versus local towns offerings. Data was also provided on changes and/or reductions to facilities, fees, advisors, athletics, staff reductions (administrators, faculty and support) and expenses funded by the town.

Mr. Knief stated long term we need to address issues of sustainability. Some ideas suggested: work with state to increase chapter 70 aid; town needs to increase revenue sources; town needs to consider how resources are allocated; capital projects; over-ride of proposition 2 ½; and restructuring of school budgets.

Andrew Cardarelli commented that all aspects of the budget need to be looked at and referred to the EAPC and the letter they received from the School Department to ask them to “come back to the table” for negotiating their contract to save positions.

James O’Brien moved that we approve a school budget of \$22,769,286 for the FY18 school year that includes the proposed changes in fees and staffing requests as presented this evening. Andrew Soliwoda second the motion. All in favor 5-0.

IV. Commonwealth Community Municipal Grant:

Mr. Knief gave an overview about this consolidation of services grant and stated an application has been submitted for phase I with phase II due on April 1st. The creation of a town-wide facilities and IT department would happen along with facilities software implementation.

For technology, the school would take the lead and the current technology staff would be school employees, we would be looking to add a shared position as well. The addition of a Tech position would be a plus for the district. The three people would have responsibility to support all town and school technology needs.

For facilities, it would be sharing five of our current employees with the town - The Director of Facilities, 1 groundskeeper, 2 maintenance workers, and a mechanic.

Otherwise, all custodians, bus drivers, and cafeteria works would remain as employees of the school department under direct supervision of the Superintendent only.

As the grant process continues, information will be shared with the committee.

Jacqui Perkins, MHS English Teacher asked the Chair if she could address the Committee. She expressed her disagreement with the Committee voting for the budget indicating the loss of any teachers is not acceptable.

James O’Brien made a motion to adjourn regular session to move to executive session not to return to open session at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Andrew Soliwoda. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Annmarie Metrano