

**Medford Public Schools
Medford, Massachusetts**

**Medford School Committee
Committee of the Whole**

October 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Senior Member Paulette Van der Kloot at 6:45 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Medford High School.

Members Present:

Erin DiBenedetto, Kathy Kreatz, Mea Mustone, Robert Skerry Jr. and Paulette Van der Kloot.
5 present, 2 absent.

Also present: Superintendent Roy Belson, Headmaster John Perella, Vocational Principal Director Heidi Riccio, Director of Buildings and Grounds John McLaughlin and parent Cheryl Rodriguez.

All rose to salute the flag.

Chairperson Van der Kloot stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the high school/vocational school elements of the proposed capital plan and to do a selected tour of the facility. She then called upon Superintendent Belson for an overview of the evening's meeting and mission.

The Superintendent handed out additional copies of the capital plan and a prepared document proposal from the vocational school. (see attached)

The Superintendent stated that it would not be possible to view the entire high school/vocational in one evening but that the Headmaster and Vocational Principal along with Director McLaughlin would identify priority sites for viewing.

The topic of overall technology upgrades would be referred to a subsequent session since this was a major topic with system wide implications.

Major systems like the roof and HVAC must be part of our overall planning as well. We have done a roof study and will have recommendations in the near future.

The Superintendent then explained that "capital planning" must be focused on major projects. General maintenance upgrades for the most part belong in an enhanced operational budget. Also that school system capital needs would be part of a larger citywide initiative. Further, it is important that we view capital plan issues not only as upgrades to facilities but also as part of a long term vision for the development of school system capacity and educational opportunities.

As we have recaptured certain out of district payments we must re-invest in our programs in a strategic manner and anticipate the future not just upgrade the present facility.

Committee members recognized the capital mission but wanted the administration to plan for greater maintenance investment going forward.

The Committee then began a tour of selected sites lead by the Headmaster, Vocational Principal/Director and Buildings and Grounds Director.

Headmaster Perella led a tour of the existing library. He focused on the ways the library has been altered from its original design over the past 45 years. He noted that natural lighting has been lost to the addition of several office spaces. Also that the general condition of the library had deteriorated.

It would be his plan to re-design the library into an open space media center reflecting upon the advance of technology. The library would flow into the courtyard and be a multipurpose epicenter for students and faculty exploration and utilization. He explained that the initial design and planning had already begun as a result of the XQ project/Academy of the Possible.

The tour of the library ended with an agreement to formalize the design by utilizing the expertise of an architect/engineer.

The next tour moved to the vocational school. Principal/Director Riccio explained that her number one priority was the relocation of the culinary arts and hospitality program to an accessible location for the general public. The Director reviewed the draft floor plan and explained how the current programs would be moved.

Medford will pursue a state capital skills grant but it will require matching funds for construction. This would include:

- Gas and water lines
- Electricity
- Flooring, lighting, doors
- ADA accessibility

This grant is now being released by the Commonwealth with applications due in December.

The total revamp of the vocational school beyond the culinary arts/hospitality project will involve the development of an academy model that groups the various offerings into like clusters.

Long term development should be pursued in conjunction with MBSA to the extent possible under their priorities and guidelines.

The committee reconvened in the conference room to recap their tour.

The Superintendent indicated that it will be necessary to consider the re-location of certain programs such as early childhood and office space to free up areas for program development.

The committee will await follow-up materials to continue its capital planning for the complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Skerry, Jr.
Secretary