

Medford Public Schools
Medford, Massachusetts

Medford School Committee
Committee of the Whole

February 27, 2017
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Ann Marie Cugno at 7:06 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Medford High School. Members present: Ann Marie Cugno; Erin DiBenedetto; Kathy Kreatz; Mea Mustone; Robert Skerry Jr; and Paulette Van der Kloot (6 present, 1 absent)

Also present: Superintendent Roy Belson; Deputy Superintendent Beverly Nelson; Assistant Superintendent Diane Caldwell; Vocational Principal/Director Heidi Riccio; Director of Finance and Administration Kristeen Patterson and Director of Buildings and Grounds John McLaughlin. Parents: Sarah O'Grady; Melissa McInnis; Carolyn Montello; and Michelle Ciccolo.

All rose to salute the Flag.

Vice Chair Cugno stated the purpose of the meeting : " To continue our discussions on capital planning projects for the Medford Public Schools"

Vice Chair Cugno called upon the Superintendent to begin the discussion.

Superintendent Belson reiterated the importance of understanding the difference between capital planning projects and general repair and maintenance issues. Capital planning is usually a multi-year group of projects. Such projects generally require a mix of bonding, grants, and revenues.

The Superintendent listed the capital projects that have been completed since FY2000 (see attached). Secretary Van der Kloot pointed out that the pool and boiler projects should be added to the list.

The Superintendent stressed the importance of getting started. Capital projects often take multiple years to get approval from the funding agencies. Additionally, there are many non-school projects that need to be addressed. There must be a balance between city and school priorities as we go forward.

Mayor Burke joined the meeting and assumed the Chair. The mayor was attending a city council meeting.

Each committee member was provided with a packet of materials that detailed the projects that would be discussed during the meeting.

The Superintendent identified the capital plan proposed of August 5, 2016 for the committee's reference.

The discussion then reviewed the Statement of Interest (SOI) that was approved by the School Committee at their last regular meeting. This is only the first step toward acquiring MSBA funding assistance.

Dr. Heidi Riccio then detailed three grant awards that are moving forward to enable major improvements and program development. (see attached)

The three grants are:

1. Massachusetts Life Sciences Grant for \$98,516 which will support the development of our robotics and engineering programs
2. Capital Skills Grant for \$500,000 to support the development of our culinary and hospitality programs. We will match this funding with both inkind assistance from our partners in industry and labor. Also we will use funding that is in a reserve contingency from the science labs project. This will require council approval.
3. Regional Services Grant for \$200,000 to expand our shops to accommodate enrollment growth. The focus of this grant will be on our electrical program and related areas. It will facilitate the inclusion with students from Everett who will pay tuition. Currently we have 25 Everett students. We expect to increase the number of tuition students to 100 over time. We are also recapturing tuitions from Minuteman.

The grants will be supplemented by inkind work by the Laborers and Wynn as well as other industry partners. The development of our shop spaces will also enable us to serve adult learners and to maximize the use of our facility. The Laborers will also help increase handicap accessibility.

The discussion moved to the high school roof (see Infrared Roof Survey). The high school roof needs some small repairs that can be accomplished for about \$25,000 - \$30,000 this summer. We would expect to consider roof replacement beginning with 2020. This would be done in sections. The outside schools are in good shape. They have another ten years before possible replacement. Mr. McLaughlin was present to answer questions.

Mr. McLaughlin then discussed the emergency repair to the heating system pipes in A building (see attached). A financial account was provided.

Member Mea Mustone asked how we could find funding for this type of repair. Also why we are not finding money for building appearance projects. The Superintendent explained that he would have had to shut down "A" building if the repairs were not made. It is not uncommon to divert funding for

emergency repairs. He also reiterated his plan to add additional funds to the operational budget next year for general repairs.

Member Erin DiBenedetto asked that the hanging wires in the conference room be removed from sight. Mr. Skerry urged more cosmetic work be done. Members Cugno and Van der Kloot recognized the need to do more with appearance but supported the priority of emergency repairs.

Ms. Van der Kloot asked for a report on the bleachers at our k-8 schools.

The Superintendent referenced the report from Mr. McLaughlin regarding the need to replace air conditioning compressors while the schools are functional there could be better efficiency. (see attached listing)

Curb replacement and parking lot resurfacing was discussed with emphasis on the high school, McGlynn, and Andrews (see report)

Playground replacement at the elementary schools was discussed. Pricing is now being sought. There is some possible mitigation/linkage from a developer to assist with the Roberts playground.

The Committee received the draft executive summary for our school technology. As we move forward technology is central to our educational and operational programs. Testing, state/federal reporting and instruction are more and more dependent on a robust and reliable technology infrastructure and tools. The National Assessment study will provide us with important guidance. However, we will need to enhance our network and refresh our devices on an ongoing basis.

We are eligible for substantial funding from the E-Rate program under Tier II (see chart). This will require a 40% match. Technology capital investment must be an essential part of our capital plan.

On the motion of Mr. Skerry, seconded by Ms. Cugno the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Van der Kloot
Secretary