

MASCONOMET REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FY18 Budget Deliberation Meeting

March 8, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Volchok, Chair, Boxford T. Buono, Vice Chair, Middleton
L. Richards, Middleton K. Prentakis, Middleton
P. Fitzsimmons, Boxford H. Rivers, Boxford
W. Hodges, Topsfield C. Miller, Boxford
K. Sherwood, Topsfield J. Spencer, Topsfield

MEMBERS ABSENT: A. Pascucci, Middleton

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Lyons, Superintendent S. Givens, CFO
L. Hodgdon, HS Principal D. Flaherty, MS Principal
Students M. Capron & A. rock

- A. Call to Order** – Vice-Chair T. Buono called the FY18 Budget Deliberation meeting to order on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 7: 05 p.m. in the Ralph Osgood Presentation Room.

T. Buono stated that discussion about the need for an addition of nursing FTE in the FY18 Budget was held at the previous meeting. The students in the audience were recognized and that they were attending to advocate for the drama program. T. Buono explained that tonight's meeting was not a public hearing, but that an opportunity for public comment would be provided.

Public Comment – M. Capron and A. Rock introduced the student group attending the meeting stating that students at school and graduates were invited to attend. Margot stated that the Drama Department is both wanted and needed at Masconomet.

- B. FY18 Budget Deliberation** – T. Buono – H. Rivers requested a recap of what was originally in the budget, what was cut and what would be in next year's budget. K. Lyons recapped Vision 2025 and stated he observed a missing piece at Masco which is Drama. A history of the last two years in regard to Drama was given (adding a .2 teacher). K. Lyons stated that the tight financial situation and reducing teachers and staff makes it difficult to create a new position. The strategic plan is at the beginning stages and the position is not in the proposed budget for this year or the next, but for the year after that. Discussion was held regarding the present .2 drama teacher (health teacher teaching overload – I class), and what was needed in regard to increasing FTE. K. Lyons stated that there was a need to start drama in the Middle School to serve as a feeder program for the High School. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of a drama program, the pros and cons of a full-time or part-time position, the cost of addition to FTE, steps needed to implement a drama program, student interest in a forum to discuss drama and the strategic plan, the need to move forward rather than just talk about it, to look into what the cost would be to implement and what would need to be cut from the budget, and how the Chinese program was developed.

Enrollment data by subject matter was given at the last meeting. K. Lyons stated that the chart given previously wasn't completely helpful and that actuals will be given in the fall. The chart showed the complexity of placeholders in the schedule. Going forward, a template needed to be put in place prior to budget development so that class size actuals and projections exclude singletons and outliers and capture the basic concept of the number of students going from classroom to classroom. A narrative would need to accompany this in order to get an understanding about how teacher FTE is divided to meet the needs of all students in the ways that instruction is offered. A discussion was held regarding the revolving funds and how fee waivers have affected the Use of Facilities Fund. S. Givens will add a column to this page indicating the fund balance.

A review of the School Choice, Charter, Other Tuition Assessment increase was given by S. Givens. A discussion regarding Workers Compensation was held with S. Givens indicating that the rates are periodically adjusted and that outsourcing has reduced expenses in this area. S. Givens referred to the extended staffing plan that explained the reductions, transfers, new positions and changes. A discussion on health insurance cost and increase, the incremental cost of the four positions identified that include benefits, the FY18 Operations and Maintenance budgetary increase analysis, and the thumbnail was held. Discussion was held regarding how per pupil cost is calculated. Discussion was held regarding how the \$162,000 savings from health insurance should be treated, town guidelines, the budget process and doing what's best for the students. After discussion was held regarding looking into college credits and ways to get those credits, it was determined that the idea was worth pursuing, but more research was needed.

T. Buono stated that the Committee should be able to certify the FY18 Proposed Budget at the March 15th meeting and suggested that the meeting scheduled for Monday, March 13th be cancelled. The Committee agreed to cancel that meeting.

C. **Old/New Business** – K. Lyons announced that the District received a donation of \$13,000 from Masconomet Education Foundation (MEF) for STEAM equipment. A motion was made by K. Prentakis.

MOTION: To accept the \$13,000 (Ck. # 1148) donation from MEF to support equipment and supplies for STEAM lab in both Middle School and High School.

VOTE: Motion approved.

D. **Adjournment** - A motion was made by P. Fitzsimmons.

MOTION: To adjourn.

VOTE: Motion passed at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Olga Langlois, Secretary

Approved: _____
Date

Per the New Open Meeting Law, the list of the documents that were either distributed to the Masconomet Regional School Committee before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Masconomet Education Foundation Donation of \$13,000 for STEAM Equipment for the MS and HS