

Masconomet Regional District School Committee  
District Capital Improvement subcommittee  
Minutes for Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Members present: Hagan Rivers (Boxford, chair)  
John Spencer (Topsfield)  
Kosta Prentakis (Middleton)  
Susan Givens (Assistant Superintendent of Operations)  
Dorothy Flaherty (Principal, Middle School)  
Doug Batchelder (Director of Operations and Facilities)

Members absent: none

Others present: none

**Call to Order:** H. Rivers called the meeting to order at 4:04pm in the Middle School principal's conference room at Masconomet.

**Review minutes from previous meetings**

The task force reviewed minutes from the meeting on October 25, 2017. A motion was made by K. Prentakis

Motion: to accept the minutes

Vote: Motion passed unanimously (D. Flaherty abstained)

**Review the Habeeb report on energy efficiency options**

The task force reviewed the energy efficiency options in the Habeeb report.

**L2: Photovoltaic panels:** the staging (structure) for the panels was not included in the proposed cost. Payback period would likely be about 10 years. The task force discussed the potential issues of snow load on the panels (and roof), the need to replace or repair the roof before the panels reach end of life, and the hazards of perforating the roof to install the solar panels. We discussed the possibility of installing them on other land on the school, including the parking lot. Members expressed concerns about losing focus on students and academics and the importance of focusing on the core mission of the school. S. Givens shared that Boxford has offered to sell Masconomet energy credits from their photovoltaic system. The task force felt that a photovoltaic system might be worth exploring further, but not for installation on the roof.

**L3: Rooftop units for classrooms:** D. Batchelder shared that temperatures in the high school's third floor classrooms climbed into the 90s during our warm fall period and that air flow is poor on the third floor. S. Givens indicated that new constructions of schools in Massachusetts is required to include air conditioning for classrooms. H. Rivers shared that public schools in New York are retrofitting to add air conditioning and that heat makes it difficult to both teach and to learn. All agreed that air conditioning for classrooms must be part of the work for the capital plan.

**L4. Lighting controls:** L4 adds lighting controls to the Building Management System (BMS) with a potential for energy savings. D. Batchelder suggested we also consider upgrading lighting to LEDs, which would ultimately give a strong return on investment.

**Review draft of timeline**

S. Givens shared that the School Building Authority (SBA) would first accept a proposal from Masconomet for capital improvements in 2021/2022 timeframe and that we would need to be prepared to make the request at that time with engineering plans and architectural drawings.

We reviewed the timetable for each of the current bonds and their final payments:

- May 1, 2020 final payment for the \$6.75m bond will be \$777,000
- April 1, 2022 final payment for the \$10M bond will be \$788,250
- March 31, 2023 final payment for a \$10M bond will be \$792,750

The task force agreed that we should plan to ask for a warrant article for an architect to begin project planning immediately after the first bond ends, in May of 2020 so that we can be prepared to ask the towns to approve the capital project in the spring of 2021.

**Discuss next steps, next meeting agenda**

The task force will review the SBA (School Building Authority) materials with a presentation by D. Batchelder and S. Givens.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by J. Spencer

Motion: to Adjourn

Vote: Motion passed at 5:20pm