



Central Massachusetts Collaborative
Board of Directors, Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.
CMC, Conference Room 1021
14 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606

Board Members present: Maureen Binienda, Chair, Worcester Superintendent of Schools
Ruthann Goguen, Webster Superintendent of Schools

Also Present: Michael Tempesta, Executive Director, CMC Collaborative
Beverly Tefft, Director of Finance, CMC Collaborative
Brian Allen, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, Worcester Public Schools
Kay Seale, Manager of Special Education & Intervention Services,
Worcester Public Schools
Monique Pierangeli, Business Manager, Webster Public Schools
Kathleen Baris, Director of Student Services, Webster Public Schools

The meeting was called to order at 1:22 p.m.

Mrs. Tefft reviewed the first pass FY20 CMC Budget with the subcommittee.
Within this first draft of the budget, the non-member district tuition is the current rate. Oxford Public Schools is listed in this preliminary draft.

In order for the Rockdale Recovery High School to break even, it needs to use surplus funds of \$353,693. The square foot cost at Rockdale Street will increase by \$3.00 per square foot each year, bringing the square foot cost to \$27.00 a square foot in FY21.

Mrs. Tefft informed the committee that the Surplus Fund Balance as of June 30, 2018, would be approximately \$1,926,108.

Superintendent Goguen confirmed that the Collaboratives FY19 budget was frozen as of the last board meeting held on December 18, 2018.

Superintendent Goguen questioned if the Collaborative has gone through each budget line item and transferred any remaining funds back into the general budget.

Mr. Tempesta explained historically the highest increase in the student census occurs between February-May.

14 New Bond Street, Worcester MA 01606
Phone: 508-538-9100 Fax: 508-854-1689
www.cmasscollaborative.org

Superintendent Binienda asked if the Recovery High School Program could go under another program, YOU Ink etc. Superintendent Binienda stated that the Recovery High School was established with a five-year grant, and asked if the Collaborative would need to fund this program after the five years. The Student enrollment at the Recovery High School has decreased year after year. What marketing initiatives are being used to increase enrollment for the Rockdale Recovery High School Program?

Superintendent Binienda questioned when the last Recovery High School Advisory Board meeting had been held. She requested a meeting with the Recovery High School Advisory Board be scheduled. Superintendent Binienda, Mr. Allen, and Superintendent Goguen requested to be included in that meeting.

Superintendent Binienda stated that the subcommittee learned that the Woodward Day Program (WDS) was developed as a Worcester Public Schools program only. In previous years, prior to 2014, the Worcester Public Schools included a Program Director of all WDS sites in their yearly budget to ensure that all programs strictly followed the Worcester Public Schools handbook and code of discipline. The Program Director running WDS must be a Worcester Public Schools employee and will assume all management duties of the WDS Program; all other staff will be hired as employees of the collaborative. Superintendent Binienda will contract the Collaborative to operate the WDS with the FY 20 preliminary budget of \$3,505,162.00. All other districts would be able to utilize the WDS Program and any revenue generated would go to the Worcester Public Schools.

Superintendent Binienda requested Mrs. Tefft provide a schedule for the last four years for the Rockdale Recovery High School operations.

Mrs. Tefft informed the subcommittee that the requested salary comparison between CMC & the Worcester Public Schools would result in an increase to overall salaries at CMC if implemented. She compared the Teachers Masters and Bachelors lanes and included longevity, stipends, etc. The total cost to convert CMC teachers and instructional assistants to the Worcester salary scale would be approximately \$340,000.00.

Mrs. Tefft shared that is information was based on 77 teachers and 93 instructional assistants. CMC does not offer employee longevity. Mrs. Tefft also pointed out that the alternative school teachers stipend or \$4,000 is already added to the CMC's teacher's salary scale. However, the \$700.00 Worcester Public Schools instructional assistants longevity is not offered at CMC.

Mr. Allen recommended compressing the CMC's teacher salary steps.

Mrs. Tefft provided a sheet of the overall length of service by employees for the subcommittee's review. The preliminary FY20 budget reflects a 5.45% increase in salaries. Mrs. Tefft also reminded the board that after the FY19 budget adoption, six additional FTE's were added, five instructional assistants and an adjustment counselor.

Superintendent Goguen expressed concerns that CMC remains an unsustainable business. She spoke to the auditor's report and recommendations based on the financial statements, recommendations, and compliances. Superintendent Goguen advised again, that CMC is a programmatic problem.

Mr. Tempesta asked for clarification on specific programmatic concerns.

Superintendent Goguen explained that student enrollments/tuitions are below the levels needed to fund

programs at capacity. CMC should be staffing the programs based on the current enrollment, not what the enrollment capacity is. The instructional assistant's positions should be decreased, based on the decreasing enrollment and tuitions.

Superintendent Goguen stated that Mr. Tempesta must conduct program reviews within each program and report back to the board.

Ms. Seale added that student enrollment is not at capacity and prospective Worcester students are being refused entry into the collaborative at the HLC Program.

Superintendent Binienda clarified that the subcommittee needs to come up with a per-pupil tuition rate for the DESE before the subcommittee is able to update the collaborative agreement.

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Friday, January 25, 2019, at 9:00 am at CMC, 14 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA.

Adjournment

Superintendent Goguen made a MOTION to adjourn.

Superintendent Binienda seconds the MOTION.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Bilotta