



Central Massachusetts Collaborative
Board of Directors, Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.
14 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606

Meeting Minutes

Board Members present: Michael Tempesta, Executive Director, CMC
Beverly Tefft, Director of Finance, CMC
Brian Allen, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, Worcester Public Schools
Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent of Schools, Webster Public Schools
Dr. Jean Grady-Lindquist, Clinical Director, CMC
Anne Ortiz-Leary, Program Director, Central MA Academy
MaryEllen McGorry, Principal, Rockdale Recovery High School
Jessica Pitsillides, Program Director, Hartwell Learning Center

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

1. FY20 Budget by Program Reductions

Mrs. Tefft presented the FY20 Budget by Program updates after she and Mr. Tempesta met with the Program Directors on April 3rd and 4th. The Director's were tasked with providing recommendations to decrease each of their program's budgets by 10% for FY20. During those budget discussions, Mrs. Tefft was able to update staffing numbers, vacant positions, and budget in attrition.

Mrs. Tefft further explained that these updated numbers include the tuitions that had been updated on April 4, 2019, and the administrative allocation that had been discussed at the Finance Subcommittee meeting on March 21, 2019.

Mr. Tempesta provided the board with the FY20 Budget by program hypothetical reductions that are open for discussion.

Superintendent Goguen questioned how many students would be impacted by removing the custodial and culinary vocational programs. Mr. Tempesta stated approximately 200 students. Superintendent Goguen asked the number of years in the 14 New Bond Street lease. Mr. Tempesta stated that it is a ten-year lease.

Superintendent Goguen questioned the water discoloration at 14 New Bond Street.

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Mr. Tempesta informed the subcommittee that the main pipe feeding the New Bond building is very old and has been flushed recently resulting in contaminants and discolored water. CMC has taken water samples to be analyzed and requested that the landlord provide drinking water for the building.

Superintendent Goguen requested that Mr. Tempesta research the water issue with the landlord, the City sewer department and have an independent water test completed.

Mr. Tempesta affirmed Ms. Tefft's budget summary that the FY20 budget is at a loss of (813,740), short about a dozen non-member tuitions, and the fund balance will be at approximately 1.1 or 1.2 million after the proposed cuts are made.

Mr. Tempesta advised that this year's budget was finalized based on the peak, year-ending incoming revenues of 3.7 million dollars (June, 2018) from non-member, out of district students attending CMC Therapeutic School Programs and urged the committee not to repeat this mistake next year because those numbers are subject to change due to the composition of 45-day placement students who often do not remain enrolled for the entire budget fiscal year.

Mr. Allen affirmed these numbers are with Worcester Public Schools student enrollment with 360 seats in the Therapeutic Day School Programs (Special Education) and 150 seats at Woodward Day School (Non-Special Education, long-term exclusion program).

Mr. Tempesta informed the subcommittee that the Collaborative agreement has been submitted to the DESE for approval.

Superintendent Goguen requested that Mr. Tempesta follow-up with the DESE on the status of the collaborative agreement, Webster Public Schools, School Committee, is waiting to see the approved tuition rates to decide if Webster will continue in the collaborative.

Mr. Allen provided the subcommittee with an update from his meeting with Superintendent Binienda and Elias Hanna, Landlord of 20 Rockdale Street. Mr. Hanna is willing to discuss reviewing the lease agreement, look at comparable properties, CMC would need to extend to a five-year agreement. Mr. Allen would need another meeting with the subcommittee to create a lease proposal for 20 Rockdale Street.

Mr. Tempesta suggested revisiting the lease agreement that he created with Mr. Hanna last June and to just create a lease amendment with Attorney Bateman like they reviewed the last year.

Superintendent Goguen requested Mr. Tempesta email her the draft collaborative agreement that was forwarded to the DESE.

Mrs. Tefft shared that she and Mr. Tempesta had a conference call with Ms. Gaines and Ms. Hersch from the DESE and went through each revision that was revised. Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Lynch, DESE, District & School Finance, are on vacation, once they return the agreement should be approved.

Superintendent Goguen suggested that Mr. Tempesta and the Program Directors meet and have these recommended reductions prioritized by the need for the next board meeting.

2. Member Requests/New Business

There were not new member requests or any new business discussed by the subcommittee

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Bilotta