

**Mansfield School Committee Meeting
Minutes for Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Town Hall, Room 3A&B**

A **Public Hearing** and **Open Meeting** of the Mansfield School Committee were held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. The public hearing was opened and called to order by Kiera O'Neil at 7:03pm.

Members Present:

Kiera O'Neil, Chair
Lynn Cavicchi, Vice Chair
Linda Fernando
Jenn Walsh
Lauren Scher

Also Present:

Zeffro Gianetti, Superintendent of Schools
Teresa Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Edward Vozzella, Director of Finance and Operations

Members Absent:

Video Taping: None

FY18 Budget Presentation:

At the last meeting, Edward Vozzella gave a high level presentation of the FY18 budget. The total amount was approved by the school committee. Tonight, administration presented a more detailed picture of the FY18 budget. The detailed budget document is available on the district website and attached.

Ed Vozzella started with the consolidated spreadsheet page. This sheet provides the dollar amounts by area and the change from prior years.

The reconciliation from FY17 to FY18 is composed of two key components: Non discretionary which are contractual or "have to do" items. The second component is administrative initiatives. It was noted that there were two changes since the original presentation. Special education placement costs are down by \$217,000 due to a placement change while technology will now be funded through capital for a reduction of \$221,000. The new budget number is now \$49,568,000 which is a 4.9% increase over last year.

Mansfield High School (Michael Connolly): The budget contains an 11.1% increase over last year with the largest increase due to the significant need of Chromebooks and new Smartboards. Other increases are: high needs student support and new band equipment. There are decreases in textbooks, instructional equipment and teaching supplies. MHS is asking for a new adjustment counselor to help support the social emotional needs of our students. The new position will allow us to be more proactive in assisting students in crisis.

Mansfield High Athletics (Michael Connolly): There is a slight uptick in the athletic budget (.7%) with the biggest need being athletic supplies and transportation costs. Our teams are performing well, leading us deeper into tournament rounds. This comes with increased costs of officials, security, banners, transportation etc.

Qualters Middle School (Suzanne Ryan): There is an increase of 43.2% in this year's budget. Translation and interpreter services are up due to a trend in student enrollment. There is need for new band equipment and a new music program due to increased student interest. Currently there are 300 Chromebooks for 1000 students. QMS is looking for funds to purchase additional units. It

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is also time to start replacing some old Smartboards. Some of these increases are offset by decreases in textbook spending, health services and equipment maintenance. Like the high school, QMS is looking for an additional adjustment counselor position. In a recent survey, 70% of students and parents showed increased stress levels. This year, guidance counselors have been a presence in every classroom. QMS is faced with decreasing enrollment (see slide.) Sue Ryan has proposed that the school move from 4 teams per grade to 3 teams. This model will maintain class size, realign positions and provide a well rounded middle school offering. This model will allow the district to save most staff positions despite the decreased enrollment. At a future school committee meeting, the new program of studies will be provided.

Jordan/Jackson (John Nieratko): There is a 54.7% increase in this year's budget. The largest increases come from the need for new textbooks. There are new editions which meet the new state standards as well as renewals of licenses. Second, technology costs are a big increase due to the need for Chromebooks and new Smartboards. Currently there is one Chromebook for every eight students. As in other schools, there is an increase in translation needs. The Jordan/Jackson school is looking for a full time library/media specialist. For the last 8 years J/J and Robinson have shared the library position. John would like to see the library be the hub of the school supporting content management and technology. By adding this position, Robinson would also benefit by having a full time library/media specialist.

Lynn Cavicchi expressed concern with adding a library position over an additional digital learning specialist. Her fear is that we are increasing technology equipment and lessons but will not have enough district support to sustain the changes. Lynn also asked if the library position could be restructured as a certified position. Zeff Gianetti responded that in order to do this, it would mean eliminating the current office assistant position. Therefore there were no current plans to restructure this position.

Robinson (Kerri Sankey): The Robinson budget is up 23.7% with the biggest increases coming from Chromebooks and Smartboards. There is also an increase in instructional equipment in support of some exciting new initiatives. Translation services have also increased. Mansfield is again proposing the switch to full day, tuition-free kindergarten for everyone. As such, Kerri is proposing a new kindergarten teacher which will allow the district to support full day while keeping class size low.

Roland Green (Kerri Sankey): The Roland Green budget is up slightly (12.5%) mostly due to the need for replacing old Smartboard projectors.

New ESL position (Teresa Murphy): From FY15 to FY17, our ESL student population has increased by 25 students. We currently support twelve languages and various levels of English language learners. We are anticipating this trend to continue. Lauren Scher suggested that we take time to rethink our ESL approach. Teresa stated that we have been and will continue to review our program as the student population dictates.

Central Office (Ed Vozzella): Transportation costs factor into the 16% increase in this budget. Some of the cost is offset by realigning the expenditures for human resources.

Buildings and Grounds (Ed Vozzella): Utility costs will be revisited in the spring. However, increases are minimal.

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Special Education (Ed Vozzella): Increases are due to special education placements. Some of this is offset by use of circuit breaker funds.

Lynn Cavicchi asked if the district has set any priorities. At this time, the district is requesting the budget as a whole and will begin the prioritization process as further budget cuts are needed. Zeff Gianetti indicated that we came in with a conservative budget this year. He also recommends reviewing the 5 year narrative twice per year in order to help with future planning.

Citizens Comments: Karen Connors, 36 Darby Drive represents the paraprofessional unit. She introduced the group that provides integral support to our students. They are a group that works diligently and are here at the meeting to show their desire for a fair contract.

At 8:57 pm, Kiera O'Neil closed the Public Budget Hearing.

At 8:58 the Open Meeting was begun in New Business.

2016-17 School Calendar Change: Teresa explained the reason for changing the ½ day (Professional Development) from April 12, 2017 to March 15, 2017 is to use April 12th as an MCAS testing day.

Jenn Walsh motioned to change the school calendar so that March 15th is a ½ day for students, professional development day for staff and April 12th is a full day for students and staff. Linda Fernando seconded this motion.

Motion carries: 5 – 0.

Lynn Cavicchi requested that MCAS schedules be posted to parents. Teresa promised they would as soon as they were complete.

Field Trips: Linda Fernando made a motion to approve the MHS class field trip to Providence Place Mall. Lynn Cavicchi seconded the motion.

Motion carries: 5 – 0.

Zeff Gianetti announced one additional retirement effective in September of 2017.

Citizens Comments: None

Motion to adjourn: At 9:02 p.m., Kiera O'Neil asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 for the Following Purpose:

Under Exception No. 3, To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and not to reconvene in open session and the chair so declares;

Under Exception No. 4: To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto:

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Role Call Vote:

Lauren Scher Yes
Linda Fernando Yes
Kiera O'Neil Yes
Jenn Walsh Yes
Lynn Cavicchi Yes

Motion U.C. 5-0

Documents Referenced:

FY18 Budget
Field Trip request for MHS class to Providence Place

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Nugent
Secretary to the
Superintendent &
School Committee