

Canton School Committee Minutes of the Workshop of October 15, 2021
Rodman Administration Building, Room 28
960 Washington Street, Canton, MA

Chair Merenda called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm

Present:

Kristian Merenda, School Committee Chair
Nichola Gallagher, School Committee Vice Chair
Maureen Moran, School Committee Secretary
Kendall O'Halloran, School Committee Member
Derek Folan, Interim Superintendent
Stephen Marshall, Director of Finance and Operations
Sarah Shannon, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Mike Green, Interim Principal, GMS
Randy Scollins, Town of Canton Finance Director
Colleen Hutchinson, Recording Secretary

The School Committee and CPS Administrators participated in a Planning Workshop with a focus on future planning regarding the GMS application for the MSBA SOI.

Prior to delving into the agenda items, Interim Superintendent Folan gave members an update on the water main break that occurred this morning at GMS. At least half of the building is impacted. Town officials were contacted and are on site. Service Master is on site. Estimated to have significant technology loss. School will not be in session, in person on Monday. Interim Superintendent Folan contacted Commissioner Riley and submitted a proposal for remote learning next week. Commissioner Riley approved 5 days of remote learning. Today will be a make-up day for GMS students and staff. Given approval for remote, there will be a 2 hour delay on Monday. The hope is to have students back in person by Thursday. Field use can continue. There will be food pick up options for next week. Technology support and hot spots will be available on Monday and throughout remote learning. Special needs, high needs students will be on site at CHS, plans are being finalized. Communication will be going out to parents beginning this evening and throughout the weekend.

AGENDA

I. Introduction and Welcome

- Interim Superintendent Folan reviewed desired outcomes of the workshop
 - A shared understanding of the MSBA approach and process
 - A shared understanding of the Master Facility Planning process from 2018 and the essential information from the GMS Statement of Interest
 - A shared understanding of the October 22 visit and the October 26 walkthrough, and strategically plan desired outcomes for these MSBA events
 - Define the preparation steps required for each visit

II. Master Facility Planning Review (2018) and SOI-GMS designation

- Key elements and processes were reviewed. The SOI plans for a reconfiguration of all grades, with the GMS housing grades 5-8. Administrators are examining enrollment rates keeping into consideration all new buildings and developments in the Town. There was a discussion about whether it is best to renovate the existing building or rebuild. The next phase will ask Administrators to review and present both options. MSBA ultimately makes the final decision.

- Member suggested that discussion should focus on overcrowding and space issues. MSBA has the SOI only. This is not an opportunity for CPS to provide more information. There is no room to make changes.
- 8th grade Academy, as written in the SOI, is not part of the Master Plan.

III. Discussion of MSBA Purpose and Scope

- MSBA approach - There is typically a standard reimbursement rate. MSBA has its own set of rules. DESE guidelines will be considered also.

IV. Established Desired Outcomes for Oct. 22 and Oct. 26

- October 22 - Virtual meeting with MSBA to review finances and town/school readiness. This meeting will be recorded.
- MBSA will look to see that the Town is set up and that the funding is in place. The estimated cost range is unknown. According to Mr. Scollins, the Town is positioned for this project. If 1.5 million or under, the Town is prepared to move forward. Mr. Scollins shared other “pots of money” 1. Paul Revere Heritage has somewhere between 1-2 million that will become available for the School Department. 2. AARPA Funds. 3. Lost revenue, 3.5 million in Canton, which can be used for any legal, municipal reason. Mr. Scollins suggested submitting a placeholder request, asap, for the AARPA funds for the Feasibility Study. There will be competition for this. The Select Board will make these infrastructure decisions.
- Select Board member, Lisa Lopez, asked to attend one of the MSBA meetings.
- The District would likely receive notification of the next phase in December
- If moved on, then the Spring of 2022 would require Town approval

- October 26 -- Walkthrough at GMS with MSBA reps to review the physical and space aspects

Motion to adjourn at 4:16 pm made by Maureen Moran. Seconded by Nichola Gallagher. 4-0