

MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts

BY: HYBRID FORMAT

MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Monday – May 16, 2022, and called to order by Chairperson James Muse at 6:30pm.

Chairperson Muse stated the meeting is being conducted via hybrid format only for School Committee Members; and, the public has the ability to participate remotely through zoom as well with the link provided.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Muse, Chairperson – Remote; Carly Lavin, Vice-Chair – In-Person; Tiffini Reedy – Remote; Carole Clifford – In-Person; Karin Barrows – In-Person

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools – In Person; Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning – In Person; Howard Barber, Director of Finance – In-Person; Craig Davidson, Director of Student Services – In-Person; Rosemary Bowman, Principal - Mattapoisett Public Schools – In-Person; Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal – Mattapoisett Public Schools – In-Person; Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary – In-Person; teachers; staff; parents; members of the press and public- via zoom.

MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson, James Muse stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being video-taped, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined.

SCHOOL CHOICE BUDGET HEARING:

Michael S. Nelson – Superintendent of Schools stated the following:

“Each year, every school committee in the Commonwealth must discuss whether or not they will enroll “School Choice” students in the upcoming school year. Tonight, the Mattapoisett School Committee is holding their “School Choice” hearing for the 22-23 school year. At this time, previous school committees have approved 12 active “School Choice” enrollment slots. Presently, nine of those twelve slots are occupied by students. More specifically, we have two school choice students in Kindergarten; two in first grade; three in second grade; and, two in grade three. Based on current enrollment numbers and class sizes in our two schools, it is recommended that the school committee vote to continue to be a “School Choice” district, but to not add any new “School Choice” slots at this time.”

Question(s) by the Public/ School Committee Members:

Mike Rosa – 12 Kerwin

For each student, how much do you receive (he believes it is around \$5,000)?

Mr. Rosa stated at Town Meeting, it was noted that it costs between \$18,000-\$19,000/student – is there a way to make up the difference?

Mr. Barber noted if there are 1 or 2 seats available in a class (for class size purposes), we do receive \$5,000/student for school choice enrollment for those students who come in to the district. The cost for each classroom gets reallocated with the additional school choice student(s), with that additional outsource funding. Even though it is that much for general enrollees in the town, school choice is additional monies received to offset other costs in the district.

Chairperson Muse noted it is \$5,000 per student and the overall cost per student is around \$19,000.

Carly Lavin:

Do we have currently available what the variable cost is for an additional student?

Mr. Barber stated he does not have that information at this time, but noted these resources help to reduce the costs that are already occupied by each classroom(s). Mr. Barber noted since we are already occurring the exact cost for that classroom(s) no matter what, and we have an empty seat that allows us to be funded by \$5,000 for each of those students, it actually reduces the cost per student by having this extra resource funding.

Carly Lavin:

The number that is being referenced now (\$19,000) is a total number – it is not being broken up between marginal and fixed costs?

Mr. Barber responded “correct”.

Susan & Joe Francis – 211 North Street

Susan Francis:

Clarification Question: Are you saying there are 3 positions available for Kindergarten students or there are no positions available this upcoming school year?

Superintendent Nelson stated we are not making a recommendation to increase our number of School Choice slots this upcoming school year. The recommendation is to maintain the current number, which is 12. Mr. Nelson stated presently we have 9 students (the breakdown that was provided above). Mr. Nelson noted there is flexibility to fill up to 12 students but not exceed that number.

Joe Francis – 211 North Street

They have a grandchild who lives in New Bedford and they would love for her to attend Mattapoisett Schools. Mr. Francis stated he has heard that there are 2 slots already filled for Kindergarten – are there any additional slots for Kindergarten?

Principal Rose Bowman stated when the Superintendent talked about those numbers, he’s talking about the children that are presently enrolled in those grades. The children that are presently in Kindergarten will be in our grade 1 class next year. Ms. Bowman noted those numbers reflect students for FY22.

Ms. Bowman noted all of the applications will come to us and we will contact the people who have applied to let them know about the school choice decision.

Question to Chat:

Klein – 32 Upland Way

Can the \$5,000 be negotiated higher? I've been told Mattapoisett has done this in the past.

Superintendent Nelson stated the \$5,000 rate is set by the Department of Education and it has not been increased in a number of years. Mr. Nelson noted there is a reimbursement process if students receive services and those rates are also set by the Department of Education – Districts do not negotiate those rates individually.

SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 6:44pm

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOGNITION:

Chairperson Muse stated Carole Clifford and Karin Barrows will not be serving on the Mattapoisett School Committee next year and noted they both will be missed.

Mr. Muse stated Ms. Barrows has been on the committee for three years and very quickly in her first year became a vital voice for many issues. Ms. Barrows was always thoughtful, polite and she always had other people's interest in mind. Mr. Muse stated it has been a great pleasure working with her and thanked her for her service.

Mr. Muse stated Carole Clifford did the amazing thing of making this her "second" last meeting. Mr. Muse stated a year ago she had her last meeting when she finished her three-year term – she "retired" – and then when we had an unexpected vacancy on the committee, she stepped forward to assist us. Mr. Muse stated Ms. Clifford has unbelievable experience in education and has been a tremendous resource.

Superintendent Nelson stated saying good-bye to Ms. Clifford a second time is even harder and he appreciates the years of service not only as a school committee member but as an educator as well. Mr. Nelson stated there is very little in public education within the field that Ms. Clifford has not done and we have benefited from Ms. Clifford's knowledge and wisdom tremendously.

The book that is being donated to the Mattapoisett School District in honor of Ms. Carole Clifford, and will be placed in the school's library is:

Her Name Was Mary Katharine

"The Only Woman Whose Name is on the Declaration of Independence"

Inside the front cover reads:

Carole Clifford
School Committee Member

is hereby recognized for significantly supporting a strong educational system
that ensures all students receive the instruction and resources
necessary to be successful learners

Mattapoisett School Committee
May 16, 2022

Superintendent Nelson stated, Ms. Barrows, like himself, picked the most interesting of times to serve as a school committee member the past three years. Mr. Nelson stated there was very little time for Ms. Barrows to ease into the role – essentially, Mr. Barrows stepped right in and her voice immediately was an essential one in so many ways. Mr. Nelson stated he recognizes these three years have not been easy for town residents to serve on local boards, for reasons that we all know. Mr. Nelson extended a “thank you” to Ms. Barrows for all of her expertise with us, not only as a resident but also as an educator and a parent in the Town of Mattapoisett.

The book that is being donated to the Mattapoisett School District in honor of Ms. Karin Barrows, and will be placed in the school’s library is:

She Persisted in Sports
“American Olympians Who Changed the Game”

Inside the front cover reads:

Karin Barrows
School Committee Member

is hereby recognized for significantly supporting a strong educational system
that ensures all students receive the instruction and resources
necessary to be successful learners

Mattapoisett School Committee
May 16, 2022

Ms. Karin Barrows stated the following:

“It has been an honor to have a seat on the board over the last three years. I am very proud of all we were able to accomplish through Covid. Of the many accomplishments, hiring a new Superintendent is one of the most important roles of a school committee and I feel we could not have filled the position with a more qualified or dedicated Superintendent. Thank you Mr. Nelson for your level head and strong leadership over the past two years.

Another area of focus has been making steps towards Cultural Proficiency, Global Citizenship, and Acceptance & Understanding of the Diverse School Community that we serve in our District. I am proud of the strides we have made in these areas.

When the time comes, my children will attend our elementary schools, and I have full confidence that they will be received by some of the highest quality educators in the area.

I am honored to have been part of this committee and I look forward to being an active participant in our school community in the future.”

Ms. Carole Clifford stated the following:

“Being a 9th grade graduate of Center School, it was a pleasure coming back and serve on this committee and be part of the community. It was actually a little fun.”

XII. Executive Session:

Recommendation

That the School Committee enter into Executive Session at 6:52pm for the purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal regulations.

MOTION: by Carole Clifford to go into Executive Session at 6:52pm for the Purpose of #3 and #7, and to return to the regular School Committee meeting as scheduled.

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin – Yes; Karin Barrows – Yes; Carole Clifford – Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

Chairperson Muse stated Tyler Macallister, Selectman, would be joining Executive Session as a town representative.

Superintendent Nelson invited Toni Bailey, Recording Secretary and Howard Barber, Director of Finance to the meeting as well.

RETURNED TO THE REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:22pm

I. Approval of Minutes:

1. A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the minutes of April 4, 2022

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2022

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 4, 2022, as presented

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

2. Executive Session Minutes

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review and approve the Executive Session minutes of April 4, 2022 and April 5, 2022.

Chairperson Muse stated these minutes would be approved during Executive Session.

Chairperson Muse requested the next item of business – UMass Boston School Consolidation Study Presentation be placed after the “Approval of the MOA” (item “B”) – School Committee members agreed.

IV. General

B. Approval of MOA

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for approval a Memorandum of Agreement between the Mattapoisett Educator's Association and the Mattapoisett School Committee.

Superintendent Nelson stated the School Committee and Town Representative, Tyler Macallister, met and reviewed the MOA between the Mattapoisett's Educator's Association and the Mattapoisett School Committee for the next three years and continue taking action to approve as presented.

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to accept the Memorandum of Agreement between the Mattapoisett Educator's Association and the Mattapoisett School Committee for the next three years as presented.

SECONDED: Karin Barrows

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

NON-VOTE: 1

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse – Yes; Tyler Macallister – Non-Vote

IV. General

A. UMass Boston School Consolidation Study Presentation

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a presentation from UMass Boston.

Superintendent, Michael Nelson stated the following:

“This evening we are following up on some work that happened at a recent school committee meeting where there was a brief conversation regarding the school consolidation study that is being overseen by the Collins Center associated with UMass. At the school committee's request, I invited the study's leads to tonight's meeting to provide an overview of the study that they are conducting and answer any questions you may have.”

Mr. Nelson introduced Heather Michaud from the Edward J. Collins Jr., Center for Public Management. (Please see Attachment “A” – power point presentation)

Ms. Michaud stated unfortunately Michael Edwards is not present this evening – he is presenting at another school district this evening.

Ms. Michaud stated the following topics would be addressed:

- Introduction of the Collins Center
- Project Overview
- Timeline
- Data Collection
- Public Engagement
- Conclusion

Ms. Michaud read the “Mission Statement” of the Collins Center as follows:

“The Collins Center is dedicated to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, governance, responsiveness, and accountability of public sector organizations, with a particular focus on local and state governments.”

Ms. Michaud stated their team brings forward the following expertise:

- Cross-disciplinary team of practitioner-consultants with decades of experience working in municipal, regional, state governments, and public school districts
- Consult on all aspects of public governance and management
- As a member of the Mattapoissett Facility Review Team, we bring expertise in:
 - Facility condition and reuse
 - Financial analysis
 - Educational operations
 - Public engagement

Ms. Michaud stated the Town of Mattapoissett approached the Collins Center with a request for assistance in assessing facilities relocation and/or consolidation options with a particular focus on school buildings and the town hall. Ms. Michaud noted the Town was also seeking an independent analysis to determine the financial and educational benefits and challenges of consolidating schools as well as the potential reuse of spaces.

Ms. Michaud stated the two roles of the Collins Center in this study are:

1. Document facilities consolidating and/or reuse options for the Town of Mattapoissett with a particular focus on school buildings and town hall
2. Complete a full independent analysis to determine the financial and educational benefits and challenges of consolidating schools.

Ms. Michaud noted their process is as follows and presented a “timeline” in which they were following:

- Held “Initial Meetings” – which did commence
- Go through a “Data Collection & Analysis” phase – which is the longest phase
- Hold “Facility Site Visits” – some team members walked through some of the facilities last year
- “Public Engagement” – it is important that the community’s feelings are captured as a data element for consideration in final options
- “Develop Scenarios” – based on all of the pieces that have been pulled together
- “Final Report” – will be completed and transmitted to the Town

See the “Timeline” grid in the Power Point presentation (Attachment “A”)

Ms. Michaud stated there are five (5) steps to “Data Collection”, and listed as follows:

1. Enrollment
 - Historical
 - Projections
 - Special Programs
2. Financials
 - Expenditure/Revenue
 - Budget

3. CIP (Capital Improvement Plan)

- Plans/Funding
- Renovation History

4. Facilities

- Assessments
- Floor Plans
- Leased Space

5. Other

- Relevant Studies
- Strategic Plans

Ms. Michaud noted she likes to think of the “Public Engagement” piece to be broken down into three spheres:

1. School Community Survey – provide this study to all Mattapoissett residents (regardless of age) so that everyone can provide their opinion on certain topics
2. Master Plan Community Survey Data – they would be looking at the cultural and recreational sections to see if they would cross over with anything they might be considering from a use perspective
3. Virtual Public Forum – allow members of the community and school community to voice their opinions in an organized manner

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Tiffini Reedy:

Could you first start by saying exactly when and who from the Town of Mattapoissett approached you about doing this study?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

The Collins Center reaches out every year regarding the “Community Best Practices Grant”. This is a grant that is funded by the state to all eligible municipalities and it is essentially an “alert” email – this happened around January 20, 2021.

The Collins Center received a response from the Town Administrator inquiring about projects that were important to the Select Board at that point.

Tiffini Reedy:

Can you tell me when the Town Administrator first reached out and what the name of the Town Administrator is?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Mr. Lorenzo and it was after January 20, 2021 – she does not have the exact time.

Tiffini Reedy – for clarification:

The Collins Center sends this broad email out to every municipality in Massachusetts?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Yes, every eligible municipality because you are not allowed to apply for a grant every year – if you are granted, then you have a wait year.

Tiffini Reedy:

What makes a community eligible?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

All communities are eligible to apply for a grant and there are several categories that you can apply for - i.e.: one is a regionalization category, one is a best practices category for finance, one is a human resources category, etc. There is a broad list that she can provide the Superintendent through their website.

Tiffini Reedy:

Does the grant fully fund this or does the Town pay in part for your research?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

The grant fully funds for this research project.

Tiffini Reedy:

Who exactly is on the Team? What are their roles and credentials and where do they come from – are they part of the Collins Center or do you sub-contract out individuals? How do you determine which individuals with what credentials would be most appropriate for any given grant/project?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

There are three of us on this Team:

Ms. Michaud – former School Business Administrator

Ms. Michaud has served on the school's practice team including working with School Finance, Human Resources, School Operations, Food Services, Transportation, Facilities, Capital Improvement Planning, etc.

Michael Edwards – Municipal Facilities individual – he is very familiar with energy, municipal buildings and their functions, budgeting surrounding them and new building construction

Ms. Michaud noted the reason why she and Mr. Edwards is in this together is because it relates to a school and a town – she will look at it in supporting the school side and Mr. Edwards will look at it from the town side.

A third individual will be assessing the facilities with us. He is a former Facilities Manager and is recently retired and is now working part-time at the Collins Center (he is a UMass employee now) and he will be assessing the exact facilities from a more objective perspective – mechanical's use, etc.

Ms. Michaud stated she will have a former Superintendent of Schools assist her with the public engagement side.

Ms. Michaud noted everyone is UMass employees – two are full-time; two are part-time.

Tiffini Reedy:

Does anyone from your team have any relationship or ties to the Town of Mattapoisett, Mr. Lorenzo or any of Mr. Lorenzo's associates, friends or family members?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Not to her knowledge.

Tiffini Reedy:

It seems as though there is a focus on the schools and the town hall - what about the other buildings in the town – will any of those be looked at?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

They were not included in the scope request of work. It was specific to these buildings.

Carole Clifford:

The timeline – it seems like it would be hard to accomplish all the things you want to do before school is over – Ms. Clifford stated she doesn't know how reliable the timeline is noting the final report is due soon and it may need to be stretched out further. Ms. Clifford does not want to see this rushed.

Response by Ms. Michaud:

We agree that the timeline is a little aggressive but the select board is very interested in having this report completed in a more, timely manner.

Carly Lavin:

Sending out surveys to the school community when families and grandparents are switching to summer mode is really ill advised. Ms. Lavin stated she thinks you need to get the survey to community members while school is in session or wait until September – participation would be much better.

You mentioned the Collins Center reaches out to all eligible municipalities and we appreciated that. Mr. Lorenzo was here in February and did not mention the order of events. Would you be able to share the full application that went with the Community Best Practice Grant? Do you have a copy of that you could share with us?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

It does not come into the Center. It goes directly to the State.

Carly Lavin:

You mentioned a former Superintendent – do you have her name?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Ann Wilson

Carly Lavin:

Is there a “management” that oversees these projects or is it just the four of you that handles the analysis and the full report?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Technically speaking she (Ms. Michaud) is a Project Manager as well as a Generalist (because has been a practitioner herself). Ms. Michaud will oversee the school side – Project Management and oversee the Data Analysis and/or do a good portion of it herself with a second and third set of eyes looking over the data.

Carly Lavin:

To put the Collins Center name on it, does it go through any review process on your end, or is it just pure review amongst the four of you before presented back to the town?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

There is a management structure within the Collins Center. There are two additional individuals above us – they are apart of writing the cope, making sure that the contract is executed and following through on that before the entire team is even assigned.

These two individuals are management over the four-person team structure – Sarah Concannon – Public Service Manager and Michael Ward – Director

Carly Lavin:

We have two buildings in town and they are fully utilized – at Old Hammondtown, along with the student population – we do lease out some space; and, at Center School we have the student population, other town offices and the Council on Aging. One of the things you have been asked to look at is consolidating potentially the school population into one physical building.

Is this an overnight change, a sixth month change, a two-year change? Please give us a little perspective.

Response by Ms. Michaud:

She has never seen an overnight school consolidation or building closure ever. It is not best practice and is certainly not what is best for kids. You are looking at a long-range plan.

Carly Lavin:

Have you had any chance of looking at any of our data in terms of how many students are in our buildings right now?

I was under the impression when Mr. Lorenzo was here in February that all of that data was turned over in 2021.

Response by Ms. Michaud:

We would pull the DESE data from the October 1 counts – she has that data but has not begun analyzing any of it.

Carole Clifford:

This is all paid for by a grant – correct? How much is that Grant?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

She will have to get back to the committee on the amount – she believes there were two grants – one for the transfer station and one for this project.

Chairperson Muse:

Did these two grant applications happen at the same time – in this round?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Yes.

Tiffini Reedy:

One of our school buildings houses the Council on Aging.

Will you be looking at the building in its entirety or will you just be looking at the portion occupied by students? How will you be looking at the other space at Center School?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

The scope is for the entire facility.

Tiffini Reedy:

How did the Collins Center even know Mattapoissett had these two schools and was questioning consolidation? How do you know which grant to potentially send to the municipalities for them to then apply for?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

It does not work that way. Any municipalities can go to this website and it will have all of these different categories for potential grant funding.

Tiffini Reedy:

To clarify – the Collins Center did not reach out to the Town Administrator reached but rather the Town Administrator reached out to the Collins Center based on this grant?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

The Town Administrator received the “canned” email from the Collins Center.

Tiffini Reedy:

What would cause the Collins Center to even send an email out?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

We send it out because it is a part of our mission. We want people to apply for these grants and get help on projects that they may need help on.

Carly Lavin:

One of our schools has early education for pre-school students and the bathrooms are pretty small. Our other school does not have a program of this type – it is grades 4 through 6.

What are your thoughts on that and the need to support early education in either of those locations?

There are still multiple years left on the school financing for our buildings.

Should a building that was financed to be a school and not be used as a school – what are those considerations?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Of course there are considerations that need to be made from a facilities perspective to support our youngest learners – you just can’t move them.

A study needs to be done as well as an assessment of the program and when you are talking about a “new” or “renovated” space to support kids, it is a process.

Carly Lavin:

It sounds like you are saying it is a substantial project, which would likely attach dollars associated with it to finance it.

Response by Ms. Michaud:

Yes.

Carly Lavin:

We would not be able to take our program that supports our early learners and move it into the other building without substantial thought, analysis and dollars?

Response by Ms. Michaud:

To support our children, we need to be thoughtful about everything we do.

Ms. Michaud’s understanding now is that there may be a debt schedule on one of the schools right now.

Carly Lavin:
We have it on both schools through MSBA.

Response by Ms. Michaud:
Depending on that debt and how the debt was gained, there would be serious hoops that would need to be jumped through in order to “close out” those school loans. You cannot just simply change the use of a building if it was designated to be a school and it was financed to be a school.

Carly Lavin:
Could this also mean money?

Response by Ms. Michaud:
Yes.

Carole Clifford:
On the “Public Engagement”, what are you including on the Master Plan?

Response by Ms. Michaud:
We are not including anything on the Master Plan. We are using what they sent out and it is only from a community cultural and recreational perspective.

Carly Lavin:
You are saying that as part of Public Engagement, you are going to reply upon the Master Plan Community Survey.
Who created those questions and what was asked? Does it fit the data that you are looking to gather?

Response by Ms. Michaud:
I was not a part of that process, but Mike Edwards did have significant discussions with SERPED, who did the Master Plan.

Carole Clifford:
The Master Plan is not completed at all.

Carly Lavin:
When did Mike meet with the Master Plan to understand the questions?

Response by Ms. Michaud:
Mike was part of this before she was and it was from the town’s side – Mike maybe met with SERPED in November/December.

Carly Lavin:
You presented a timeline that you started in February.

Response by Ms. Michaud:
What was presented tonight was the school’s timeline that she created. Mr. Edward is doing the town’s facilities portion and Ms. Michaud is doing the school’s side.

Tiffini Reedy:

It would be helpful to have had the town represented too tonight, so that we could get a clearer picture. It sounds like this ball got rolling with Mike Lorencio in January, 2021

Carly Lavin:

It would have been helpful to have the “full” timeline for Mattapoissett, including both the town and the school’s timeline, not just Ms. Michaud’s timeline beginning in February, 2022.

Tiffini Reedy:

It would be helpful for the purpose of the survey to have all representation present especially for the Parent Survey, to make sure that the questions are really understood and clear. The survey is going to be taken by taxpayers, who ultimately are going to be funding this project.

Chairperson Muse:

He can’t agree more with his committee members the state of confusion with the timeline because it seems as though a lot was going on and the school was not even given a whisper. It would have been better to begin all of this process together.

Mr. Muse has concerns regarding the survey – namely the quality, content and the response.

Question: Does either Michael Ward or Sarah Concannon have any relationships within the town or any interconnections with the town?

Mr. Muse stated this is something that is very important, and it looks like it is being very rushed.

Carly Lavin:

Regarding the virtual public forum – Ms. Lavin would strongly urge that forum is held in a time when school is in session. We have many families that will be traveling in the summer, and it would be disservice to the public if you held that public forum over the summer months. It would not be a great representation of the true voice of the community.

Ms. Lavin asked Chairperson Muse to request a copy of the full application that was submitted for the “Community Best Practice Grant” feeling it is prudent for our community to review that and understand what is being asked of the Town of Mattapoissett so we can understand what our roll, as a school committee, should be going forward.

Chairperson Muse stated he has requested a copy of the grant application already from the town and the Collins Center.

Chairperson Muse extended a “thank you” to Ms. Michaud for her presentation and time this evening.

C. School Choice Vote

Recommendation:

That the School Committee take a vote for School Choice for the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION: by Karin Barrows to continue to operate as a School Choice district however, the Mattapoissett School District will not accept any new slots for School Choice students in FY22-23 beyond the 12 slots already approved.

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

D. Approval of 2022-2023 School Committee Dates

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review for approval the following dates for the 2022-2023 school year: 9/12; 11/14; 1/9; 2/27; 3/20; 4/3; 5/15; and 6/12.

Superintendent Nelson stated meetings can be scheduled in addition as needed at the request of the school committee and/or the administration would not hesitate to reach out to the Chairperson to request an additional meeting if necessary.

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

Ms. Lavin stated she has hesitation to only have two meetings before the “calendar” year (9/12 and 11/14) with all of the important business that they have to do in the spring.

Mr. Nelson stated they can discuss scheduling a meeting in October at the first meeting scheduled on September 12.

Chairperson Muse stated if there are meaningful issues to address, he is all for having a meeting in October.

MOTION: by Carly Lavin to approve the 2022-2023 School Committee dates as presented with the understanding of an additional meeting in October, 2022 if needed.

SECONDED: Carole Clifford

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

V. New Business

B. Business

1. Financial Report

Recommendation:

That the School Committee hear a report from Mr. Barber.

Mr. Barber reported the following:

This report recognizes that of the \$7,511,872 appropriated to the Mattapoisett School District, we are able to identify how our funds are either encumbered or expended. In this Year-to-Date Budget Report by Department, it indicates that there is currently \$164,428 available of the general funds appropriated in the 2022 Fiscal Year.

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

None

Mr. Barber reported the following:

Food Service Director’s Report (By: Jill Henesey) dated May, 2022 as follows:

- Meal participation continues to remain strong
- Nation-wide supply chain disruptions and price increases are having a significant impact on our program
- Cost of food and supplies continue to have a significant impact on our program

- There are no official updates available at this time regarding the extension of USDA Waivers for Free Meals for FY23
- These waivers are set to expire on June 30, 2022 and meals will revert to Application Based Free/Reduced/Paid as of July 1, 2022
 - I am actively engaged and advocating for an extension. As soon as there is any news, I will provide an update

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

Carly Lavin:

When do we anticipate hearing about whether or not free lunch/breakfast will continue next school year.

Mr. Barber stated we have no way of determining a date and as soon as he finds out, he will notify school committee members across the board.

Mr. Barber reported the following:

Facilities Director's Report (By: Gene Jones) dated May 2022 as follows:

Center School:

- Tree warden trimmed and groomed trees/shrubs on grounds
- Requested quotes for outside painting
- Town approved HVAC Upgrade and Master Clock Capital requests
- Cafeteria returned to pre-pandemic set-up and operation
- COVID-19 protocols set for HVAC, cleaning, sanitizing
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Old Hammondtown School:

- Installed Emergency shut-offs for boilers
- Repaired Glycol line leak
- Town approved Capital request for VCT flooring
- Cafeteria returned to pre-pandemic set-up and operation
- COVID-19 protocols set for HVAC, cleaning, sanitizing
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems

Question(s)/Comment(s) by School Committee Members:

None

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairperson Muse stated with the presentation by the Collins Center, the structure of the meeting tonight was for the committee to gain information and it was not a public hearing. If the public has any comments, there is an "Open Comment" section at the end of the meeting where comments can be made but it is not a question/answer session. Mr. Muse noted he believes Ms. Michaud was not aware of a lot of things that had/had not happened. Mr. Muse stated he has no doubt that Ms. Michaud will do her best to get as much information as possible to serve us.

Mr. Muse noted the Mattapoisett School Budget passed Town Meeting and stated the following:

"I was extremely surprised what took place and extremely disappointed. The Town Meeting is the purest form of democracy that we have. We don't have representatives that are voting, the committees of the Town votes – they get up there and they are able to ask questions and they vote individually as a registered voter in this Town. An absolute circus took place and it was planned to do that."

The Warrant/Agenda went out and what was put forward in presentations (while anything can be connected to the budget) did not directly address the issue at hand which was what will the Town of Mattapoisett pay so that we can properly educate our children next year. A lot of things that were talked about had nothing to do with that single issue.

I have been on this committee for 10 years and I think every year that I have been on it I have been on the Budget Sub-committee. I am on the District's School Committee as well as their Budget Sub-committee. Literally, hundreds of hours go into developing those documents. They don't come out over night. They are worked on, they are agonized over. They start with the teachers, school council, and building administration who provides information to the superintendent and the business manager in draft form. At that point, we call in immediately the finance committee to say this is what we have, this is where we are going and this is what we see. In addition to all of those other things that are presented financially and dozens of pages with individual line items and backup, there is also information on classroom sizes, projected classroom sizes and prior classroom sizes. That has gone on every year and has been done thoroughly and presented thoroughly.

When I was in that meeting and I heard that somehow this is a surprise that suddenly there is an increase over the per pupil cost, without any basis of what it was other than a friend in the state who told somebody and researched the study about what classroom sizes should be. We have the finest educators in the state as far as I'm concerned. If you want to know these things we have the resources right here. It was nothing short of disgraceful because it was orchestrated. It was planned and it just did a disservice to the entire town.

Now that we have this vote, a lot of work has to be done. Mr. Nelson said the schools have always collaborated with the Town and will continue to do so – I echo that sentiment. However, I'm going to tell you, it is very hard to work and collaborate with somebody that tells stories – revisits history in the past 15 years – I was there and these things didn't happen. To do this, and to put the parents and children in this town in fear that we are not going to adequately fund next years' budget because you wanted to make a scene, is disgraceful.

When parents and others who were there for hours, and frankly they attend the Town Meetings and do everything they can when they can (not everybody has the time or the availability) to poke fun at them or to complain that they were leaving because they had to go get their children or whatever important thing in their life they had to do – that was disgraceful.

I hope that we can go forward but I can tell you that it can only go forward if it's done honestly. I will unfortunately have to be looking over my shoulder or checking every note because of what took place and that is not a good feeling.

The very worst thing – that night we had a fantastic opportunity to recognize a person, that in my opinion is the premiere, public servant, employee in the last several centuries. She's fantastic! She has been here 30 years and instead of recognizing all of her efforts and by the way all of her successors and our successors, she was vilified. She was made out that she didn't give the facts; that she didn't respond to things; that can't be further from the truth. Instead of recognizing Rose Bowman for the great person that she is and for the absolute model person that she is (an educator every minute of her life) – I always like to say when I get into situations like this, and I am going to do this right now – “as I talk, I'm going to seek my inner Rose Bowman.”

I am very frustrated and offended personally for myself and every other school committee member that was vilified in those statements, for the administration that was vilified in those statements, for the prior Town Manager that was vilified improperly and erroneously.

I'm going to seek my inner Rose Bowman and say we have children that need us. So I hope the members in Town Hall and us can work together and I hope they will act in an honest fashion to do the right thing for the entire town- especially our children."

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Superintendent Nelson stated the following:

"Once again the voters of Mattapoisett recently showed how important and valued how education is in the Town of Mattapoisett. The support of the public was very much appreciated at the recent Annual Town Meeting and obviously as a school department we are grateful that the presented budget was supported and that the current staffing services will remain consistent for our students and families next school year. Developing a budget is never easy work and this year was certainly a challenging season.

I feel confident that the outcome of the process has positioned our students to continue to receive the educational experience that our residents expect. The Mattapoisett Elementary Schools consistently make the most of the resources supported to them and the student outcomes are evidence of the incredible work our staff members do each and every day.

We are excited about finishing this current school year strong and we look forward to more great things next year with our students and families."

Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Instruction stated the following:

We are going to begin with celebrations:

- We are celebrating Rose Bowman in June
- The New Teacher Orientation will be celebrated on May 25th"
- Our Professional Development Plan was approved on May 10th for next year
- June 1st is our last ½ day of Professional Development – we are going to talk about transition and how to support diverse learners

Mr. Craig Davidson – Director of Student Services reported the following:

- Kindergarten Transition Timeline
 - May 25 & 26 is our Kindergarten Readiness Screening –and it will end with the historic bus ride through the center of Mattapoisett
- The Department of Early Education and the CARES CSCE Grant has worked with our Early Childhood Coordinator, Doreen Lopes - they have donated for purchase "take home activities" for each student that participates in the screening.
- Families will find out in August their classroom assignments
- We received a Competitive Grant from the DOE for a Summer Expansion Grant opportunity for our district in which we received \$50,000.00 for each of our districts– Marion/Mattapoisett/Rochester and the District, to expand summer program for the students of the Tri-town
- The S.A.I.L program will take place again this summer – registration is on-line

Superintendent Nelson extended a “thank you” to the Search Committee who has been busy at work to identify the next building administrator that will serve the Mattapoisett Elementary Schools. Mr. Nelson noted the committee was comprised of staff members, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, administrators and school committee members. Mr. Nelson stated they have brought forward 2 finalists, Linda Ashley and Christine Harvey, and will continue to update the school committee and community of the process.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mrs. Rose Bowman, Principal of Center School/Old Hammondtown School stated the following:

- In April and May, students in Grades 3 through 6 participated in MCAS – April was dedicated to ELA. Mr. Tavares has been working diligently throughout the process and math will be completed this week at OHS and next week math will be completed at Center School. Grade 5 students, will do ELA, math and science – the science assessment will take place on May 23 and 24.
- As Mr. Davidson mentioned, we are always very excited to welcome our new Kindergarten students. The screening process that has been developed has been very positive in which parents are able to sign up and choose the time to bring their children that works in their schedule.
- The Mattapoisett PTA has worked very hard on how to get more books into the hands of our children in the summer months. The PTA has worked with Scholastic to have a “buy one get one book” at each school. The book fair at OHS will take place the week of May 23rd and at Center School it will take place the week of June 6th.
- The Memorial Day celebration will take place in the gymnasium at Center School on May 30th followed by a march down to the town wharf.
- The PTA, in conjunction with the Cultural Council Grant, is bringing artist Bren Bataclan to OHS for the students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 on June 2. Mr. Bataclan has already been to Center School and is an artist who is very child-centered and will give the students instruction on how to draw.
- This is the time of year when we think about our 3rd grade students coming over as 4th graders. This cohort is unique in that they spent second grade at OHS and they are looking forward to coming back to OHS for 4th grade. These students have a visual picture in mind already of what OHS looks like, but we still felt it to be important that they have a transition. On June 7th, boxed lunches will be made by our cafeteria staff for both grades 3 and 4 and they will have a picnic outside and be able to socialize and intermingle with one another easier. Each of the 4th grade teachers have a program they will be presenting to the grade 3 students about what happens in the 4th grade, the grade 3 students will have a tour and then return back to a closing circle with their grade 3 teachers so they can share what their experiences have been and bring forward any questions they may have.
- Everyone is happy to have “field day” back at both Center (June 17) and OHS (June 3). Students will be wearing shirts the color of their grade level and the PTA is paying for a musical presentation at the start of each field day.
- The musical performance at Center School, featuring our 3rd grade students will take place on June 21.
- The instrumental music and choral concert at OHS will take place on June 8.
- Flag Day will take place on June 14 at Center School – both schools (Center and OHS) will participate in this annual celebration at Center School.
- Paige Mailloux who was one of the two students who won the Arbour Day Art Contest, participated at the state level in Newburyport and placed 3rd. This is the first time this has ever happened on a state-wide level.

- In follow-up to “March Madness” (through our literacy program) that took place at OHS – the book “This Very Tree” by: Shawn Rubin, was chosen by the students very enthusiastically – they loved this book! It was a story about 9-11 and a tree that was able to be saved and how they nurtured it back to health. The story focused on resilience and re-growth.

Mr. Tavares added the following:

- In talking about grade 3 to 4 transition - one of the great things that came from the pandemic was small group tours at OHS. Tours were given in August and were a great success. Mr. Tavares noted this may become a tradition and virtual tours will take place as well.
- As we continue to celebrate Mrs. Bowman’s career, Mr. Tavares invited the school committee members to an ice cream social taking place on May 17 from 4-6 at Center School.

VIII. School Committee

A. Committee Reports

1. ORR District School Committee

Mr. Muse reported as follows:

- The District’s Budget was approved
- Several bargaining negotiations are still taking place
- Celebrations for the Class of 2022 are beginning and we wish them well in the future
- Graduation is taking place on June 4

2. SMEC

Ms. Reedy reported the following:

- The budget was reviewed
- Approved an increase in pay for the teacher’s salaries that are more in line with our local communities
- An update on SMEC’s expansion project was discussed
- Next meeting will take place at the end of this month

3. READS

Mr. Nelson stated READS has not met.

4. Early Childhood Council

Ms. Barrows stated the next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 18.

5. MASC

Mr. Muse reported the following:

- He recently reached out to MASC regarding policy questions and noted he hopes school committee members uses this resource should they have any questions as well

6. Mattapoisett Capital Needs Committee

Superintendent Nelson stated the following:

- At the recent Annual Town Meeting the Capital Requests were approved and Mr. Nelson extended an appreciation of the Planning Committees support

7. Tri-Town Education Foundation

Ms. Barrows stated the following:

- The Distribution Committee has met and have reviewed all of the applications and they will be presenting their recommendations on the grant funding
- Next meeting: May 17

8. Policy Sub-Committee

Ms. Lavin stated they met on May 4 and stated the following:

- Turned over a number of recommendations to the Joint School Committee who met on May 10

9. Budget Sub-Committee

Mr. Muse stated this committee will be re-organized and a new sub-committee will be presenting as thoroughly as it has always been done next year

10. Clock Committee

Mr. Muse stated he had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Andrews at Town Meeting and again expressed it is a historical building and the small item of keeping the clock working is really a statement of the history of the school.

11. Equity Sub-Committee

Mr. Davidson stated the next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 24.

IX. Future Business

A. Timeline

The next meeting(s) of Committee will be held as follows:

Mattapoissett School Committee

June 13, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Hybrid Format

Joint School Committee

June 23, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Hybrid Format

B. Future Agenda Items

- School Committee Reorganization (May/June – depending on election date)
- Approval of new School Council goals (June)

X. Open Comments

Chairperson Muse stated at this time for anyone who is participating via zoom, if you would like to make an “Open Comment”, add your name and address to the chat, we will acknowledge that we have a request, and with the Chairperson’s permission, anyone with a public comment can speak up to three (3) minutes – and the Open Comments will last a total of fifteen (15) minutes. Please note this is not a question and answer session, you may contact the Superintendent’s office if you have a question directly.

Comments:

Bodil Perkins – Abby Lane

Ms. Perkins has three items:

1. Why there are inconsistent rules for meetings in town who decides when we can meet in-person and when we cannot – why is it not consistent for all meetings?

2. As far as combining the schools, Heather was talking about there would be a long range plan – it would have been really nice to have had that defined – that is very vague – a long range plan doesn't mean anything – is it 2 months, is it 5 years?

3. Regarding School Choice – it would be very helpful for me and other people in the community to have a detailed breakdown of costs and benefits – a clear breakdown that probably would not need to be more than a page or two available to anyone who is interested to easily find and to answer some basic questions, i.e.: Why do we have school choice? What are the reasons for having school choice students – Marion and Rochester do not have school choice – why are we different?

Ms. Perkins noted having a list as mentioned will make it easier for all to see why it is (as one of you said) an overall win for the school to have school choice. In addition to hearing the breakdown per classroom and grade for school choice students, it would be relevant to know how many total students is in each class/in each grade.

Ms. Perkins' last point – \$5,000/per student-per year – this has not increased for a number of years, but the cost per student does increase – how is the difference made up?

Ms. Perkins asked if a school choice student needs an IEP or other assistance, how is this cost covered – do we pay for it or is it reimbursed by the State for the school choice students?

Mike Rosa – 12 Kerwin – Mattapoisett

Regarding in-person meetings for the public – are there plans to do that, and if not, why?

Chairperson Muse reminded the community that this is not a question and answer session, and that you are more than welcome to contact the Superintendent's office.

Question to Chat:

Mick Colangelo asked if someone could send him the names of the 2 finalists for the next building administrator, he would like to spell them right; and, he understands that Gene Jones is retiring and this is for his replacement?

Superintendent Nelson will reply to his request.

Superintendent Nelson will provide to

XI. Informational Items

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

- Mattapoisett School Committee Meeting Agenda – May 16, 2022
- Regular Session – Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2022
- Financial Report dated May 16, 2022
- Food Service Director Report dated May 2022
- Facilities Director Report – May 2022
- Principal's Report – May 16, 2022

MOTION: by Carole Clifford to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm

SECONDED: Karin Barrows

OPPOSED: None

MOTION PASSED – 5:0

Roll Call: Carly Lavin - Yes; Carole Clifford -Yes; Karin Barrows - Yes; Tiffini Reedy – Yes; James Muse - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Bailey, Recording Secretary

Attachment:

“A” - Power point presentation from Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management

Town of Mattapoisett Facility Review

Project Overview

School Committee Meeting

May 16, 2022

EDWARD J. COLLINS, JR. CENTER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

JOHN W. McCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Discussion Topics

- Introduction
- Project Overview
- Timeline
- Data Collection
- Public Engagement
- Conclusion



Overview of the Collins Center for Public Management

Mission Statement

The Collins Center is dedicated to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, governance, responsiveness, and accountability of public sector organizations, with a particular focus on local and state governments.

Our Expertise

- Cross-disciplinary team of practitioner-consultants with decades of experience working in municipal, regional, state governments, and public school districts
- Consult on all aspects of public governance and management
- As a member of the Mattapoisett Facility Review Team, we bring expertise in:
 - Facility condition and reuse
 - Financial analysis
 - Educational operations
 - Public engagement

The Study

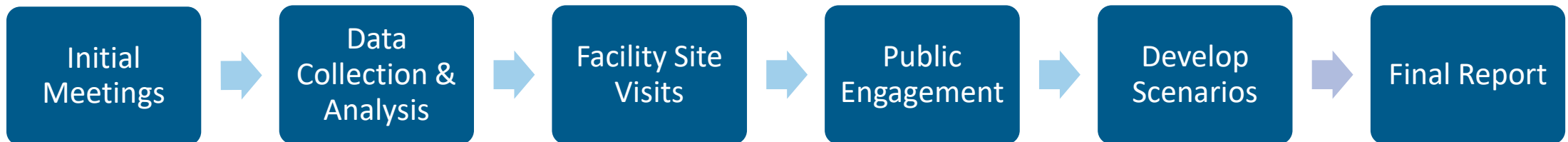
The Town of Mattapoisett approached the Collins Center with a request for assistance in assessing facilities relocation and / or consolidation options with a particular focus on school buildings and the town hall. The Town seeks an independent analysis to determine the financial and educational benefits and challenges of consolidating schools as well as potential reuse of spaces.



Our Role in this Study

1. Document facilities consolidation and/or reuse options for the Town of Mattapoisett with a particular focus on school buildings and town hall
 2. Complete an independent analysis to determine the financial and educational benefits and challenges of consolidating schools
-

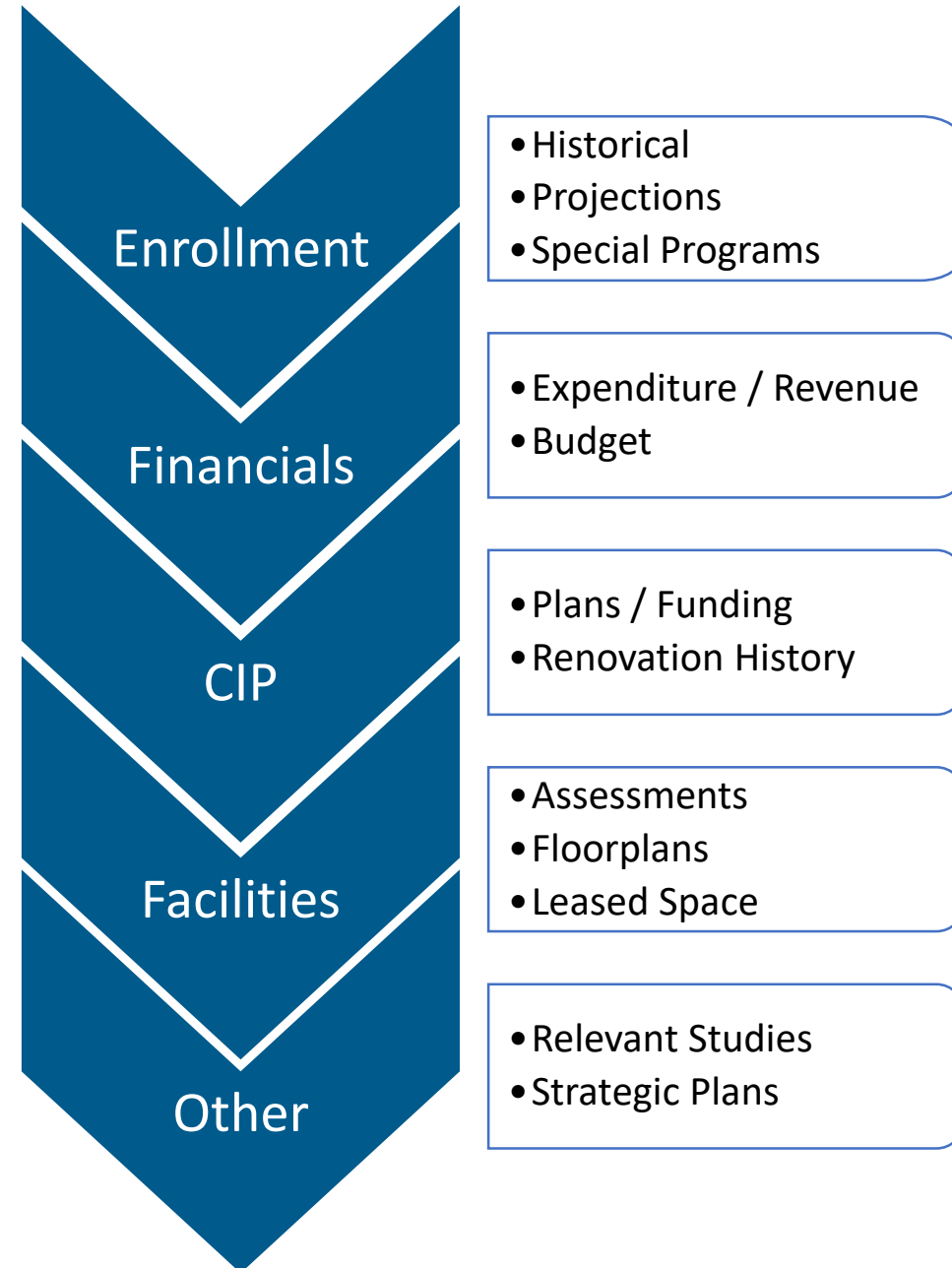
Our Process



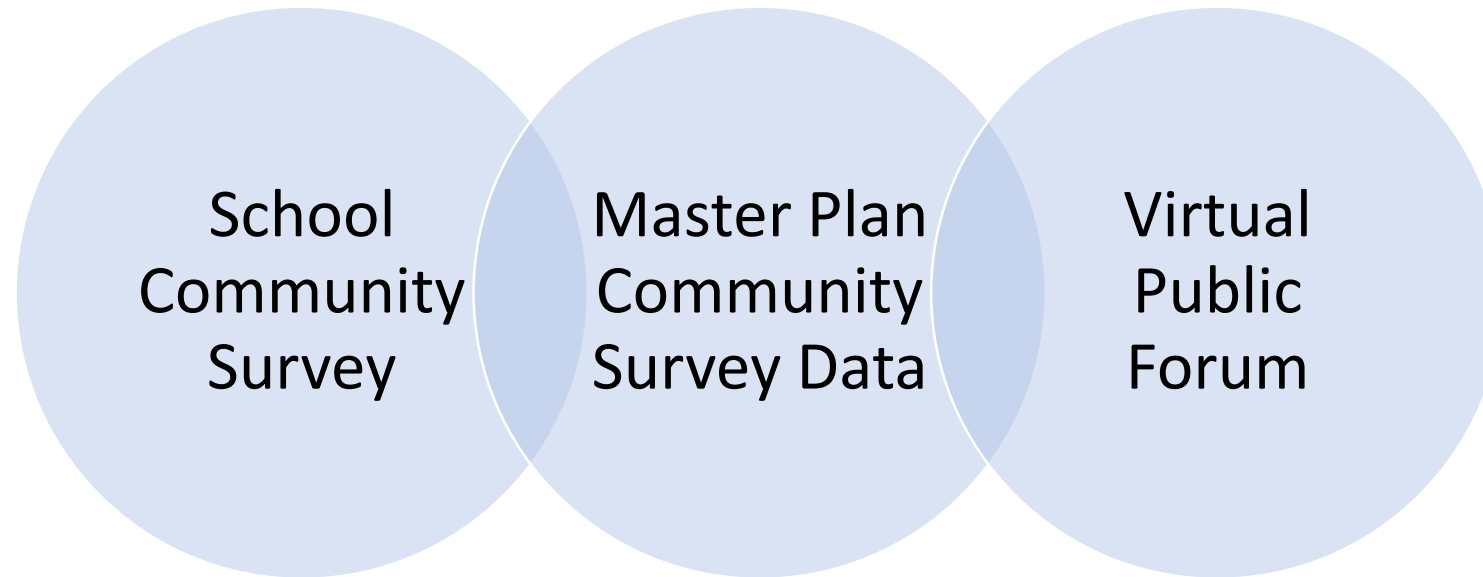
Timeline

Task	Month							
	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Step 1: Initial Meeting	X							
Step 2: Data Gathering & Analysis		X	X	X	X			
Step 3: Facility Site Visits			X	X	X			
Step 4: Public Engagement				X	X	X		
Step 5: Develop Scenarios						X	X	
Step 6: Final Deliverable								X

Data Collection



Public Engagement



Thank you!



EDWARD J. COLLINS, JR. CENTER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
JOHN W. McCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON