DRAFT

MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
April 29, 2022

PRESENT: Jessica Reilly - Chair
Leo Brehm - Vice Chair
Timothy Knight - Recording Secretary
Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Member at Large
Michelle Kirkby - Member at Large

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations
Andrea Moores - Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and asked for a Roll Call to begin the meeting.

- Leo Brehm - present
- Timothy Knight - present
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - present
- Michelle Kirkby - present
- Jessica Reilly -present

ATM Warrant Article 18 Discussion and Potential Vote- presented by Ms. Jessica Reilly
The School Committee met to discuss their potential cosponsorship of Article 18 with Board of Selectmen

Article 18 - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the Municipal Buildings Capital Stabilization Fund, or otherwise, a sum of $250,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for paying the costs of a feasibility study including, but not limited to, public outreach, obtaining soil borings, topographical studies, land surveys, wetlands surveys, preliminary site development plans, schematic designs, architectural and engineering designs, cost estimates, and construction alternatives, and any incremental or related services, for the addition and/or renovation to or replacement of the Dale Street Elementary School, located at 45 Adams Street, Medfield, MA 02052 or do or act anything in relation there to.

The School Committee discussed the following pertaining to the cosponsorship of Article 18 with the Board of Selectmen

Dr. Marsden explained that Article 18 allows a new School Building Committee (SBC) to access allocated funding to start working on the project before the next Annual Town Meeting (ATM). The funding could be used for a new school building project with Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) or a self -funded project. This initial allocation would carry the project through to the next ATM where additional funding for the project would be presented to the Town. The SBC is the only Committee that can access this funding. This Article will allow the SBC to get started on the project and not be delayed by waiting for the next ATM.

Ms. Jessica Reilly explained that this allocation of these funds would be coming from the Municipal Stabilization Fund which would require a ⅔ vote at the ATM. If the allocated funds are not used by the SBC the funds would be rolled back to the Municipal Stabilization Fund and then reallocated for the continuation of the project at the next ATM. The Board of Selectmen would like to cosponsor Article 18 with the School Committee to show the town that the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee are working together on a new elementary school project.

Ms. Reilly explained that Article 18 was a placeholder in the Warrant once published and it was realized that the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee needed to formally vote on the cosponsorship of the Article.

Mr. Timothy Knight had questions about how the funds would be used. Ms. Reilly explained that the Article gives the SBC the authority to use the funds to begin the project and the School Committee would not be able to mandate how the SBC would use those funds. Mr. Knight expressed his concerns that there may be pushback on how the SBC uses the funds,if they chose to use it funds for public outreach and tweek the language in the Article to address that potential issue.

Mr. Michael LaFrancesca explained that if the Town is selected to participate with the MSBA then the SBC would need to follow the regulations of the MSBA process which prohibits the Town from hiring an OPM or consultant until the MSBA process has been completed. If the Town is not selected to participate with the MSBA then the SBC would be able to determine when to hire a consultant/project manager. Mr. LaFrancesca also explained that if the Town goes through the MSBA Process the MSBA will not fund a second feasibility study since it has already done a feasibility study for the project.

Dr. Marsden agreed with Mr. Knight. He pointed out that it is important for the SBC to be in sync with the scope of the Warrant Article and suggested that maybe the Town's counsel be consulted on the language. Dr. Marsden stated that the Article does have language that says including but not limited to could speak to Mr. Knight's concerns.

Ms. Reilly stated that any amendment made to Article would need to be made from the floor.

Mr. Leo Brehm stated that the Town will need to come up with funds regardless if they use MSBA or not. He expressed his concern that the Town is moving too fast without looking at the bigger picture in regards to this project and the lack of input from the Permanent Building Committee along with the impacts of the Hospital Hill Project which was not included in the initial projections for the project. He is concerned that the Town will go through this process, renovate the existing Dale Street building which will ultimately be too small and the list of issues identified in the first process will go unaddressed. He stated that the $250,00 seems like an arbitrary amount.

Ms. Reilly stated that she has had conversations with the Board of Selectmen and expects that they will continue about the long term plan of the school buildings in the Town.

Dr. Marsden stated that it was his understanding that the $250,000 was suggested by the Permanent Building Committee because they anticipate a new feasibility study would be at least $500,00 based on the fact that some of the information from the first feasibility study could be used and the $250,000

would be the first half of the feasibility study and the second half would be allocated at the ATM in May of 2023.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke stated that she is in favor of the cosponsorship of Article 18 with the Board of Selectman and agrees with Mr. Knight's point.. She suggested that a succinct public statement be made at the ATM by the School Committee to voice its reaction to Article 18 because the public has not heard from the Committee on the Article.

Mr. Leo Brehm was in agreement with Ms. O'Shea Brooke. He stated that it is important to capture the essence of this meeting's conversation and communicate it to the public.

It was agreed that Ms. Reilly and Ms. O'Shea Brooke would write the statement from the School Committee and present it as part of the informational items as part of the next meeting scheduled prior to the ATM.

Dr. Marsden was also in support of the Committee reading a statement from the floor at the ATM and the public who did not attend this meeting could hear from the Committee thoughts on this Article.

Ms. Jessica Reilly stated that an email could be sent to the school community on Monday prior to the ATM to inform the school community that the Article will be voted on at the ATM.. The Committee was in agreement that would be a good way to also inform the public.

Ms. Kirkby stated that she thought this was a good idea because there are community members wondering why nothing is happening and this would be a way to let the community know things are still moving forward. It is important for the community to hear that the School Committee is focused on the educational aspect of a new elementary school project and also aligned with the Board of Selectmen is an important message to communicate. She also stated that it is important for the community to know that the Committee is having discussions about the bigger picture and the long term planning for the schools, for instance the impact of Hospital Hill.

Ms. Reilly informed the Committee that Dr. Marsden has had conversations with the Hospital Hill Committee to look at the enrollment projections based on a more concrete understanding of what the development will look like.

Dr. Marsden stated that he did meet NESDEC and they will be working on an enrollment study with the additional information that has been received to date. Dr. Marsden explained the reason that he and Michael added 334 apartments to the SOI was to account for the potential tax credit that the developer may receive for three bedroom apartments. Originally 11 three bedroom apartments were anticipated and now due to the potential tax credits the new number could be 33 three bedroom apartments.

There were no public attendees at the meeting so Ms. Reilly could not ask for public input.

Ms. Reilly called for a motion to consponsor with the Board of Selectmen Article 18 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or transfer from available funds,

the Municipal Buildings Capital Stabilization Fund, or otherwise, a sum of $250,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for paying the costs of a feasibility study including, but not limited to, public outreach, obtaining soil borings, topographical studies, land surveys, wetlands surveys, preliminary site development plans, schematic designs, architectural and engineering designs, cost estimates, and construction alternatives, and any incremental or related services, for the addition and/or renovation to or replacement of the Dale Street Elementary School, located at 45 Adams Street, Medfield, MA 02052 or do or act anything in relation there to.

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke with a caveat that the School Committee will make a statement affirming the spirit of this article, seconded by Ms. Michelle Kirkby.

A Roll Call Vote was taken:

- Leo Brehm - yes
- Timothy Knight - yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - yes
- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Jessica Reilly - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Reilly informed the Committee that the Board of Selectmen would be taking their vote on Monday prior to the ATM and she and Anna Mae would work on the School Committee statement over the weekend. Ms. Reilly will also contact the Town Moderator Scott McDermott to secure time on the floor at the ATM.

Other Items since posting on April 27, 2022 - None

Informational items - None

Next Meeting – Before Annual Town Meeting May 2, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Room 119 at the High School

A motion was made by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke, seconded by Ms. Michelle Kirkby to adjourn the meeting.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting:

- Leo Brehm - yes
- Timothy Knight - yes
- Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - yes
- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Jessica Reilly- yes

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS

- Warrant Article 18
- School Committee Meeting Video: School Committee Meeting (04/29/2022)

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Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Moores
Secretary