

CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 10, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:00 p.m. and introduced Superintendent Jeni Mosca.

Superintendent Mosca introduced Principal Sharon Lampros, and CTC Director, Lori Lane.

Ms. Lane opened the workshop by defining what Career and Technical Education is, quoting from the NH Department of Education Website: “Career and Technical Education seeks to develop New Hampshire’s most valuable resource – its people; helping them gain the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience they need to prepare for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage careers – and keep New Hampshire working – in every sense of the word.”

How do we reach this goal in Somersworth? Rigorous Academic & CTE Programs + Business/Industry Connection + Pathways to Postsecondary = Students will be prepared to meet New Hampshire’s employment needs.

Somersworth Career Technical Center currently approved CTE Programs are as follows:

- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology
- Building Trades
- Business
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Media
- Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Mechanics (ICAM)
- Marketing
- Pre-Engineering
- Teaching Multiple Levels

New Programs being explored are as follows:

- Broadcast Technology
- Welding
- Health Careers
- Performing Arts

Current activities include:

- Refocus on the collaborative relationship between the CTCs in Region #12 (Somersworth, Rochester and Dover).

- CTC Programs have started the self-evaluation process. Department of Education visited on November 6th.
- Our Program Advisory Committees will be meeting on December 2nd.
- A Renovation Committee for this project has been meeting for one year.
 - Committee members have visited other centers and reviewed labor market and student survey data.
 - The Committee has also been through a visioning process to determine our priorities for the renovation project.

Our priorities include:

- Creating an identity to improve and enhance public awareness of the CTC’s programs and what they strive to do.
- Make sure that every renovation dollar, both state and local, is spent strategically. This includes:
 - Consideration of the equipment and program needs above “bricks and mortar.”
 - Consider the needs for infrastructure (i.e., HVAC, IT) and any existing issues with the current physical plant.
 - Consider how the space can be used to meet the current and future needs of the programs offered.
 - Consider the physical location of programs (i.e., exterior access needs).
 - Consider the multiple uses of space (i.e., adult education opportunities; are there spaces that can meet needs for more than program?)

Superintendent Mosca indicated the cost for the renovation of the Career Technical Center would be as follows:

Total Project Cost:	\$6.5 million
75% of \$6.5 million (NH Legislature):	\$4.9 million
25% of \$6.5 million (Local):	\$1.7 million

Superintendent Mosca said the next steps are as follows:

- Programs – Complete self-evaluation process; make decisions about any new programming.
- Building Renovations – Begin the process of securing the services of an architectural firm to help them with design.

Superintendent Mosca said they have a bond that is retiring soon and feels this would be a good time to accomplish this project. There are two districts ahead of them at the State level.

Councilor Witham said if we are fortunate to get the money from the State, he believes the bond that is retiring is the High School Renovation Bond which was for \$5 million. He supports moving forward with this. We have a model of how to proceed in the Idlehurst School.

Councilor Soldati said there was some discussion over the last year about getting together with Rochester and wondered if that is a dead issue.

Superintendent Mosca said the School Board had a conversation regarding doing that. Because we are so far down the road, it was felt we would miss our slot if we pursued this at this time. The plan would be to look at consolidating in the future.

Councilor McCallion said we are slated right now for 2018-19 and there are two centers ahead of us. If they do not get funding, we could move up. Our bond retires in 2016-17.

Councilor Sprague asked if we will have everything ready in case one of the other centers drops out. Superintendent Mosca replied that is their goal.

Senator Watters said he is here to listen and do everything he can, working with Representative Sprague, to make sure we get the funding we deserve. He is hoping we can move forward and are able to come up with the 75% from the State again. There will be a third meeting on Wednesday on Senate Bill 335, Commission on Career Technical Education Centers on partnerships and funding. They are looking into the potential for partnerships. He will be doing everything he can. He thinks it can be done.

Councilor Pepin asked what their plan is regarding hiring an architectural firm.

Superintendent Mosca replied their hope is to put out an RFQ and move some of their dollars around within their own current budget and have someone come on board in February or March.

Councilor McCallion said he has seen Career Technical Centers that are really good and others that are not so good. He hopes the School Department is reaching out to the people who are hiring these students within the region.

Mayor Hilliard closed the workshop at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk

