


# WAYLAND . PUBLIC . SCHOOLS

WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Phone: (508) 358-7728

www.wayland.k12.ma.us

FAX: (508) 358-7708

 Gary A. Burton, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
(508) 358-3774

Brad J. Crozier  
Assistant Superintendent  
(508) 358-3772

Marlene M. Dodyk, Ph.D.  
Director of Student Services  
(508) 358-3756

Joy E. Buhler  
Business Administrator  
(508) 358-3750

Leisha Simon  
Technology Director  
(508) 358-3714

To: School Committee  
From: Gary A. Burton  
Date: October 17, 2008  
Re: Ten-Year Capital Equipment Plan

This year, the FinCom has asked that we identify and justify our need for capital equipment expenditures over the next ten years. This is not impossible, but it is problematic for a number of reasons.

First, the timing of the high school project, or stated slightly differently, the uncertainty of when a high school project might be approved, leaves us wondering how much or how little to invest in the current high school facilities. Obviously, we don't want to invest heavily in short-term fixes. This has been our strategy for the past five years, and, while it can continue, we are running out of time before something major breaks at the school, and/or the curriculum and student/staff outputs are seriously compromised. Unfortunately, the longer it takes to address this project, the more we will be forced to spend just to keep the buildings operating day to day.

On Monday night, I would like to discuss three high school related capital outlays that appear in the first year of the Ten Year Capital Plan. The first is our need for two additional all purpose classrooms. Please see Allyson Mizoguchi's memo to me with the accompanying utilization chart as to the rationale behind this request. The quality of instruction, particularly in the math department, is being adversely affected, and an additional modular (two-classroom unit) would go a long way to help alleviate some of our scheduling problems. Second, Pat Morris, our Facilities Director, recently reported major problems with the high school's septic system, and will now see it as a new expense in the ten-year plan. (Logically, this should come from the already established high school maintenance emergency fund.) Third, now appearing on the capital plan are the funds needed to complete the schematic drawings for the high school complex. Please see Lea Anderson's email and memo. This is the next requirement of our building project, even though we have yet to receive official approval from the MSBA. The number provided is simply a placeholder. The HSBC still believes that a ballot question could come before the voters for the schematic drawings as early as this April; however, this may not be possible due to decisions that can only be made by the MSBA.

Joy has also prepared a list of equipment needs that the Committee should discuss and decide whether or not to include in this year's request. The same is true for Leisha Simon's Ten Year Technology Plan, which is still subject to further review and modification by the Technology Task Force. (Leisha will be at the meeting on Monday.)

At the middle school there is an opportunity to undertake a greening project that could result in solar panels on the roof. I think this idea has considerable merit, but it may be necessary to fund the up-front engineering study. We might secure outside funding, but to ensure that the project moves forward, I'd like to see these funds in the capital plan.

Please know that estimating expenses ten years from now is difficult. While I understand the need to know what capital projects are looming on the horizon, the costs associated with them are almost impossible to determine (other than using today's dollar costs and inflating them over time.)

Finally, the FinCom has asked that the School Committee identify (with supporting documentation) all requests by October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This does not provide us with much time to make our arguments; however, if you reach agreement on any or all of the requests, the administration will do its best to pull everything together for FinCom deadline. I am well aware of the current economic climate and realize that the need to reduce budgets may replace any attempts to justify increased spending. Nonetheless, the district is not well served if we do not make these capital needs known to you and the general public. I would trust that each item will get a full and fair hearing. Thank you.

