

January 8th, 2020

Community Forum Notes

★ What will happen to the proposed 4.4% budget if the district only receives level-funding from the town?

Programming

- ★ Music used to be a successful K-12 pathway
- ★ Teacher changes/retention affects the quality of programming
- ★ Strings has been a disjointed experience
- ★ There isn't any choice with specials- all are assigned and there are many
- ★ Music programs have helped keep students at MPS
- ★ Music is a distinct part of who we are in Maynard and a distinct part of MPS programming
- ★ Music/band helps shift and lift students' moods
- ★ Why isn't the A in STEAM a priority for a STEAM pathway
- ★ How does the loss of the .8 position correlate with the MPS Strategic Plan?
- ★ Are there some classes that can be taken on-line to make more room for music instruction that must be done in person

Inequities

- ★ Any family that relies on the bus cannot get to lessons/rehearsals- inequities
- ★ There are aspects of a social justice issue for students with the structure of the Fowler offerings; goes against the mission of the district

- ★ Inequities with access to music instruction- private lessons to supplement the loss of instruction is not affordable for everyone

Schedules

- ★ Early lessons/rehearsals are hard for some families/students to get to
- ★ There is no instrumental/sectional instruction for grades 6/7/8
- ★ 6/7/8 band practices before school (7:15am) are only once a week and not all band members attend
- ★ 8th-grade practices as a group one time a week at 7:15 am
- ★ There is one teacher starting to teach at 7:15, teaching straight through until after 1:00 and then also running lessons/rehearsals into the early evening
- ★ Time for transitions between lessons/rehearsals in before school sessions is not built-in. It takes younger students time to take out instruments and put them away which makes their lesson very short
- ★ Changes in the schedules (reduction in teaching/rehearsal time) has affected the quality of the concerts and the confidence of the musicians
- ★ Band director is dependent on half-day Fridays for group rehearsal class to prepare students for Great East since they perform as a 6/7/8 band- there are inevitable conflicts for the teacher and students
- ★ Strings before school does not provide enough time for instruction/rehearsal- the ensemble only had time to prepare one song for the concert
- ★ Rushed and disjointed schedule makes some kids want to give up

- ★ Frustration around specials- too many for short periods of time that do not meet often enough- lack of clarity around curriculum and purpose for students and parents
- ★ 8th graders would like specials to become electives again

Impact of Music on Students/Community

- ★ Students are concerned/nervous that they will not be prepared for Great East
- ★ Music provides leadership opportunities, builds confidence
- ★ Music education in Maynard has helped students get into colleges and has been mentioned in acceptance packages
- ★ Colleges are looking for students who have music experience- in some cases this leads to merit scholarships even if the students are not applying to a music program
- ★ Band are asked to perform at many school and community events- students need to feel confident and prepared
- ★ School and town depend on band/chorus for special events- sports events, parades, Sip and Stroll, etc.
- ★ Concerns about teachers being stretched too thin- burn out