

Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Legislator Breakfast on Oct. 29, 2021

Karen Maguire, Regional School Superintendent, led the presentation of information about the Tri-County building project that has been invited into the MSBA core program pipeline.

The purpose of the breakfast presentation and meeting is to initiate open communication about the steps, facts and direction that is a part of the MSBA dictated process. As the project develops through these prescribed steps, Tri-County will initiate additional sessions like today's, to be as transparent as possible with the member legislators and administrators about the facts and details about the project. There will also be several community presentations scheduled to present the same information to the residents in the member communities as well as on a project specific website.

There are several CVT Projects that have been built or are currently being designed under the MSBA process. Karen gave an overview of those projects and showed project costs associated with each one. The preferred building path for Tri-County is very much an unknown at this point. There is no way to speculate on what will be the best option for a 50 year building solution and what the project scope and cost might be, however, it was clearly communicated that the best option will be a sensible long term solution and not a "Taj Mahal" building project.

Some of the significant dates and events were highlighted in the presentation. The Owners Project Management firm, Dore & Whittier Management Partners, has been hired and has begun to manage the MSBA process. The Architect selection process is underway and should be concluded in January 2022. The potential building options will be developed over the next 8 months and the district hopes to have a viable facility solution in the summer of 2023 to present to the communities for their support. Along the way, community presentations will be held and will offer a way for the residents to offer feedback and ideas about the project.

Trip Elmore, Dore & Whittier Management Partners, gave an overview of the project schedule and the process that would be followed over the next 2 years. He summarized the process as being driven by the Educational Program, which in turn indicates the space needs for the facility, and then the existing facility is evaluated on the basis of meeting the space and educational needs. This process results in a series of building options that will address deficiencies and needs. In approximately 18 months, the district will be presenting the preferred building option to the 11 sending communities for their support.

Charlie Lyons, Dore & Whittier Management Partners, gave an overview of the funding and voting process dictated by both the regional agreement and MA general law. He also gave examples of other Regional CVT projects in the design phase and the impact on those member communities. He identified differences in scope and costs between a typical K – 12 School and a CVT School. The summation of the impact is that the CVT programs require additional space, equipment and reimbursement from the State.

At the conclusion of the presentation, several attendees speculated on the potential impact that their communities might experience. Many of the member community's town management personnel attended the event, and general feedback was that they were appreciative of the information presented, the district's intent to insure transparency and the updates as the project moves forward.

