

Statement on Final MaST Vote

This coming Thursday will mark 6 weeks since our initial vote on the funding of MaST. The decision before us is not extremely different from the decision we had to make on June 20th. The state budget still has not passed, leaving our Early College still unfunded for now. However, John Hauser has offered to provide us a “loan” of \$180,000 to cover the first year of state early college funding, until the state finalizes its budget. This is not a gift of \$180,000...it is only a temporary loan. Carteret County Public Schools will be required to pay this money back if or when state early college funding is finalized in the state budget. If the final state budget does not include funding for Early College, then we will be allowed to keep the \$180,000 that CCC has offered. However, CCC has not offered to cover anything beyond the first year if state funding does not come to pass. Below is the last paragraph of John Hauser’s letter of commitment:

“Carteret Community College agrees to reimburse Carteret County Public Schools for any expenses incurred for MaST Early College up to \$180,000.00 in the absence of the State of North Carolina Biennial Budget for 2019-2021. Upon ratification of the State budget, Carteret County Public Schools agrees to refund any payments made by Carteret Community College up to \$180,000.00 as declared in the North Carolina Joint Conference Committee Report on the current Operations Act of 2019 Public Instruction Page B 24 under Line Item 68 – Cooperative Innovative High Schools Fund Code 1821.”

Regarding the lack of local funding.... We still do not have enough local funding to cover both MaST and the lost teaching positions. Below is the motion which was passed by the county commissioners:

“Motion: Chairman Mansfield made a motion to fully fund the County Manager’s recommended budget for Carteret Community College and the County Manager’s recommended budget for the Carteret County School System’s operating and capital budget; with a preference that the money allocated to the School System for MaST be used in an attempt to save teacher positions. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson.”

Below are additional comments that were made prior to Chairman Mansfield calling the motion:

“Chairman Mansfield stated that the Board of Education can still decide. Commissioner Farrington stated that we are basically taking it back to the Board of Education for them to make a decision.”

“Chairman Mansfield called the motion. Motion carried with Commissioners Comer and Farrington opposing.”

So, although the commissioners expressed their preference for how our limited funding should be used, they ultimately left the decision up to us, the Board of Education.

That same evening (and the next morning), the BOE received direction from our superintendent indicating that we needed to respond to this decision by the BOC: “the board of commissioners voted to take the mast funding and reallocate it to hire teachers who were lost due to the ADM reduction. ... Of course, this will need to have a board vote and it will need to be done expeditiously.”

We called a special meeting on June 20th to consider the funding of MaST. Below are some examples of factors that affected our decision:

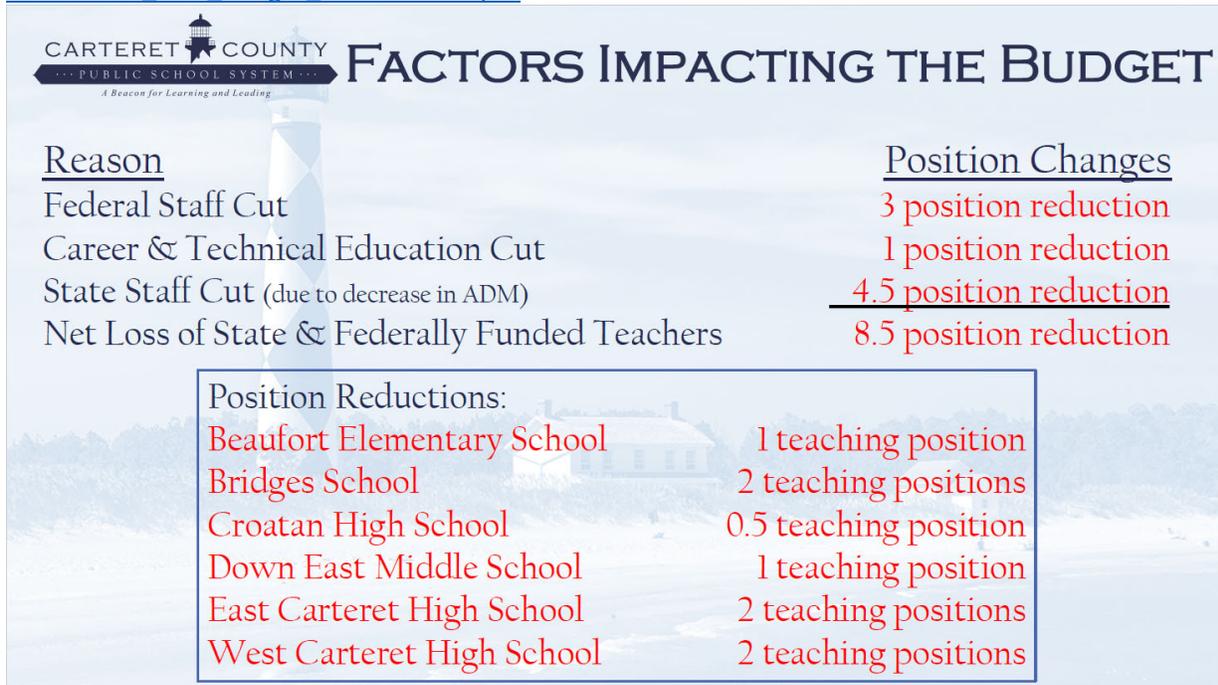
Subject: Update 12.14.18 From: Mat Bottoms

“After going through the many federal allocations, it appears we are going to lose 3 federally-funded teaching positions for next school year. We have already learned that the state allocation will leave us with a 1.5 teaching position reduction. **The total 4.5 teacher loss (or equivalent positions) will require us to tighten our belts even more. We cannot continue to increase class sizes. We will look for cuts at Central Services, Maintenance, Teacher Assistants, and every other area. There could be a teaching position or two available to cut due to class sizes, but the entire 4.5 positions cannot come from our teaching staff.** There will be more to come on this as the budget year nears.”

Subject: Update 2/15/19 From: Mat Bottoms

“We are trying to hold to our word about only requesting the continued projects from last year’s budget – the salary scale adjustments, the funding for year 2 at MaST, and the state-mandated salary and benefits increases, but the unexpected, hurricane-induced loss of the 10-12 state teaching positions is troublesome. The ADM reduction will certainly impact our class sizes and it will be a phenomenal feat if we can maintain our high achievement levels with such a significant reduction.”

[2019-05-20 BOC Budget Presentation.pdf](#)



<u>Reason</u>	<u>Position Changes</u>
Federal Staff Cut	3 position reduction
Career & Technical Education Cut	1 position reduction
State Staff Cut (due to decrease in ADM)	<u>4.5 position reduction</u>
Net Loss of State & Federally Funded Teachers	8.5 position reduction

Position Reductions:	
Beaufort Elementary School	1 teaching position
Bridges School	2 teaching positions
Croatan High School	0.5 teaching position
Down East Middle School	1 teaching position
East Carteret High School	2 teaching positions
West Carteret High School	2 teaching positions

We weighed our choices and on 6/20/2019 we voted to use the funding to cover the numerous lost and unfunded teaching positions across schools in our county.

On June 25th, we received the following statement in an email from Superintendent Bottoms:

“The MaST money from last year and this year, just over \$245,000 will be transferred to provide teachers needed to reduce class sizes. We have a few immediate needs, including a social studies teacher at WCHS and a kindergarten teacher at MCPS, that will be processed today to seek applicants for those positions. We are in the process of examining class sizes at all of the schools and will address the remaining positions over the next couple of weeks.”

Tonight, we will vote whether to rescind our initial vote on funding teaching positions, and instead fund MaST early college. Again, we cannot fund both. It is an either/or choice. MaST proponents initially asked for 2 weeks in which to explore alternative funding options. Now, almost six weeks later, we still do not have viable funding to be able to cover both MaST as well as our teacher positions at our other schools in the county.

So regardless of how you feel about the pros and cons of MaST and how it affects the rest of our school system, it ultimately comes down to a choice of our funding priorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Day