

Appropriations Committee

Chairman Brodeur, Boisselle,
Mortimer, Infurna, Tramontozzi,
Forbes, Wright, McAteer-Margolis,
Seaboyer

Absent: Medeiros, Conn

In attendance: Mayor Dolan

Appropriations called to order by Chairman Brodeur at 8:05 p.m. Order No. 09-023, Requesting that the Honorable Board of Aldermen accept a Child Safety Grant in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$150,000.00) as part of the FY09 State Operating Budget.

Alderman Mortimer moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Mayor Dolan says Mr. Joe Messina has been in public education for 50 years and the commitment from the City to purchase new band instruments is in part due to him. Mayor Dolan says Melrose is the first City in the Commonwealth to receive approval for this grant and the first City to receive a check. He is making a \$50,000 commitment to purchase instruments for the High School Band.

Mr. Messina thanks Mayor Dolan for coming forward in support of the Fine Arts Department. He says the High School band has not had instruments replaced since Mr. Driscoll was the Superintendent and the Mayor was a child. He says the children are very excited and he hears over and over again that the one thing that has kept kids at Melrose High School is the music program.

Alderman Infurna thanks Mr. Messina for his years of service. Music meant a lot to her growing up and it still does. She is delighted that Mayor Dolan has allocated this money for new instruments.

Mayor Dolan says he wants to recognize Senator McGee, Senator Tisei, and Representative Clark for their efforts in getting this grant for the City.

Alderman Seaboyer asks how many installments the City will receive. Mayor Dolan says there will be four, one every 3½ months. Payment is based on when the grant application was submitted. He has to thank Mike Lindstrom for driving the grant into the State House the day it was due. Alderman Seaboyer asks what will happen if this money is part of the Governor's cuts. Mayor Dolan says he is going to meet the responsibility of the payments from the City's very healthy Capital Stabilization Fund.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis says that providing additional instruments raises the morale of the students. Sometimes funds are put into athletics programs but it's important to fund the Arts for those students in that niche.

Alderman Tramontozzi thanks Mr. Messina for his many years of service and wishes him the best of luck in his retirement. He says his children enjoy participating in the band, theatre and the arts.

Chairman Brodeur says the Arts program reaches the whole community. The City built a great new facility but what really makes the Middle School great is the City's commitment

to providing staff with new equipment.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Mortimer motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman McAteer-Margolis. All in favor.

Appropriations adjourns at 8:25 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees