

Regular Meeting: January 9, 2017

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 9, 2017

5:30 PM

Morton Middle School

1135 North Main Street

Fall River, MA 02720

MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Correia called the meeting to order. A roll call for attendance showed at 5:30 p.m.:

Mr. Andrade: Present

Mr. Martins: Present

Mr. Coogan: Present

Mrs. Panchley: Present

Mr. Costa: Present

Mayor Correia: Present

Dr. Costar: Present

Also present were Attorney Assad and Superintendent Malone.

Mayor Correia read the Open Meeting Law.

A salute to the flag followed.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Mayor Correia announced that there was no one signed up for Citizens' Input.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Superintendent Malone introduced the recipients of the Partners in Excellence Teacher Award recognized by Mass Insight. Out of the 53 teachers that were recognized in the Commonwealth, three of them were Durfee High School teachers: Brendan O'Neill, Jess Mullen, and Jen Brogan-Price. Superintendent Malone read a brief bio of why each of the recipients were nominated for this award. Shayna Morgan, Dean of Teaching and Learning in Science, accepted on behalf of Brendan O'Neill who she nominated for the award. Jess Mullen and Jen Brogan-Price accepted their recognition award. They were both nominated by Jesse Clements, Dean of Teaching and Learning in Math.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

• *Fonseca Update*

Superintendent Malone announced that they are in the midst of their impact bargaining on the Level 4 MOU. They are several weeks into the development of a turnaround plan based on the recommendations of the local stakeholder group. Once the MOU is ratified, they have about 16 days left before they submit their turnaround plan to the state. At that time, the commissioner has 30 days to provide any feedback and then they have another short period of time to make corrections and updates to the plan then the plan is final. He is very excited about the work that they've been doing on the turnaround plan. They've been working collaboratively with their labor organizations around what it would mean for an MOU to get this work done. He will update the Committee likely before the February meeting to notify them that they have submitted the turnaround plan to the state.

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- *Tech Plan (2017-2021)*

Superintendent Malone announced that they were developing their next iteration of their tech plan. They're in the process of developing a new strategic plan that will focus closely on the instructional technology needs and goals of technology to be used as an instructional tool in the system. The goals of this plan will be directly aligned with their budgeting priorities. What they are doing differently this year is they are engaging a cross functional team across the system to develop this plan. This plan will be developed by practitioners in the field and coordinated by their tech support team. He will be bringing this plan back to the School Committee at some point for approval. He's excited about the future of technology and what it means in terms of learning. He pointed out some items in the plan such as virtual reality and an augmented reality on the personalized learning environment. They're doing some interesting stuff at Tansey using some of the virtual reality and augmented reality devices. They are looking at a 4-5 year plan which will be used in their budgetary priorities.

- *School Committee Policy Review*

Superintendent Malone stated that they have been looking at their policies online and it's been brought to his attention that they have not had a regular policy review procedure which is something that is articulated in their policies. It was written in 2006 and updated two years ago and it states that every year, in the summer, his office would work on reviewing policies and then bring forward to the Committee policies that they see are in need of updating or are problematic and need to be changed because of a new law or something along those lines. They will be reinstating a policy review panel team to be bringing forward every year new policies for the Committee to take on or refer to a subcommittee.

- *Webpage Updating of Physical Restraint and Bullying Policies*

Superintendent Malone mentioned that they appeared to have three different policies online so he has been cleaning this up. For the Physical Restraint and Bullying policies, they are using the language from the handbook on the webpage rather than the language from the policy manual. There is one section that makes mention of a program that no longer exists. That will be removed. Other than that, these will be more prevalently displayed on the webpage. He is also working closely with the Mayor's Office on a couple of the Civil Rights and Affirmative Action citywide policies to make sure that these are also prevalent.

- *FY 18 Budget Development*

Superintendent Malone provided a handout to School Committee members of the Superintendent Budget Priorities for FY 18. These budget priorities were taken from work that he did using the best models of zero-based budgeting around identifying starting with a set of priorities. They used feedback starting with their principal teams to develop what they saw as their four #1 priorities. The #1 budget priority this year is to reduce class size, particularly K-3 using reasonable class size staffing models of essentially 25-27 students per class. There are classes that are at 29 and 30 right now and he would like to reduce that. The second priority is to maintain levels of human capital at each site. They are currently thinking about how they can maximize resources to ensure that all the teachers and support staff they have stay in place. The third priority is to deliver high quality teaching and learning for all students, targeting specific learning and developmental needs. The fourth priority is to implement strategic investment of instructional technology in each school building. Technology is going to drive some of their budgetary decisions and get at things like blended learning or extended learning so the students are more connected 24 hours a day to academic and social-emotional work in schools. The final priority is to maximize efficiencies and cost containments in all operational areas of the budget so that they can reallocate resources directly to service students. They need to start thinking about transportation and assignment and how they're ensuring that they have some really good cost containments in place so that they're not investing money in things that don't have direct impact. The next step is for the principals now to work at developing their zero-base model, starting from scratch, and using their class size to be able to say how many teachers they need based on the number of kids they have per grade levels. Then they

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will go through a process and come up with a budget recommendation that they bring forward to the Committee that's already been zero-based. This process is new and it's not the norm on the education end. He hopes to show some of the preliminary work that they've done at the next meeting.

- *District Comprehensive Review*

At the February School Committee meeting, Rob Curtin from DESE will do a brief presentation outlining the report and some of the recommendations. Superintendent Malone will be using the District Comprehensive Review document as he thinks about his entry plan report and thinking about what long-term strategy looks like for them in Fall River.

Dr. Costar asked if the Superintendent could put the annual policy review on the website before Mr. Curtin comes down in February because they were criticized for not having a policy because it was not on the website. Superintendent Malone agreed to put this on the website.

Mr. Martins stated, in regards to the Fonseca Update, that he understood that the local stakeholders group were working diligently to make sure that Fonseca gets a good program; however, upon looking at the data for Fonseca from 2009-2016, while there is a 4% increase in English Language Arts, a 10% increase in Math, there was a 3% decrease in Science. The data is relatively flat despite all the professional development that was going on. He knows that the teachers are trying extremely hard yet the students that they have haven't changed. He hopes that they are looking at having additional faculty so that the students who are exhibiting problems can go into a special classroom. He recommended using grant funding for this. Rather than having professional development which doesn't seem to be helping, use the money for additional teachers to conduct dual teaching or co-teaching or have a separate classroom, if they have the space. He thinks that students will be learning at a higher rate.

Mayor Correia interjected and asked if Mr. Martins' second issue was pertaining to the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Martins said that it did. Mayor Correia asked if he could summarize the statement since what he was discussing was not in the agenda as a discussion item. Mr. Martins said that on the tech plan, a while ago, they had altered to reinstate the tech coach. He asked, "Don't we already have a tech teacher in each school?" Superintendent Malone clarified that this would be one person in each building that would be an expert, such as a help desk provider, for the faculty and students. The person would receive an additional stipend and they would work to fix things before and after school during their own time. It's a model that's been in use and has been effective in other places.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Coogan: To approve all meeting minutes.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes

Mr. Martins: Yes

Mr. Coogan: Yes

Mrs. Panchley: Yes

Mr. Costa: Yes

Mayor Correia: Yes

Dr. Costar: Yes

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

TRAVEL REQUESTS

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Dr. Costar: To approve all travel requests.

Discussion:

Mr. Costa had a question in regards to the Body Worlds Vital travel request. It indicated that the means of transportation was Fisher Bus for \$300, the cost per student was \$16, and the funding source was the students would be paying for themselves. He asked if they were paying for the bus or just the tickets to the event.

Mayor Correia asked if there was someone present who could answer this question. Maria Pontes said that she didn't have an answer right now but would get the answer. Mayor Correia asked Mr. Costa if he objected to this travel request. Mr. Costa said that he didn't have any objections to the students going on this field trip but he was concerned that they were asking students to pay for their transportation when other requests have come forward where transportation was paid for out of the Transportation account.

Mrs. Panchley said that she was going to ask to take the Coast Guard Academy travel separately and vote No because it was coming out of the Transportation budget. She said that typically field trips are paid for by fundraising or by the students themselves or some are funded by donations. Later in the meeting, she noticed how they're going to talk about how they're going over budget on Transportation. She feels that they should be consistent. She would rather they not be paying for field trips out of the budget.

Mayor Correia asked Superintendent Malone if he knew whether or not there was a set policy. Superintendent Malone said that he did not know. Mayor Correia recommended that a policy be put together. He asked if Superintendent Malone could draft one for the next meeting. Superintendent Malone asked if they were looking at policy from the perspective of not using public funds for transportation. Mayor Correia recommended that he poll Committee members outside of the meeting since this was not an item on the agenda. Mrs. Panchley said that she didn't think that they budgeted for field trips in the Transportation budget.

Mr. Coogan asked, in regard to the travel request to Oakland, if RPA and Durfee were applying for the same grant from the Barr Foundation or if that travel was for something different. Superintendent Malone said that it was his understanding that they were two separate things. Principal Pontes and Drew Woodward approached the podium. Mr. Woodward explained that the conference being paid for by the Barr Foundation was separate from the grant they were applying for. The Barr Foundation is funding the travel to a conference titled Linked Learning that focuses on college and career readiness, collaborating with academics and internships and other means to support at-risk students. Mr. Coogan asked if, in addition to that conference, they were preparing a grant for at-risk students. Principal Pontes confirmed that they were exploring that.

Dr. Costar said that he agreed with Mrs. Panchley that they need to be consistent with asking some students to pay for field trips when some students don't have to pay. In crafting this policy, he suggested that they give themselves some flexibility. Perhaps the policy could include some kind of a ladder. First, they look for outside sources like grants then they look toward having students pay their own way and then, as a last resort, they would look to the operational budget.

Mr. Costa asked what the process looked like when procuring transportation for these field trips. He looked at one travel request where 50 people would be riding a bus that cost \$300 but then there's another travel request where 37 people are riding a bus that cost \$700. Mayor Correia explained that it appears to be that the \$700 trip is to Groton, CT, so it's further than the \$300 bus trip to Providence. It's probably a combination of the mileage, gas, and the time of the person driving.

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Superintendent Malone said that he would write a memo to the School Committee explaining the process.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

DONATIONS

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve all donations.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

CONTRACTS

Mayor Correia announced that there were no contracts at this time.

GRANTS

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Coogan: To approve the LEP Support grant.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins asked if the grant writer was present. Fernanda Vera-Cruz approached the podium. Mr. Martins directed Ms. Vera-Cruz to Page 2 where it says "Instructors." He asked how many people were involved. Ms. Vera-Cruz answered that there were three instructors. Mr. Martins pointed out that under "Stipends" it says three instructors and three teachers; however, in the right column where it indicates "# of Staff" he pointed out that it says two instructors. He asked if this grant had already been approved by the Department of Ed. Ms. Vera-Cruz confirmed that it had been. He just wanted to point out the error that was a concern to him.

Mayor Correia advised that all Committee members who notice errors in the agenda items prior to the meeting call the Mayor's Office or the Superintendent directly so that errors can be avoided during the meeting and there can be corrective action.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

DISCUSSIONS

1. **First Read:** Durfee Program of Studies, *as presented by Ms. Maria Pontes, Principal of Durfee High School*

MOTION: Mr. Martins-Mr. Andrade: To accept the first read of the Durfee Program of Studies.

Discussion:

Principal Pontes and her team approached the podium. She stated that she had presented a draft of Durfee's Program of Studies for the 2017-2018 SY to the School Committee for a first read and for them to provide

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feedback. She introduced her team: Jessee Clements, Dean of Teaching and Learning for Math; Jessica Vinacco, Dean of Teaching and Learning for English Language Arts; Shayna Morgan, Dean of Teaching and Learning for Science; Drew Woodward, the Department Head for Guidance; and Ray Medeiros, CVTE Director.

Mrs. Panchley said that she knew there was a committee that was looking at the five-period schedule but she wanted to hear more about what was going on with that before they approved the final read.

Principal Pontes explained that this was a pilot year for the schedule. They have met with staff by department and have gotten feedback from them. They have a scheduling committee that is working on that. The next step is they're going to survey their juniors and their seniors because they're the ones who have lived through the old schedule and the new schedule. The scheduling committee is also doing research on other schools who have adopted a five-period schedule so that they can make some informed recommendations to the Superintendent and involved bargaining units.

Mrs. Panchley said that when the School Committee voted on this, she had a child in elementary school and middle school so she didn't really understand some of the ramifications that she understands now as a parent of a high school student. She has a nephew that is taking Pre-Calculus the first semester and he'll be going into AP Calculus next year. She understands with languages you can take the first half of the class in one semester then the second half of the class the next semester. Her concern is that students may not be ready for the second half of a language class the following semester. She feels like they are having to jam everything into a five-period schedule. She doesn't think that this is setting students up to pass the AP exam if they're only getting half a year to take Chemistry before they take AP Chemistry. It would be hard for her to approve this if they continue with a five-period schedule.

Principal Pontes explained that they gathered some feedback from students last year and made some adjustments to the schedule. They're also taking time to listen to their teachers and trying to see if they can figure out how to service the kids the best way possible so that they're not missing out.

Mrs. Panchley said that she had made a note from the Comprehensive report where they talked about how the middle schools and the elementary schools do a good job with interventions and that they're not doing that at the high school level. She feels that, with this schedule, they don't have time do interventions. She wondered if there was a six-period schedule if there would be time for interventions.

Dr. Costar said that it seemed like one of the major changes is that they'll be going from a unit system to a credit system. Principal Pontes explained that that would be phased in with the class of 2021. That is directly related to kids who are going on to Division I and Division II schools. The way that the schedule currently works is, if a student was taking a course that was only half-year, they were receiving 0.5 credits; however, those schools are not recognizing anything below 1 credit so they needed to revise that so they're not setting their kids up. This did not apply to current seniors.

Dr. Costar said that, at the last Instructional Subcommittee meeting, they had some good discussion on math and math intervention particularly for freshmen. He noticed there were additional courses in math for juniors and seniors seemingly to improve those who were failing or not doing well on MCAS. He noticed that there were also interventions in place for freshmen but, if colleges are assessing students to see if they need remedial math, the high schools need to be assessing their students to see what they need their freshmen year.

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John-Paul McDonald said, from a student's perspective, there were some cons to the seven-period schedule. He wasn't able to take as many AP classes because of double periods throughout different days. He feels that the five-period schedule does offer a lot more; however, the only issue with that is students need to be aware of which classes are half year and which are full year. Last year, he took AP Math and he was also able to take Pre-Calculus but the Pre-Calculus was only half year and he didn't feel like he gained as much. He thinks they should reconsider which classes are full year and which are half year. Also, with the seven-period schedule, he had two studies a day which he thought was a lot.

Mr. Coogan thinks they should change the wording of the Integrated Math III and just target it to freshmen who have poor grade level skills in algebra and geometry. He thinks there is a need for it.

Superintendent Malone asked Principal Pontes if they had considered a six-period schedule. Principal Pontes said that the scheduling committee is researching five-period schedules, six-period schedules, and seven-period schedules and they're going to put together some mock schedules of what they will look like before presenting them to the Superintendent.

Mrs. Panchley asked if a six-period schedule would include double periods. Principal Pontes answered that it was possible since there might be a lab science where you might have a double period a couple of times a week. They're looking at all the possibilities to see what would make sense to their students and their needs.

Mr. McDonald asked if rotating schedules would be implemented with five- or six-period schedules. Principal Pontes received feedback from some of the teachers. They're in the initial stages right now. They're hoping that they can present some options to see what will work for their students.

Mr. Martins said that he assumes this will be an improvement for students; however, he was disappointed to see the deletion of Robotics Exploratory since just recently they received a letter from the Naval Underwater Systems Command in Newport for a group of students that came in first place in New England. The letter implied that this could go on to be a nationwide thing. He is also looking at the intro programs and CVTE and wondered what the difference was between an intro program and exploratory.

Mr. Medeiros explained that the intro programs were to provide another entry point for sophomores that didn't think they were interested in the program so that they can insert them as juniors into the program. He just spoke with DESE on Friday and they think that this is a good strategy so that you don't have those low points. If you have a class that's under-enrolled, you can't catch up and you end up with three or four seniors. In this case, you may be able to build this class up one more time in the junior year.

Mr. Martins asked if Manufacturing and Fabrication Methods was a shop or a classroom. Mr. Medeiros stated that it was an elective that was part of Project Lead the Way but they don't have that program in place so students can take advantage of some of the equipment that they got through the Robotics and Automation grant. Right now, the room is being used by Project Lead the Way since the equipment fits in their curriculum.

Mr. Martins asked where Environmental Engineering stood. Mr. Medeiros answered that they were in their fourth section of the exploratory and this year they're going to go through eight cycles of students.

Mr. Martins asked how long the exploratory program was. Mr. Medeiros said that it was 10 weeks.

In regards to changing the credit system, Mr. Martins said that he hoped this wasn't tailored toward athletes who were going on to Division I and Division II schools. He hoped that this was geared toward all students. Principal Pontes assured him that they were not changing anything for the athletes specifically. The way that

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the schedule worked was that students were taking half-year courses and receiving 0.5 credits; however, Division I and Division II schools do not accept anything less than one credit. No course is going to be less than 1 credit.

Mr. Martins asked if Durfee had block scheduling at one time in order for students to take more classes. Principal Pontes answered that they did in 2004. Mr. Martins said that he didn't think that it worked very well. Mr. Martins asked what scheduling do they have right now. Principal Pontes answered that they have a five period per day, 72 minutes per period.

Mr. Martins said that he understands having double periods for a lab. Many schools have tried having extended periods and many schools have gone back to a 45-minute period. Principal Pontes said that most neighboring high schools have blocks.

Mr. Martins said that he is pushing for career development programs but he doesn't understand the application for school-to-career. Community service projects are nice but they don't compare to a co-op arrangement. Principal Pontes said that service-learning was an elective that students can choose to do to get that experience. For school-to-career, the students would have classes then they would have an opportunity to do service-learning within the community or at Durfee. Mr. Martins said that he was going to hold Durfee accountable if these changes do not work.

Superintendent Malone said that he has been impressed with Durfee's team. He feels that they will improve and expand their offerings. They're planning on looking at the grant opportunities to roll down career tech ed opportunities at the middle level. The changes that were heard tonight may not be as evolved as one would expect but they will be there in Years 2, 3, and 4.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

- 2. Discussion:** Durfee MSBA Update, as *presented by Mr. Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer, and Ms. Maria Pontes, Principal of Durfee High School*

Principal Pontes stated that, on December 20, she, along with Mr. Pacheco and Chris Gallagher, went to Boston and they elected the architect to design the new building. The architects will be coming down on January 19 and 31 to Durfee High School to meet with staff and to conduct visioning sessions so that they can get feedback from the staff. Students have also been involved and the Durfee team has visited some high schools. They're planning to get together to envision what they would like their new high school to look like.

Mr. Pacheco said that they originally started with nine potential designers that were narrowed down to four. That was done as a public session in Boston but not necessarily with any input from the designers. They sent a proposal and that proposal was looked at by the 13 members of the selection committee. They conducted a 30-minute interview with the four architects. That process took close to four hours. A voting took place and AI3 was the top vote getter. The voting format was that each person on that panel would give a "3" to their #1 choice, a "2" to their #2 choice and a "1" to their #3 choice. The City's #1 choice was Mt. Vernon, their #2 choice was AI3, and #3 was Wilson Perkins. The ultimate vote had AI3 at #1, Mt. Vernon at #2, and Wilson

Perkins at #3. The process from that point is negotiating a contract which the City is currently involved in. Due to the tight schedule, MSBA is trying to push for a start construction date of late 2018. That would give a move-in date of 2020 or 2021. There are a lot of milestones that need to be hit in order to make that happen. They are also in the feasibility study stage. For the entire year, they will be looking into the current Durfee building then exploring the site along with other sites in the city. They have to look at everything. They can't just look at Durfee, they have to look at any parcels in the city whether they currently have a building on them or not to see whether they have the required square footage to house everything that is at Durfee right now. The new building is going to be approximately 435,000 sq. ft. which is 100,000 sq. ft. less than they already have. Throughout the whole process, they've been talking about keeping an auditorium, gymnasium, field house, and swimming pool area. All of that will depend on whether or not that is feasible. In the process that they went through with MSBA, architects had to give them a conceptual idea of how they would go about doing projects on that site.

Mr. Martins asked if he understood correctly that the building was going to be less in space. Mr. Pacheco said that the current building is built for close to 4,000 students. The new building will only hold about 2,500 students. There are currently about 2,100 students at Durfee.

Mr. Martins asked if there was going to be enough room to have additional programs. Mr. Pacheco said that they were taking additional programs into consideration. Mr. Martins asked if the School Committee would be involved in the process. Mr. Pacheco said that there were two members of the School Committee who are on the Oversight Committee – Mr. Costa and Dr. Costar. They are involved in the chain of events. He said that there were going to be committees set up for everything.

Mr. Andrade said that there seems to be a lot of wasted space in the current building. He also said that he has heard rumors concerning the funding mechanisms for the new school. He has heard the term debt-exclusion being used. He asked if that means that this would have to go on a ballot and people would have to approve to agree to raise their taxes to fund this construction. Mr. Pacheco said that there were a couple of options. He said that there was a blend depending on the City's ability to bond, the two options would be 1) full debt exclusion which would last for an extent and it would be a line on the individual tax bill or 2) a blend of general fund bonded dollars, depending on how the City would decide to do that. When the feasibility study is delivered to MSBA, the next step is funding. The City's capacity to fund at that point will come into question and the City will make a decision on what avenue they'd like to go down. If it's debt exclusion, that will be a ballot question; however, it will not be on the November election due to the fact they will not have the paperwork and deliverables for MSBA. Mr. Andrade said that he was concerned about that option because people would have to agree to raise taxes.

Mayor Correia said that this was an extremely important project that needed to get done and in an appropriate way. The new building design and the efficiencies that are going to be created in this new building are going to be a savings to the City and the School Department over the long haul as opposed to keeping the current building in that state that it's in. In terms of funding mechanisms, it's going to be very important no matter what. The City Council passed an ordinance that any project, no matter the project, above \$5 million goes to a ballot question. He will be requesting that a new Durfee High School be excluded from that ordinance or that the ordinance is adjusted so that they can bond above that. It is very important that they are on the same page. The City gets fearful that something like this won't pass because the City has had a long history of people saying that the City of Fall River is on the brink of receivership and bankruptcy but that is far from the truth. The City can afford this project but it needs to be done in a proper way. They have the ability to bond \$20-\$40 million of their own money without it going to debt exclusion. They need to collaborate with the City Council with the current ordinance that exists and with the School Committee's help in order to plan for when that

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funding is needed. He will continue to brief the Committee and the School Department on the efforts on the City's side.

Mr. Martins asked if the reimbursement rate was at 80%. It was confirmed that it was. Dr. Costar said that it has been mentioned on more than one occasion that the 80% does not include other things that are necessary to open up a new building. He mentioned that they're putting together subcommittees for the purpose of marketing and for the purpose of getting out the message the Mayor wants conveyed.

Mayor Correia said that he wanted to keep this project as cost effective as possible and that is the top priority for the committee.

Superintendent Malone said that they can't reimburse for the pool, field house, or auditorium so what they're looking at for a project model is to build while the students are in school and connect those former areas with something that is brand new and revitalizing those areas at the same time.

Mr. Andrade thinks that it's great that AI3 was chosen because they did a lot of work on Somerset High School.

Mr. Costa said that the MSBA was very cautious about the size of the building. They took into consideration enrollment capacity by looking at birth rates, how many students they had coming and going, and the projected number of students. If this project does not succeed, they lose out on 80% reimbursement and they're left with a building that is not in a state right now to provide what they need to for the students.

3. **First Read:** Homeschool Policy, *presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Costa: To accept the first read of the Homeschool Policy.

Discussion:

Superintendent Malone stated that they do a lot with homeschool requests. Attorney Joyce has looked at the policy that is currently on the webpage and he gave Superintendent Malone the Homeschool Policy which he was presenting for a first read. Under the law, the School Committee assigns the Superintendent or his designee to manage this policy.

Dr. Costar asked why this was included as a discussion item and the Physical Restraint and Bullying policies were under the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Malone said it was because those policies had already been approved by the School Committee.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

4. **Discussion:** Recess Values, as *presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Dr. Costar-Mr. Andrade: To request that Superintendent Malone send the Recess Values memo to principals and have this added to the Fall River Public Schools handbook for 2017-2018.

Discussion:

Superintendent Malone explained that after the last School Committee meeting he was asked to make a statement to the value of recess. This is a statement of belief of why they feel recess is a vital component in the education of the whole child. In this document, it is stated what recess is, how they want to do more of it, and what it can't be. Recess can't be withheld for misbehavior. They also talk about the research behind why physical activity is important for the development of the child.

Dr. Costar explained that this discussion first came about at the first Parent and Community Subcommittee which took place last spring when parents brought up their concerns about recess. They developed a survey which the Superintendent sent out to principals asking their concerns over recess and gave feedback to the Committee on what they were doing operationally. Based on what the parents' concerns were and based on what the principals were telling them about recess, this memo was crafted by the Superintendent and it was a good example of how parents and schools can work together to craft something that works for everybody.

Transcriber's Note: At 7:12 p.m., Mayor Correia stepped out of the meeting and Vice-Chair, Mr. Costa, took over the duties of the Chair.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Absent
Dr. Costar: Yes	

Six were in favor None were opposed One was absent (Mayor) Motion passed

5. **Vote to Approve:** Second Quarter Revolving Funds, as *presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer*

Mr. Almeida presented the first quarter revolver report for School Committee review, as of September. He plans on bringing the December report to the next School Committee meeting once it has been closed out for the month. They started with a balance of \$4.4 million in their revolving account. Through September, they've spent \$687,000 and had a revenue of \$553,000. They have a positive balance of \$4.2 million. Each one of their revolving accounts is in a positive balance at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the Second Quarter Revolving Funds.

No discussion

Six were in favor None were opposed One was absent (Mayor) Motion passed

6. **Vote to Approve:** December's Budget Report, as *presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer*

MOTION: Mr. Martins-Mrs. Panchley: To approve December's budget report.

Discussion:

Mr. Almeida stated that, in looking at the budget report, they are in pretty good shape but the line item that stands out in this report is the Transportation line item. At this time, the suggestion would be to hold off doing

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any transfer for that line item and continue to monitor it and understand that they are aware that there is a shortfall there. The shortfall is about \$126,000. He has funding in the Unemployment line to cover it and he'll manage it as the year goes on for any additional funding that will be needed. He's looking at about a \$300,000 shortfall in that line item.

Mrs. Panchley asked if they were currently meeting net school spending. Mr. Almeida said that they were over by \$500,000.

Transcriber's Note: At 7:16 p.m., Mayor Correia returned to the meeting.

Transcriber's Note: At 7:16 p.m., Mrs. Panchley stepped out of the meeting.

Mr. Andrade asked why they fell short in Transportation. Mr. Almeida said that he originally thought that the budget would be higher at about \$8.5 million but the budget was cut to \$8.2 million. They're trying their best to stay within that line item.

Dr. Costar asked where in the Transportation budget the deficit was occurring. Mr. Almeida said that each year, since he has been there, there has been an increase in Special Education transportation. They've also needed additional monitors to fix some of the busing issues that have happened over time. Dr. Costar asked if there was a cost associated with transporting special needs students to gifted and talented programs throughout the city. Mr. Almeida said that was about \$300,000.

Superintendent Malone said that these were things that they were looking at as they try to determine next year's budget. They'll be trying to work on cost containments. For example, the Gate is in two schools but possibly moving them to four schools. Dr. Costar said that Gate was in three schools and last year they needed eight buses. Superintendent Malone said that they needed to try to reduce transportation costs in that regard.

Six were in favor None were opposed One was absent (Panchley) Motion passed

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To place the FYI portion of the agenda on file.

No discussion

Six were in favor None were opposed One was absent (Panchley) Motion passed

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To enter into executive session.

Attorney Assad read items that were requested for Executive Session.

- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining relative to ALL Administrators and Employees represented by the Fall River Administrators' Association.
- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining relative to ALL professional teaching employees of the Fall River School System including coaches, Title I, teachers, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, and specialists in the teaching profession represented by the Fall River Educators' Association.
- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with non-union

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personnel including Stuart Primus, Administrative Intern; Clotilde Cabral, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Kerry Camara, License Practical Nurse Instructional Assistant; Vanessa Desousa, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Christine Donovan, Physical Therapy Assistant; Mary Ann Donovan, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Jose Filipe Rodrigues, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Cynthia Silva, Physical Therapy Assistant; Kelly Travis, Occupational Therapy Assistant; Nancy Slean, Facility Accountant; and Chou Tang, Data Technician.

- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7): To review and approve Executive Session Committee Minutes for the December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.
- M.G.L. c.30A Section 21(a)(4): To discuss strategies relative to the deployment of security personnel and/or devices.

Mayor Correia asked for a roll call to enter into executive session.

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Absent
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

Six were in favor None were opposed One was absent (Panchley) Motion passed (7:22 p.m.)

At 7:42 p.m. the meeting reconvened. A roll call for attendance showed:

Mr. Andrade: Present	Mr. Martins: Present
Mr. Coogan: Present	Mrs. Panchley: Present
Mr. Costa: Present	Mayor Correia: Present
Dr. Costar: Present	

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mrs. Panchley: To approve Stuart Primus's contract.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mrs. Panchley: To approve Nancy Slean's contract.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve the Executive Session committee minutes from December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve the MOA for Fonseca School Level 4.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Andrade asked if they had named someone a Record's Access person. Superintendent Malone stated that Tonya Casey has been appointed the Public Records Request coordinator. The office has been processing the requests as they come in and there is a good system in place.

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Mr. Andrade also asked about the Superintendent's evaluation and said that DESE likes to have the Superintendent evaluated every year. The former Superintendent used to address the Committee at the half-year mark to go over what she would be evaluated on. He asked if Superintendent Malone could give the School Committee an idea of what his timeline is. Superintendent Malone said that in March or April he will be presenting his entry plan report and, at that time, he can make some comments about that.

MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Dr. Costar: To adjourn.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed (7:47 PM)

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq.- 508.324.2650

Please note: A videotape/DVD of this meeting is on file in the School Committee Office and is available for review by contacting the Administrative Assistant for the School Committee Services