

Regular Meeting: April 10, 2017

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 10, 2017

5:30 PM

**Kuss Middle School
52 Globe Mills Avenue
Fall River, MA 02724**

MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Correia called the meeting to order. A roll call for attendance showed at 5:37 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 were three individuals signed up for Citizens' Input.

Rebecca Cusick thanked Superintendent Malone and his team on behalf of the union members for their work in putting together the budget for next year. She stated that zero-based budgeting seemed to have resulted in the ability to prioritize student needs while also taking steps toward some broader district improvements. She thinks that this budget makes a strong statement about what they value and it protects the delivery of instruction and addresses their need for stability in the district. They are very relieved to see that they will avoid the chaos that results from massive layoff notices. This budget also takes some long overdue steps toward addressing some issues with class size in the early grades and toward meeting their technology needs. She wanted to emphasize the importance of securing the additional 1% from the City. While the foundation budget is supposed to provide adequate funding for education, they know that gateway cities like Fall River are unable to provide what wealthier communities are able to provide for their kids. Education is worth the 1% over net school spending.

Elizabeth Correia was in her 5th year as a special education teacher at Viveiros Elementary School. She believed that it was a responsibility as citizens of Fall River to assist the improvement of education in the city. She stated that the students of Fall River deserve an education that meets their needs as learners to the fullest extent. They deserve an education that prepares them to be active and engaged members of society. They can begin making education a top priority by supporting Superintendent Malone's proposed budget, including the 1% over net school spending. By supporting this budget, they are saying that students deserve more than the minimum that is required by law and they are willing to go beyond what they are merely expected to do in order to provide what students need.

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Anne Santoro is a lifelong resident of Fall River and a 1st grade teacher at Spencer Borden Elementary School. She has been a Fall River educator for 32 years. She asked for the School Committee to support Superintendent Malone’s budget. She stated that one of the important things this budget can do is lower class size, which is an area that needs to be explored. In some of their classrooms, they have 30 kindergarteners, one teacher, and a ½ time para. That is not acceptable for the children. She said that research shows that smaller class sizes with well-qualified educators can boost student academic achievement. Also, minority and low income students show greater gains when they are placed in classes that are smaller at the early childhood level. Last year, they lost 46 positions in the district. This budget would avoid layoffs and provide stability to retain their educators. Eighty percent of the Fall River School’s funding comes from the state. She does not feel that it is unreasonable to ask for 1% more because many other communities give more.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Coogan: To table the recognition award for the Safety and Guidance Teams at Resiliency Preparatory Academy

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Malone thanked the Mayor for a youth empowerment event that took place at City Hall. He stated that he appreciated the Mayor’s comments about what it means to “make it here” and truly inspire young people.

- *End of the Year Dates*

Superintendent Malone announced that, due to the four snow days, the last day of school for students this year will be Monday, June 26. Both Friday and Monday will be a ½ day of school for students, per the FREA contract. Henry Lord had a 5th day because of a catastrophic failure of a radiator. Their last day will be Tuesday, June 27.

Dr. Costar asked if there was a reason, other than negotiation, why Friday, June 23, couldn’t be made a full day instead of having two half days. It has been his experience that when they have kids come back on a ½ day on a Monday, it’s not good for parents, students, or staff and sometimes students won’t come back on Monday. Superintendent Malone said that it had to do with the law on having 180 school days. He did write a letter requesting that Henry Lord day be waived but the commissioner takes a hard line every year and it has to be 180 days.

- *MCAS*

Superintendent Malone stated that the tech team has done a great job supporting the delivery of the assessments that they’ve begun for all of the schools. He’s visited schools and observed the assessments. He is confident that they are going to see some good work coming out of the Fall River Schools.

Dr. Costar asked if the MCAS that was being administered now was based on the new standard that had been released by the state. Superintendent Malone answered that this was MCAS 2.0 based on mostly the original standards but the standards have shifted to the new standards so it’s been kind of a bridge. It’s a combination of the old and the new standards. Dr. Costar asked if next year would be entirely on the new

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standard. Superintendent Malone replied that it would. Dr. Costar said that he would like to hear someone from the state talk about the new standards. He would like to hear a presentation that will help him better understand. Superintendent Malone said that either this summer or this fall they will have one of the members of the department come in and do that.

Mr. Martins asked if the targets were going to change or if they would still be in existence. Superintendent Malone explained that under NCLB they had targets based on growth which was AYP. Under Race to the Top, the State applied for a waiver from those standards and developed their own accountability framework. Under the last year of President Obama's administration, there was ESSA - Every Student Succeeds Act, which is the new federal regulations and the State just submitted their plan as to how they would document and demonstrate accountability under the new law. What they're doing with this assessment has not yet been approved by the federal government but they will have similar accountability rankings. They will be moving away from CPI to another indicator that includes several other metrics. This is a work in progress. Districts are being held harmless this year. There will still be an accountability assignment for all of the schools and districts in the Commonwealth. Superintendent Malone said that he would get the School Committee the white page on the new accountability framework.

Mr. Martins stated that CPI takes into consideration PPI so CPI will still be the primary measure for student achievement. He said that CPI is supposed to meet or exceed the straight line toward the targets. He would like to know if this will change. He asked that Superintendent Malone share information on what the measure will be for student achievement. Superintendent Malone assured Mr. Martins that he will. He said that it was very fluid right now because nothing has been decided yet. The State just submitted their proposal and is waiting to hear from USDE. It's a little more complex but it takes into consideration other factors beyond just test scores. He said that he will provide the School Committee with the white page within a week or so.

Dr. Costar said that, if they're going to have new standards and a new test based on those standards, he doesn't understand how you have the same cut off point. That is why he would like someone to come down and speak about this so he can get some of these questions answered.

- *Fonseca Level 4 Update*

Superintendent Malone stated that he submitted the plan based on the feedback and revisions from the first round. Principal Lisi and her team worked really hard and put together a good plan. They don't approve the final plan under the law but the School Committee now has the final plan. He will continue to update the Committee on the next steps.

- *Assistant Superintendent and HR Director Search Updates*

Superintendent Malone thanked the search teams for both positions. He announced that he hoped to be able to bring back to the Committee a recommendation for the Assistant Superintendent and information on who he appointed as the HR Director soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the meeting minutes from the March 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

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-Mr. Andrade: To approve all travel requests.

Discussion:

Mrs. Panchley asked, in regards to the Fine Arts Funding Source for the Rhode Island VETS Theater travel request, if that meant that the money was coming out of the operating budget. Ms. Francisco stated that the field trip was being covered by a grant that she acquired in the summer. The Fine Arts funding source is just being used to cover the bus for students to get there because they want every 5th grader - about 880 total - to attend. The students will not have to pay. They've secured over \$5,000 worth of recorders, music, and books for the kids and professional development for teachers on how to teach the recorder. Mrs. Panchley asked if the bus was being funded through the operating budget. Ms. Francisco said that it was funding by her Fine Arts funding source for transportation.

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

Superintendent Malone read the donations out loud.

MOTION: Mr. Martins-Mr. Andrade: To accept all donations.

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

CONTRACTS

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Dr. Costar: To approve all contracts.

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

GRANTS

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mrs. Panchley: To approve all grants.

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

DISCUSSIONS

1. **First Read:** Code of Conduct, *as presented by Rebecca Cusick, FREA President, and Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve the first read of the Code of Conduct.

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

2. **Presentation and First Read for Discussion:** Capital/Facilities Master Plan: Short Term 1st Quarter FY 2018 Recommendations, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer*

Superintendent Malone stated that he and Mr. Pacheco were bringing forward the first piece of the Capital/Facilities Master Plan. This is the short-term, first quarter FY 18 recommendation. They will be bringing forward the long-term plan most likely in May or June. What they're requesting to do is two-fold: (1) move the Stone School from its current location to the Westall Building in order to expand the Stone School and (2) move storage space in the 4th floor of the current Resiliency building out of that area and move the middle-level school, which is on the ground floor of the building, up into the 4th floor

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area. That will free up space for more alternative programs like a counseling intervention center for 10-day suspensions. This will allow for greater alignment and cohesion so that they can have a 7, 8, 9 lower school and a 10, 11, 12 upper school.

Mr. Pacheco stated that what they have at Westall is a building that had catastrophic failure of the roof due to a microburst. The work that was done was laid out in the plan. This part of the improvement plan was taking it to the next level. They want to occupy the building in September but it needs about \$180,000 worth of work to continue over the summer in order for them to meet their goal of a September opening. They have approximately \$150,000 left in the Westall account. They will have some funds in the Morton account that they will be able to utilize. They will have a little over \$300,000 available to do a little over \$300,000 worth of work over two years. If the funds are available and they can utilize them, they're going to do as much work over the summer as they can and not spread it out over two years. Some of the work that they are doing is moving the playground from the current Stone School over to the new facility. They will also be moving some of the smartboards over and upgrading the technology infrastructure in addition to working on plumbing, electrical, elevators, and the fire suppression system.

Dr. Costar stated that he sees great advantages of having a K-12 Day Program at the Westall School; however, he recalled that there was a discussion that the School Committee had to use the Westall School to alleviate class size or utilize the building for a Pre-K center. He had no objections to moving Stone there since it will draw students in and save on out-of-district tuition. He asked if they have given up on the thought of other places where they can have some kind of Pre-K center that could alleviate classroom space at other schools. Superintendent Malone explained that when he was looking at options, the idea of using Westall to further reduce class size was cost prohibitive because he would have to buy all of those teachers and maybe get reimbursed if enrollment went up. They didn't have the money to do that. Moving the Stone School made sense for two purposes: (1) it is the moral responsibility of the school system to make sure that the Stone students have a beautiful learning environment and (2) they're also thinking long-term financially. They want to ensure that the students they are educating at Stone now have a model in place to meet their therapeutic needs. The students who are not ready to move on to Durfee or RPA have to go out of district. If they can build the Stone School, they will save money and be able to invest in program and they will grow and charge tuition for other communities. They're going to hold onto the current Stone School building and they're thinking long-term on having it be an early childhood center.

Dr. Costar asked if they would have the necessary wraparound services. Superintendent Malone said that they are adding enough program support to grow another multi-level classroom and then buy more resources since there will be a savings in out-of-district tuition. They will also be working closely with Durfee and the Bridge program and figure out if there's a way they can share some programming assets. They have funded a full contingent of teachers, paraprofessionals, and a behavior therapist to grow one more multi-level room. Since the school will be bigger, they're also adding a second-shift custodian to make sure the school is clean and ready. They are also adding a nurse position that would be split between Stone and RPA.

Mr. Andrade said that he had the same concerns as Dr. Costar. In terms of the situation at Fonseca, it's not just a concern about class size, it's also a concern about the number of students in that school. He said that there's an art classroom that was specifically designed as an art classroom but hasn't been used as such in years because it had to be used as a regular classroom. He read the redesign plan for Fonseca and asked if it was the intention to take some classes out of there gradually as the new kindergarten came

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in. Superintendent Malone said that because the 5th grade is large and the 4th grade is small, there will only be four 5th grade classes next year at Fonseca. That allows him to bring in one Pre-K full-day 4-year-old classroom. They're reducing kindergarten to four units so that gives him another classroom. They're going to have two 4-year-old full-day classrooms. Each year, they're going to cap at four kindergartens and, in four years, the school will have four K1s, four Ks, four 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. They have space in the STEAM Center which will be merging technology and art and they will be doing multimedia work. They're also building a student support center.

Mr. Martins asked that, with the understanding that the Westall School will be repaired to what it's supposed to be, this is proposing that it will now become a K-12 program for students who need therapeutic assistance. Superintendent Malone confirmed that the Stone School would become a K-12 Day School. Mr. Martins asked Superintendent Malone if he was proposing that K-12 kids would be in the same building together. He asked if he would be able to control them all. Superintendent Malone said that he wants the Committee to think of this differently than a traditional school. This is a classroom-centered team approach to instruction. They work with multiple grade levels of kids. In that building they're going to be able to have students set up so that the older kids don't come in contact with the younger kids. Mr. Martins said that he didn't realize that that was the direction he was wanting to go in. He found it difficult to have such a wide spread when some of these students can be moved to RPA. Superintendent Malone explained that this was not a district placement school. It's a Chapter 766 school that's an out-of-district placement. The State is the authority on the management and operation of the 766 schools. It's their in-house, out-of-district placement school. These are students that have very unique IEPs. These aren't students with behavioral issues. This is a therapeutic setting to support some of their most fragile learners.

Mr. Martins said that he can agree to the use of the Westall building for being an early childhood education program. That would alleviate some of the load that the current teachers have in those grade levels. He is concerned with that large of an age range being in the same building. Mr. Coogan stated that St. Vincent's Home was a K-12 program and they housed the kids on different floors. Also, South Coast Collaborative, where they send the kids, is a K-12 program. The kids that don't go to Stone School are usually sent to K-12 programs. He believes that, with proper management, it will run as well as other alternative programs. Right now, Stone is K-8 and some of the 8th graders are as big as high school kids. He supports this program and feels that it will help the budget and bring kids back into the city where they would be within their own neighborhood. As far as the class size issue, they've capped the class size at 26. Next year, he'd like to see a goal of 24 or 25, especially in the lower grades. He thinks that getting the class size down is important in turning around the image of the Fall River school system.

Mr. Coogan asked Superintendent Malone how many students would be at the Stone School. Superintendent Malone said about 75. Mr. Costa stated that with any new initiative, they need to take a step back. They worked with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the time of Stone's inception to propose the Stone therapeutic day program. One of the things he remembers about that process was the big part of selling that program was to get the advocates for the children on board. He asked if they explored that with the advocates locally in terms of expanding this program to a K-12 program. They are the ones who will be advising parents as to whether or not this will be a suitable placement for their child. What he would hate to see is for them to roll out a program and get push back from the advocates who are looking to give advice to parents as far as what their child's needs are. If they haven't reached out to advocates, he would ask that they do that because when they rolled out the program initially there were some concerns from some of the advocates about whether or not the Stone

therapeutic program would be sufficient enough for kids. They now have support from the advocates. He understands what Mr. Martins is saying because it is unnerving to think about having high school age students and elementary age students in the same building. When he chaired the Special Ed Alternative Subcommittee back when the American Reinvestment Recovery Act money was available, they thought Stone School was a good investment and they used over \$1 million to do the startup for the Stone therapeutic program. He has always been a proponent for marketing this to other districts. That's been a challenge over the years. He hopes that they can work through things because he believes there are students who deserve to be educated here.

Mrs. Panchley said that, when she first heard about this, she was reluctant because she fought for Westall to reopen in order to reduce class sizes. However, when she thought about how the budget has gone since she's been on the School Committee, she knows that they are not in the position of opening a school in order to lower classroom size. They opened Henry Lord on a shoestring and she doesn't want to see another school be opened on a shoestring. She realized that opening a school to reduce classroom size would mean taking resources from other schools. She thinks this plan sounds good and will help them with their budget.

Dr. Costar said that the way that the Stone School exists now had to have been supported by the State. He asked if they need to go through some kind of process to be approved by the State. Superintendent Malone said that they have begun those conversations and have alerted the department. The way that he understood it was that they simply fill out a piece of paper requesting that they visit their program, which is part of the ongoing program review. He said that this model was the norm. Dr. Costar said that he would support it if it could be approved by the State. Superintendent Malone said that he would bring back more information on that at the next meeting.

Mr. Martins said that he would be very upset to learn that a younger student had been assaulted by an older student. He understands the concerns about the budget but the dollars do not equate to someone getting assaulted. He moved to table this discussion to next month in order to give it more thought. Mr. Costa reminded Mr. Martins that this was just a first read and preliminary discussion. It will come back to the School Committee for adoption at a later date. Mr. Martins withdrew his motion.

3. **Vote to Approve:** Early graduation request, *as presented by Mr. Andrew Woodward, Director of Guidance*

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mr. Coogan: To approve Casey Gillet's request for early graduation.

Discussion:

Superintendent Malone wanted to recognize that this student has met the requirements for graduation and that they are proud of him.

Principal Pontes introduced Casey Gillet and said that he was a member of the class of 2018; however, he was petitioning for early graduation. He will have met all of his academic requirements. He has doubled up on math and is enrolling in night school to take English IV. He's passed math, ELA, and Biology Advanced. He wants to enlist in the Navy so he would like to graduate this June.

Mr. Coogan stated that he thought this was already in Durfee's handbook. Principal Pontes said that part of the requirement is that the student petitions to the principal and the principal sends it up to the Superintendent and Superintendent brings it up to the School Committee for approval.

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Dr. Costar said that he would like to hear from the student as to what spurred him to make this decision. Mr. Gillet said that he's always had a passion to join the Navy. He read through the Durfee handbook and he came across the section that talked about early graduation and thought that he could meet the requirements.

Dr. Costar said that, when reviewing policies, they should consider revisiting this one. He doesn't think that every case needs to go in front of the School Committee. He thinks that the Superintendent can make that decision based on the recommendation of the principals. Superintendent Malone said that, in his past districts, as long as the School Committee had a policy that has a process, as Superintendent he would just be informed but the current way says that this is the process. Dr. Costar recommended that this be added to the list for when they review policies.

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. **Second Read and Vote to Approve:** Instructional Calendar, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the Instructional Calendar.

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

5. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** Funding for Youth Court, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer*

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve the funding for Youth Court.

Discussion:

Mrs. Panchley asked if they have identified any money in the 2018 budget. Superintendent Malone said that he was working on that and was also looking at their outside contracting services for a way to cut some down so they're not adding money. He will bring that forward to the Committee once he figures it out.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes

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Mr. Costa: Yes

Mayor Correia: Yes

Dr. Costar: Yes

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

6. **Discussion:** Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review, *as referred by the Evaluation Subcommittee and presented by Mr. Gabriel Andrade, Evaluation/AIP Subcommittee Chair*

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To table the discussion of the Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review.

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

7. **Update:** FY 18 Budget Development, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer*

Superintendent Malone said he appreciated the efforts of the Finance Subcommittee who have been meeting almost weekly. They have another session Wednesday night and will finish the subcommittee meetings the week after vacation. House Ways and Means budget came out today and, while they don't have the updated numbers from the department, it looked like there was some additional monies for education but he's uncertain about additional money for Chapter 70.

Mr. Costa said that, with respect to the indirect cost agreement, last year there was a lot of discussion as far as what would be eligible and what wouldn't be eligible. There were requests made at the time by the City administration to take a look at the indirect cost agreement to see if there were areas where they could come to a mutual agreement on indirect costs. It's his understanding, as of right now, that they're still without an indirect cost agreement or a proposed change or modification. He asked the Mayor if he could check in with the City's CFO and give the Committee an update as to where they are with that. It's an important piece, especially when they're putting the budget together, to know what is going to be considered eligible and ineligible. Having that information is something that the Finance Subcommittee should have as well as the full committee. Absence of a new one would mean they would go forward with what they currently have. He knows that in the last couple of years there have been some issues with items on there.

Mayor Correia said that he did have an update for the Committee. It was a priority of the administration amidst their budget process, specifically their Enterprise budget accounts that had to be in as early as possible and definitely by the May 1 deadline. As of 5:06 p.m., the final draft MOU was sent out to the School Department's financial team and the Superintendent. The document will be circulated.

8. **Vote to Approve:** Third Quarter Budget Transfer, *as presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer*

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Coogan: To approve the Third Quarter Budget Transfer.

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

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

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Dr. Costar: To approve March's Budget Report.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins asked Mr. Almeida where in the budget report the Medicare payments were listed.

Mr. Almeida said that the only specific listing for Medicaid is the Object 530300 - the Medicaid Program. It's the payment they make to the third party administrator for their Medicaid program. The costs that are submitted for the Medicare reimbursement are spread amongst all the objects. They're not in one specific line item. The cost where they request reimbursement for is in many line items like salaries, supplies, and contract services. Mr. Martins asked what the total cost for Medicaid was. Mr. Almeida said that it was upwards of \$2 million plus. Mr. Martins asked if this was part of the operating budget. Mr. Almeida confirmed that it was. Mr. Martins stated that the Superintendent sent them a memo via email which indicated that they are on track to receive no less than last year's reimbursement which is about \$1.5 million. He asked if they get that money. Mr. Almeida said that that money goes to the City.

Mr. Martins said that the memo says that the money goes back to the City's general fund yet the School Department pays for it. It's part of the School Department's operating budget. They pay the whole thing but, when the money comes back, they don't have access to it. Mr. Martins asked the Mayor if there was a reason for this. Mayor Correia said that the reason was because transportation was a non-eligible net school expense and they need to come up with almost \$9 million. Mr. Martins said that he understands but stated that it's the law for the City to provide for school transportation and not charge toward net school spending. Medicare is part of the School Department's operating budget. He would think that the reimbursement would come back to the agent that is paying it. He asked if it would be appropriate for the City to take over the whole thing. Mayor Correia said that there would need to be a discussion with the School Department's financial team as well as the City's financial team. Superintendent Malone said that the City has been working with them to figure this issue out. He stated that many systems deal with this and this is not an issue that is unique to Fall River. Reimbursements go back to the City's general fund in every municipality. There will be more discussion at the final Finance Subcommittee meeting and they can bring the results of that discussion to the May 8 meeting. Mr. Martins said that this has been a longstanding problem that has inequity. He said that he would continue to pursue it further. He thinks there has to be a better explanation. He suggested that the amount of Medicare minus the reimbursement be the amount that goes into the budget.

Mrs. Panchley agreed with Mr. Martins and said that she has fought this same issue for three and a half years. She thinks it's ridiculous that none of the money comes back to the School Department considering they are the ones doing all the work to get the money back.

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Dr. Costar said that the only experience he has had in this regard was having to give forms out to all the counselors who worked for him in order to collect data on students who were on Medicaid. There was a lot of time spent by people in the school system collecting this data. That time could have been used to service students in other ways. The counselors would ask why they had to submit the forms every month and what the School Department was getting out of this.

Mr. Coogan said that he was stunned that other towns also dealt with this but he said that those towns are 110-120% over so the money comes back in a different form. Depending how the budget ends up this year, this might be something to look at.

Mr. Martins said that the FY18 budget was \$1.3 million over net school spending but, if they're getting \$1.5 million in reimbursement, they are right back to having a budget that is equal. The 1% over net school spending isn't really there.

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To place the FYI portion of the agenda on file.
No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

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 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)(7): To review and approve Executive Session Committee Minutes for the March 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

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

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes

Regular Meeting: April 10, 2017

Mr. Costa: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes

Mayor Correia: Yes

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed (7:05 p.m.)

At 7:41 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-Mr. Andrade: To approve the Executive Session committee minutes from the March 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Dr. Costar: To adjourn.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed (7:43 PM)

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant

Documents Referred to:

- Memo: Last Day of School 2016-2017
- Memo: MCAS Update
- Draft Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – March 13, 2017
- Draft Minutes for the Finance Subcommittee Meeting – March 21, 2017
- Travel Requests
 - Tesol 2017 International Convention & English Language Expo, Seattle, WA
 - Highlander Blended & Personalized Learning Conference, Providence, RI
 - East Coast Classic Cheer Competition, Providence, RI
 - Paul Mitchell School, Cranston, RI
 - UCONN
 - SeaPerch National ROV Competition, Atlanta, GA
 - Rhode Island VETS Theater, Providence, RI

Regular Meeting: April 10, 2017

- Pawtucket Red Sox, Pawtucket, RI
- Lake Compounce, Bristol, CT
- Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI – Spencer Borden Elementary School
- Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI – Morton Middle School
- Roger Williams Planetarium and Park
- MATE International ROV Competition, Long Beach, CA
- Donations
 - Anthony Chedid
 - Anonymous Donor
 - JN Phillips Auto Glass
 - Multiple Donors
 - Donors Choose – Talbot
 - Jenna Mark
 - Donors Choose – Stone/Ms. MacDonald
 - Donors Choose – Stone/Mrs. Correia
 - Amazon
 - Donors Choose – Morton
- Contracts
 - Looney Math Consulting
 - Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 - South Shore Ed. Collaborative
- Grants
 - SPED Program Improvement
 - E. C. SPED Program Improvement
 - Low-Income Education Access Project (LEAP) Incentive Grant
 - Title I – School Support
 - Support/Underperforming Districts
- Fall River Public Schools Code of Conduct
- Capital Improvement Plan – Short Term Projects First and Second Quarter FY 2018
- Memo: Early Graduation Request
- Instructional School Year Calendar 2017-2018
- Memo: Youth Court
- Memo: Third Quarter Budget Transfer – April 10, 2017 School Committee Meeting
- Budget Transfer – Period Ending March 31, 2017
- March's Budget Report

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