

Evaluation/AIP Subcommittee

Monday, January 12, 2015
5:30 PM

Matthew J. Kuss Middle School
52 Globe Mills Avenue
Fall River, MA 02724

AGENDA

- Status of Superintendent's goals for 2014-2015
- Status of Fall River Public School's vision
- Status of stakeholder survey

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM. A roll call for attendance showed that Mr. Andrade, Mr. Hart, and Mr. Maynard were present.

Mr. Andrade read the Open Meeting Law.

Also present was Superintendent Mayo-Brown, School Committeeman Joseph Martins, and a member of the press.

Mr. Andrade noted there were three items on the agenda and went over the items. He asked that they take the third item first.

1. Status of stakeholder survey

Mr. Andrade informed the subcommittee that he had spoken to Mike Goodman at UMass Dartmouth last week and he is proceeding with work on the survey for the first and third items of the School Committee's goals. He will be keeping in contact with him and apprising the subcommittee and full Committee of anything that transpires.

2. Status of Superintendent's goals for 2014-2015

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said at the December School Committee meeting, the direction of the Committee was that she should meet individually with School Committee members to talk about their vision and any goals they would like to propose that she work on. She had her last conversation earlier that day and her goals are currently in draft form. She wanted to finish those based on her conversations and expects that she will have the proposed goals out to the School Committee by the end of the week and should be on target for the School Committee to review and approve the goals at the February School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown continued that generally speaking, what she heard from School Committee members in terms of the goals was to continue to focus on PPI as a measure of

accountability to see how schools were progressing; to keep a focus on professional culture and educator evaluation; it was a commonality to structure a goal around her work with principals; and to structure a goal around college and career readiness which came out of the School Committee member's statements on vision.

Mr. Maynard asked if she was working on class size which was one of his big issues.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said yes and that she had a conversation with most members about class size and its significance and importance to the district. The challenge for them right now is the Westall School. One of the key ways to reduce class size is by opening another building. They are hoping to schedule a Facilities and Operations subcommittee meeting in two weeks to get an update on Westall. Otherwise, in terms of the strategy she and the Committee have been trying to put more adult bodies into classrooms to reduce the student to adult ratio. They do not have physical classroom space to open up more classrooms without Westall right now.

Mr. Maynard asked if they were doing anything with Westall.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said there will be a more complete update at the Facilities and Operations subcommittee meeting but her understanding was that it was an issue of arbitration between the city and the insurance company in terms of what needs to happen to the building to bring it up to code. Once the arbitration is settled - hopefully in the favor of the city - then they can commence working on it and renovate the building. The earliest she had heard it may happen is a year from now and more likely September 2016.

Mr. Maynard asked who was working on it.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is the city's law department that is engaging with the insurance company to move it along.

3. Status of Fall River Public School's vision

Mr. Andrade said he had taken a look at this earlier that day to make some sense out of it and responses were all over the ball park. While there was some commonality, there were quite a few that diverged and did not have much agreement. He noted they are going to be doing a vision statement which is very general and can be very inclusive. Essentially, a picture of the ideal school district they would like to see whereas goals are more specific. They need both. The vision will give them an idea of what they are heading toward and why they are doing certain things but they also need to have more specific goals in order to reach the final outcome they expect. He does not picture much disagreement when the vision is complete but the goals could be something different because of differences of thoughts on how to achieve certain outcomes.

Mr. Andrade then summarized what each School Committee member submitted.

Mr. Martins asked that the individual submissions be made available to the School Committee and it was agreed.

Mr. Andrade said he tried to see where there was some agreement and went over those areas as well. The top four were ranked:

1. Preparing students for college and career
2. Collaboration and communication among all stakeholders
3. Protecting the safety of students
4. Increased performance in ELA and math (although there is disagreement in how to measure that).

Mr. Andrade said he could try to draft a vision statement and had a couple of models from what was submitted. He would have it before the next evaluation subcommittee meeting and he could give the same presentation to the full Committee.

Mr. Hart asked if every member on the Committee would write a vision statement.

Mr. Andrade said if he wanted to do one he could.

Mr. Hart thought from what each wrote down they could make up their own.

Mr. Andrade agreed that was the point.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked if the sequence was that the Committee would approve a vision and then Professor Goodman would test it out amongst stakeholders. She asked how he saw that working.

Mr. Andrade said they had not asked him to do much with the vision statement yet but they could. They had asked him to work with the two other items for survey. They could look at how that plays out internally within the school department and would be easy enough to do.

Mr. Hart asked the Superintendent if she would look at all of these and go over her own. He thought it would overlap.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it does. She thought that her contract called for it being mutually agreeable and they are trying to work on that now. Second, Dr. Kelly advised them last year to determine what the evidence was in advance of the evaluation and they never really did that. She never understood the significance until after they went through the process.

Mr. Andrade agreed and said it was a problem through the previous evaluation process and was not one that they expected. They will need some agreement on the goals first and then they will need to have that discussion.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said as she crafts a goal around college and career readiness, she wonders what evidence the Committee will propose that they measure whether or not the goal was met. She needs feedback from the Committee around the evidence piece as they move along so they are all on the same page. She asked if they could meet again soon.

Mr. Andrade asked if she suggested Dr. Kelly be present.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown thought for the evidence piece which would be after the goals are approved.

Mr. Hart thought it made sense if it was after the goals are approved.

The rest of the subcommittee agreed.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they would need to meet again unless they thought the proposed goals should go straight to the Committee in February with review time in advance.

Mr. Andrade thought she could send it to them when it was complete and they could give feedback. If there was nothing major then they would not need to deal with it in a subcommittee meeting. He asked if she was almost done.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she was and was finishing the language on the goals; the key actions and benchmarks which are on that page too are where she gets stuck because that is the evidence piece. She questioned which benchmarks or evidence they look for to see those goals are moving along and that is where she needs help from the Committee to figure out.

Mr. Andrade thought it would work itself out over time. If she has everything done by the end of the week and it is not clear, they will have a little bit of time to work it out.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said if they see "to be determined" on some of the key benchmarks; they will know that is where she needs specific feedback from the Committee around what evidence they are mutually looking for to see whether the goal had been achieved by next October.

Mr. Andrade said that sounded good.

Mr. Hart asked if the next meeting would be within the next few weeks.

Mr. Andrade said they need a vision but they could probably meet before the next meeting like they did this time. He did not think it would take much time.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To adjourn.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services