

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 23, 2015

5:30 PM

Morton Middle School
1135 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Subcommittee Reports
5. Recognition Awards
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Approval of Minutes
8. Committee of the Whole
9. Request for Executive Session
M.G.L.C 30A Section 21 (a) (1) (2) and (3)
 - *To discuss the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by CJ Ferry dated October 15, 2015 against the Fall River School Committee and its Legal Counsel Bruce A. Assad; and*
 - *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation with security officers, paraprofessionals, custodians, FREA and FRAA; To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel including Ms. Rhetta Sabeau, Redesign Coach; Ms. Rebecca Caron, Administrative Assistant; and Superintendent Meg Mayo-Brown.*
10. New Business: Topics for discussion that could not reasonably be anticipated by the Chairman forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting
11. Addendum

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee Monday, November 23, 2015

At 5:39 PM Mayor Sutter read the Open Meeting Law.

Mayor Sutter then asked for a roll call for attendance which showed Mr. Andrade, Mr. Costa, Mr. Hart, Mr. Martins, Mr. Maynard, Mrs. Panchley and Mayor Sutter were present. Attorney Assad and Superintendent Mayo-Brown were also present.

A salute to the Flag followed.

Mayor Sutter announced that Durfee High School student, Nelly Eaton, lost her lengthy battle with a rare form of cancer. Her courageous fight was an inspiration to Fall River and beyond.

He requested a moment of silence.

Mayor Sutter then welcomed two student representatives to the School Committee, Meredith Forcier from Durfee High School and Keenan Saffold from Resiliency Preparatory School.

Recognition Awards

Mayor Sutter said it gave him a great deal of happiness to be able to be a part of the student recognition for those who have achieved perfect MCAS scores.

The Committee joined Mayor Sutter and Superintendent Mayo-Brown on the floor to present 60 students with their MCAS Recognition Awards. Principals read the names for students who achieved perfect scores at their schools.

The presentation concluded at 6:17 PM and Mayor Sutter called a short recess so that families could exit.

At 6:23 PM Mayor Sutter resumed the meeting.

Citizens' Input

Mr. Nicholas Christ

President, Bay Coast Bank and Chairman of the Education Committee of the Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Christ read a portion of a letter submitted to the School Committee and signed by Mr. Christ, as Chair of the Education Committee, Craig Jesiolowski, Chairman of the Board and President of St. Anne's Hospital, and Robert Mellion, President and CEO of the Chamber. He highlighted that due to the respect and appreciation for the turnaround work and forward progress performed by the Superintendent, her administrative team and the teachers of Fall River, the Board of Directors of the Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry voted affirmatively at a meeting held on November 18, 2015 to support, thank, and commend them for their outstanding efforts that have resulted in better schools, improved test scores, and graduation rates. Furthermore, the Board of Directors respectfully asked that the Superintendent, Meg Mayo-Brown be offered a contract extension.

Ms. Rebecca Cusick, President FREA

Ms. Cusick congratulated the recently elected School Committee members and thanked those that would be leaving for their service to the students of Fall River. She also welcomed the new student representatives.

Ms. Cusick then commented on the recent election where there were many public criticisms made in regards to the City's schools and promises of change which is not unusual in elections and she thought that critical feedback could lead to thoughtful debate and positive change. However, when critiques become angry generalizations based on incomplete or inaccurate information, the professionals that are entrenched in the work become collateral damage. She thought it was unfortunate that in the process of trying to discredit certain individuals, everyone got thrown under the bus. She represents over 800 teachers and nurses and many feel discouraged and frustrated by the negativity playing out on social media and in the papers online comment section. There is no shortage of name calling, blaming, and misinformation but there is a notable shortage of solutions and suggestions. Being caught in a political crossfire will not help their teacher retention problem. She thought they needed to talk more about the endless State mandates and requirements they are subjected to; explaining how disparaging it can be to see their efforts reduced to a single test score. Maybe they need to talk about how they do more with less when funding is not enough to meet the needs of the students in front of them. Despite the ever-increasing demands on educators they have chosen to recognize that they all need to work together for the benefit of their students. It is no secret that they have a history of strained relations in the district but they have worked hard to change that. For those who underestimate that accomplishment, she would say "it is easy to retreat into a corner and just say no. It is difficult to sit down with individuals and listen to the people that you disagree with." They have increased the opportunities for teacher voice and meet regularly to problem solve. They have formed respectful partnerships with the School Committee and with the administration and because of that, they have been better able to help their members and better focus on students. She will be the first to say that they still have work to do and there are still difficult conversations to have and relationships to build but there is no denying that they have turned a corner. They become uneasy when they hear statements that say "we need to go in another direction because our progress is too slow". She questioned if that meant that someone thinks they need to ramp up the pressure to raise scores? Does it mean a return to the days of State oversight and micromanagement? Does it mean the time that they now dedicate to social-emotional learning will be taken away to focus on test scores? She questioned again what it did mean. She hoped that the School Committee wished to continue building their partnership and that the Association will be consulted on future decisions. It is up to them as leaders to set the tone for the rest of the district because at the end of the day, regardless of who is standing there as president and regardless of who sits in their chairs, the work has to continue. They have 10,000 students counting on that.

Ms. Heather Smith, Teacher and member of the Superintendent's Cabinet

Ms. Smith explained that she was not there to cause any ruckus but to speak about why they are all here which is for their students, the City of Fall River, their future, and the teamwork that has been taking place here. They are a team and problems will arise with some that will have a difficult ending. There are new members of a team coming together with them and they need to find a way to make things work so that they continue to progress. She has concerns for the future because they are moving forward and have made great gains. It might not look on paper like they are making the gains that some want but if they look at the percentage that they have gained – 50% more than all other urban area districts. They are moving in a direction that no one can touch and it is not because of one person or one child but because they believe in their students and each other and that they can do it together. They all need to be a part of that and not having negative or hurtful conversations. They

need to problem solve instead of being problem makers. She asked that when they have this new team meeting that they come together and work together in a way that moves them forward rather than sending them backwards.

**Ms. Tracy Curley, Principal, Henry Lord Community School
(joined by all school Principals at the podium)**

Principal Curley explained that it was her 7th year in the district and 19th in public education but her experience in Fall River began long ago when she attended public school in Fall River from grades 1-12. She gave a brief history of her somewhat disadvantaged upbringing noting that she did go on to college, earned two Master's Degrees, and is very close to earning her Doctorate. She knows that most people see her as an anomaly and she is an exception to what 25 years ago seemed to be the rule here. She presently stands before them as the proud Principal of the district's newest school along with all the FRPS Principals who, as a group of leaders, do not typically respond to comments made publicly by other groups or individuals but because so much information has been discussed, they were compelled as a group to share the incredible work that is being done within the FRPS for their more than 10,000 students. It is work that has been the joint effort of the school and district administrators, teachers, and families. Over the last six years the vision of the FRPS has been focused on building internal capacity through the development of all stakeholders. The district has targeted the social-emotional development of its students and has provided staff across the district with professional development and ongoing support to carry out work at the school level. With systems in place, the district has now broadened its reach to include parents district-wide with opportunities for their growth and development as well.

Principal Curley then highlighted some of the district-wide practices and initiatives that are behind their continuous improvement. She shared some of the accomplishments of each of their schools. She noted that the data does not tell the whole story and there is much more to share and celebrate but they hoped to give them a glimpse into some of the positive work so many people are doing and what the outcomes are looking like.

She concluded by saying that she started the evening by telling them a little about herself and highlighting the fact that she does not think it should be surprising that a poor kid from Fall River went to college and went on to have a rewarding career. As Principals, they came tonight to illustrate the hard work being done across the district by educators at all levels and at all schools. They are confident, however, that with their continued support they will continue to grow and progress in a way that makes it possible for every one of their more than 10,000 students to develop their skills and feel empowered to be anything they want to be.

Ms. Karen Kelley, Teacher

Ms. Kelley stated that she, too, is a product of Fall River Schools and she is in her 30th year as a Fall River school teacher. She noted that 10,000 students are enrolled in the Fall River Public Schools. They, along with their families and the greater South Coast community in which most students will remain and work in are depending on each of them to make informed and accurate decisions. Ten thousand is not just a number; 56.6% of these learners are economically disadvantaged. She asked if they were aware of the effects poverty has on learning, in particular with language development and readiness for learning or that students with gaps in learning are always following a moving target and how that impacts learning. She asked if they were aware that their student population for students with disabilities and high needs exceeds State levels. Do they know the effects of class size and how it affects a teacher's ability to differentiate instruction and to meet student needs? Ten thousand is not just a number; it's about children and their needs. She asked if they realized how these factors significantly affect the rate of growth and performance.

It may seem like a tremendous responsibility but they are not alone. As a matter of fact, they are supported by visionary, hard-working, data driven administrators and educators. It has been messy and confusing; learning and growth are often that way. State mandates have added to it. Yes, they do feel pressure but through distributed leadership, collaboration within the district and with other districts in Massachusetts, constructive and meaningful change has resulted. Against overwhelming odds, Fall River students are progressing. Three more schools have achieved level 1 status; their MCAS data and ELA, Math and Science show successive growth; sometimes at an increase exceeding the State's growth. In addition to the collective and relentless energy they give to their students, administrators and educators alike provide countless opportunities for parent involvement and wrap-around services. Administrators and educators work on school-based instructional leadership teams, collaborate and problem solve through the teacher academy and the retention committee. All of these initiatives have increased teacher respect and improved the cultural climate in their schools.

Ms. Kelley thanked them for listening adding that after reading statements regarding Fall River Schools; she along with many of her colleagues was greatly disheartened. Surely there is a major disconnect in communication. She is proud to work for a Superintendent who is recognized as Female Superintendent of the Year and grateful to be part of the educational growth that is happened in the schools. Their district has been recognized as an exemplar for other urban cities in Massachusetts. Change should be predicated on facts and data, not on subjective opinions. Every City employee deserves this consideration and respect from its elected officials. There is more work to be done and they are lucky to have such a great team of dedicated professionals.

Ms. Laura Correa, Teacher-Frank M. Silvia School

Ms. Correa said that she believes that the Superintendent's leadership has empowered their school to develop systems and strategies that have closed the achievement gap, increase student achievement, and improve overall instruction. Their school mantra is "Team work makes the dream work" and they are able to make that dream work through hard work, trusting one another, and believing that their ideas are valued. The Superintendent has fostered an environment where teachers like her believe their ideas matter. The creation of the Teachers Cabinet, for example, allows teachers to have a voice and be an active partner in finding solutions to issues faced in their schools. Teachers are trusted to make instructional decisions; schools are allowed to decide professional development that is meaningful to teachers and finally, best practices are shared through collaboration that is supported throughout their schools. She is also a parent and proud to say that she feels with all her heart her children are receiving the best education. She has not seen staff more dedicated than the teachers that she has worked with here. She started as a parent volunteer involved in the schools and saw the work being done and finally went through school and joined in. She is proud to be a part of such an incredible team.

Subcommittee Reports

There were no subcommittee reports this evening.

Superintendent's Report

Madame Superintendent said she had one item which was to report that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Board met last week. They were represented by Mr. Ken Pacheco from the City, Mr. Tom Coogan from the School Department, as well as School Committeeman Joseph Martins and the board approved Fall River's next part of the Durfee project by approving the feasibility component. That will be underway and will meet the benchmarks set by MSBA. They have a letter as part of their materials.

Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the minutes.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Travel Requests

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To approve all travel.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Donations

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all donations.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Contracts

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa: To accept all contracts.

Discussion

Mr. Martins asked how New Perspectives Online System was to be monitored.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked Dr. Fran Roy to explain.

Dr. Roy explained that it is a resource for professional development (PD). As they heard from the Principals, one of the strategic initiatives that they are implementing is differentiated PD so it will be monitored at the school level and the schools will use it as a resource to deliver professional development around mathematics instruction and the implementation is at the school level.

Mr. Martins asked if it would be part of a PD class or on their own.

Dr. Roy said it could be both.

Mr. Martins then asked about the contract for Brian Robert, the Interim Department Head at Henry Lord. He sees the job description but does not see student control or discipline and questioned if Department Heads did such a thing.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked through the Chair for Principal Curley to come up and describe the role and responsibilities of the Department Head within her school.

Ms. Curley explained that Mr. Roberts’ primary responsibilities are around supervision and evaluation of teachers as well as supporting teachers in their PD through common planning time as well as after school PD.

Mr. Martins asked if this individual would be working with teachers on disciplinary issues.

Ms. Curley said he is and he does. He is supporting their development around their understanding of the curriculum and how that curriculum is being delivered as well as supporting teachers in terms of their management of the classroom.

Mr. Martins asked if it could be put as part of the duties.

Ms. Curley said it could but wanted to be clear that one of his responsibilities is not direct contact with students around discipline but supporting teachers around their management of students.

Mr. Martins said that is what he was getting at; if a student acts up in a classroom, does he do anything to that student/discipline.

Ms. Curley said he would not do anything directly with the student outside of talking with the student if it is anything at that level/can be addressed within a classroom; but if there is anything beyond that in terms of consequences for students, as a Department Chair, he wouldn't address it. He would work with their SAC, Dean of Student Support or a Vice-Principal.

Mr. Martins asked if that was typical of all Department Heads.

Ms. Curley said it has been in her experience.

Mr. Martins asked about a student throwing a chair in the classroom.

Ms. Curley said that any adult would react to that but he is not going to be the person necessarily who contacts a student's parent or holds the parent meeting, follow-up, etc.

Mr. Martins thought it was a nice position for the salary and thanked Ms. Curley.

Mr. Andrade said he was listed as interim and wondered if someone had been in the position and left.

Ms. Curley said this was a position that had been created and they were unable to fill. The individual who has done similar work in the district and he agreed to come in in the interim.

Mr. Martins asked, regarding the Rethink contract, if students have computers.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked through the Chair for Ms. Ivone Medeiros to address the question.

Ms. Medeiros explained that Rethink is for their autism program. The Committee agreed to that last year and their teachers and paraprofessionals were a part of that. It is extensive-some students have iPads, some do it through their IEPs, there are also computers in the classroom so students have access to that. It is for teachers and for students.

Mr. Martins asked if they take the iPads or computers home.

Ms. Medeiros said that some do through their IEP. It is a curriculum for teachers, paraprofessionals, and has a component for students as well.

Mr. Martins questioned if they would have access to iPads.

Ms. Medeiros said that some do.

Mr. Martins said that it states *individual learning for students*. If the student needs help and does not have a computer at home, are they going to provide the student with one?

Ms. Medeiros explained that Rethink is a curriculum for teachers to access. They do individual lesson plans based on IEPs. Based on that, students are assigned online activities that they can access based on what the teacher has designated based on their IEP/through their lesson plans.

Mr. Martins asked again if the students can take a computer home if they do not have one.

Ms. Medeiros said that the work is done in the classroom. Most teachers have it as a center and the students cycle through it. It is individualized for the student based on their IEP.

Mr. Martins said he appreciates the effort and would like to get out of her if the student is going to have a computer to take home to do an assignment at home.

Ms. Medeiros said it is not assignment based, it is an activity that supports the lesson planning that the teacher has identified for the student. It is not homework.

Mr. Martins asked if the students will be able to learn through this means.

Ms. Medeiros said absolutely.

Mr. Martins said he liked the principle but did not particularly care for her explanation.

Mrs. Panchley asked up through the Chair if Mr. Coogan could come up.

Mrs. Panchley asked if the revolving account for athletics could participate in any of the expense for Facilities Management Corp.

Mr. Coogan said in the past it has typically been funded through the operating budget each year for that particular sport.

Mrs. Panchley said she was curious for savings in the future if it is something that would be possible.

Mr. Coogan explained that the athletic account is typically used to pay officials and other fees associated with the operation of the sports programs. While they look at a balance at a particular point in time, it is important to consider what the overall affect would be and the cash flow within that account during that time period. He would look at it with Mr. Almeida and see if it could be supported.

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

Grants

MOTION: Mr. Martins– Mr. Andrade: To approve all grants except SPED 94-142 Carryover.

Discussion

Mr. Hart asked what Mr. Martins’ concerns were.

Mr. Martins said his concerns are that contractual services has \$100,000 set aside for consultants which is one of his pet peeves. There is \$23,500 for teacher stipends. He asked what the consultants will be doing for that amount of money. There is a lot of money for consultants and very little for staffing. He asked what they could expect as a result of that expenditure.

Ms. Medeiros said that the consultant line item is their legal services as well as some of their related services such as physical therapy and vision. A lot of the consultant line is direct services to students.

Mr. Martins said it would be beneficial to him if there was an explanation put in. He understood those expenses but it could be put inside the usage block so that they are aware.

Ms. Medeiros said in the future she can put something together for the Committee explaining the line items. The State does not offer any capability for them to enter that for the 240 Grants.

Mr. Martins said another issue is that it has already been sent to DESE and then comes to the School Committee for approval after the fact. Now that he knows what the expense is for, he can support it. Some of the grants have considerable amounts of money for consultants and it is his opinion that they would have a lot more learning going on in the classroom if they have two teachers of record in the classroom.

Mr. Hart said it sounded like Mr. Martins was satisfied with the explanation and wondered if the motion would be amended.

Mr. Martins agreed.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Hart: To approve all grants.
No Discussion
All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

Discussion Items

1. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** Dedication of the Letourneau Elementary School art room, *as presented by Principal Brian Raposo.*

Mr. Raposo said that the Committee had received a letter from him requesting dedication of the art room in memory of Mrs. Deb Eckersley who was an art teacher with the Fall River Public Schools for a very long time. She left a lasting impact on their school community with both students and adults and her work spanned far beyond the art room. She coordinated a lot of their efforts around social-emotional learning at the school level, created a Principal’s Award and was involved in the day-to-day operations around the spirit of the building. Several of the staff at the school approached him about dedicating a space in her memory.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Martins: To approve the dedication of the Letourneau Elementary School art room.
No Discussion
All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

2. **Update:** Parent Academy, as presented by Barbara Allard, Director of Early Childhood.

Ms. Allard said that the Fall River Parent Academy's City-Wide Advisory Committee would like to thank the School Committee for their continued support of this initiative with a special thanks to Superintendent Meg Mayo-Brown for envisioning and endorsing this model for the parents and children of Fall River to support student achievement and build strong families and a strong community. Guided by the School and Main Institute, they have a strong and effective collaboration among over 50 Fall River community partners made up of businesses, agencies, schools, and community members reached its initial goals. They have assembled a Winter/Spring January through June 2016 catalog with over 65 free learning opportunities for Fall River families and caring adults. They have a website up and running to share up-to-date information with families and support the registration process for the courses. They facilitated a launch event last Saturday at the Kuss Middle School. In a short time, they were able to collect feedback from over 750 parents through a survey process and identify what types of courses parents need and/or would like to attend. They then identified existing free courses within the community and created new courses that aligned with the information collected from parents. Community partners throughout the City have been extremely generous with their space for meetings/courses and their time and resources for planning and developing courses for this Parent Academy. The Academy now provides a one-stop shopping place for parents and caring adults to find unique, interactive, informative and fun courses designed for them to become active partners in their child's education and to also explore their own areas of personal and professional growth. Saturday's event was attended by many families and more than 25 community staff volunteered their time from various businesses, agencies, and schools to participate in and facilitate the event. They asked families as they were leaving what they thought about the Parent Academy and the variety of free courses that were now available to them and all of the responses were positive. She read some of the comments. Parents have registered for over 20 of the course offerings and the catalogs have only gone out to families who attended the launch.

She continued that their next steps include promoting the catalog within the community, encouraging parents to register for courses and supporting the registration process, educating their agency and school staff about the academy, evaluating this pilot period and planning for their next Fall River Parent Academy catalog of courses.

She thanked them again for their continued support.

Mr. Andrade congratulated Ms. Allard and the many people who helped her. He thinks it's a very important project and agrees with some of the comments. The impact on the many families is tremendously great and he encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Mrs. Panchley expressed her gratitude to Ms. Allard and all the community members taking part in this. It was something to see on Saturday, how many community members had given up their afternoon for this launch and how dedicated they are. She is so impressed by the catalog and the course offerings. She has signed up for three classes already and not just to be supportive of the effort but because there were courses that really spoke to her. She thinks there is something for everyone. She noted it is free.

Mr. Saffold said he used to be an instructor at U.S. Tae Kwon Do and he thinks it makes a really big difference in their community. He knows a lot of people because of it. He loved working with kids and it gave them something to do and takes them off the streets. It made the kids happy to get their belt

when before they did not have too many goals and it did the same for him. It taught them martial arts but also gave them something to look forward to. He wished everyone would take the course.

Mayor Sutter asked if it was true that the discipline they learn in Tae Kwan Do and Karate they can apply to other areas of their life.

Mr. Saffold said that is 100% true.

3. **Discussion:** Converting from terms to trimesters for grades 1 through 5, *as presented by Dr. Fran Roy, Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum.*

Dr. Roy said as they know the elementary schools have a standards-based report card. It was brought to their attention through Superintendent's Cabinet that that using a standards-based report card on a quarterly basis isn't as effective as it could be if they switched to trimesters. The Teachers Cabinet asked them to reconsider and from there they polled elementary teachers - grades one through five - to see if they would prefer the standards-based report card being reported out by trimesters versus quarters. The Committee has the data which shows overwhelmingly that elementary teachers say they would much prefer the trimesters over the quarters because they felt that they needed the time to assess their kids in an in-depth way. The Committee also received a copy of the standards-based and if they take a look at it there is a lot of detail, assessing, and learning that teachers need to look at and do in order to give that kind of feedback to the parent. Teachers are asking for trimesters and they support that recommendation.

Mr. Andrade said he did have a question about why trimesters were better but she did explain that. Looking at the detail in this he thought there was no question that it was preferable and really breaks down the individual skills that the students have to do. He likes this report card.

Vice-Chair Costa said it was listed on their agenda for discussion and wondered if she was suggesting that the Committee take action on it or if it needed work before it could be rolled out. He also asked if they were looking to implement this at the beginning of next year or this year.

Dr. Roy said they would like the Committee to take action on it with the intent of implementing it this year. The first report card went out as a quarterly the next report card would be equivalent to what trimester two would be and then they would be on schedule.

Mr. Costa asked when that would occur.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that it would be February. They have been talking with Mr. Mikolazyk about that because he does the electronic coordination around that. There would be no term two report cards. This is just for grades one through five; there would be a second trimester in February probably right before February break and then the third trimester would be the end of June.

Mr. Costa said he certainly did not have any problem with converting to the trimesters and it is overwhelmingly supported by the teachers, which is important. His only hesitation with voting on it tonight and not at the next meeting would be to communicate this with parents as something the district is looking to do, why, and what it will look like. He thought they should convey that to the parents a little better and then come back to the Committee in December for approval but he would defer to what the majority of the Committee wanted to do.

Mr. Martins asked what the advantage of trimesters is to the teachers.

Dr. Roy responded that they have more time to assess where a child is and understand the child's strengths and understand where the child needs more work.

Mr. Martins asked what the advantage is to the student.

Dr. Roy responded that it is the same. If this would be the only assessment she thinks it would be problematic. Teachers are assessing regularly but in order to assess all the standards and the number of indicators under each standard does take a lot of time. They wanted to be fair and not miscommunicate to a student or parent that they are on track for something and really they did not have enough information to tell them that.

Mr. Martins asked the advantage for the parent.

Dr. Roy explained that for the parent this is not the only piece of assessment that they would get. Parents should be receiving assessment material throughout the year as they go along but it is the accuracy and the amount of information that a teacher can convey with confidence. They have adopted a growth mindset in the district and want the students to understand what they are doing well in and where they need to go next to improve. The report card takes a very comprehensive look at a child.

Mr. Martins thought if there is a struggling student, he now has to go a longer period of time before his parents know about it.

Dr. Roy said that she had just indicated that that is not the case. Principals have the Response to Intervention (RTI) process in place so kids are picked up very quickly in their RTI process which includes a form specifically for parent communication.

Mr. Martins supported Mr. Costa's comments as to whether the parents would like this. He asked if there was a motion on the floor for this item.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said no; they had listed it for discussion only purposes this evening.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Costa: To table the conversion of going from terms to trimesters for grades 1 through 5 until such time that they can have some parent feedback.

Discussion

Mayor Sutter asked if Ms. Karen Kelley could come forward and address this issue.

Ms. Kelley said that she appreciated the questions because it gives them all a chance to reflect and respond. She thought that it is mostly important for the students. They are finding that with the rigor of their curriculum, often times students are not having enough time to be able to meet it. When they are doing quarterly reporting, sometimes that extension of learning could make a difference between a one and two or a two and three. It is not just that they are looking at how it works for the teacher because they do have to do so many types of assessments but that longer period of time is crucial to all of their learners. Teachers communicate all the time via telephone calls or letters, monthly newsletters, personal letters, the RTI process, etc. They differentiate instruction so they are very aware of where students are on the learning curve but she thinks this extension is so crucial especially in the

first marking period. Unfortunately, in an urban school district their students start out at a disadvantage. If they are not doing anything over the summer, the first three or four weeks are spent reviewing skills and putting back what the previous year offered to them and in a short period of time they are trying to evaluate them on another grade level curriculum that they are not quite ready for. Not only does it extend time for teachers to be able to do a more thorough assessment but it allows the students to have more time for learning the core subjects that they are assessing them on and she thinks that is a big piece. They see that they need to use it differently and revise it for teachers and in particular for students for time on learning so that they can accurately be assessed.

Mr. Martins asked how they get more time on learning when they have a start date in September and an end date in June.

Ms. Kelley explained that they are giving them more time before that final assessment piece goes on their report card because they are extending the reporting. He is correct in that the school day and minutes may not change but the amount of time that they have to get to be assessed has been increased by several weeks. That is where they are giving students more opportunity to be successful with the standards that they are trying to meet and more aligned with the type of in-depth teaching that they are doing and more aligned with the tremendous amount of assessment that they are doing. She thinks the reason Fall River students are progressing is because they do have RTI in progress. They do not have the answers for everything but the level of teaching today is vastly different from ten years ago so they are very didactic and constantly monitoring progress. She feels this is a natural movement for standards-based report cards and a change well-worth considering if not now, she hoped they would consider it both on behalf of the learners and teachers to be able to do their job more proficiently.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Yes	Mayor Sutter: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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4. **Vote to Approve:** Appointment of Ms. Katelyn Pedro, School Nurse, *as presented by Karen Long, Nursing Supervisor.*

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approved the appointment of Katelyn Pedro, School Nurse.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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5. **Discussion:** Use of Narcan in the Fall River Public Schools, *as presented by Ms. Melissa Panchley, School Committeewoman.*

Mrs. Panchley said she was hoping that Mayor Sutter could help her a little bit on this topic because he knows more on the subject but it is something she has seen in the news over the last couple of months and over 77 districts in Massachusetts are equipped with Narcan and she thought it was something the School Committee should be taking up. She spoke with the nursing supervisor, Karen Long, who had been trained on the use of Narcan and the nurses were trained at the last professional development day. She asked for Ms. Long to speak on that through the Chair.

Ms. Long said that she and the Mayor have attended two forums that Representative Fiola conducted in Fall River. Over the past ten years the opioid overdoses have increased significantly in Massachusetts resulting in death. In 2014 there were 1,089 overdoses in Massachusetts and in the first six months of this year, they have had 684 deaths in Massachusetts. Governor Baker has called this an epidemic and has made this a priority calling it an opioid crisis. As of November 11th, there have been 501 overdoses in Fall River with 31 deaths resulting.

Ms. Long gave background of what an opioid is explaining that it is a drug that relieves pain but also decreases anxiety and creates a sense of numbness in the body. They are not just talking about heroin or morphine overdoses but people who misuse prescription drugs as well. These are things they get after surgery or even dental work. They are highly addictive and can also slow down the heart rate and decrease the natural drive to breathe.

Ms. Long then explained that Narcan is an emergency medication that can be compared to things such as Epi-pens. It is used to treat opioid overdoses by working as an antagonist to the opioid. It has very minor side effects but nothing that is life threatening; even if you thought someone was having an overdose and they were not, it would not hurt them. Schools are becoming the latest line of defense against opioid overdoses. Presently our schools and local police department, including our SROs do not have access to nasal Narcan. EMS does.

Narcan would be stored in the nurse's office. On November 3, 2015, the Department of Public Health provided all the nurses with training on their professional day around the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, the care of an individual before and after EMS arrives including the administration of Narcan. She has also begun the process of speaking with the school physician and writing a protocol and policy surrounding the administration. All school nurses are now certified to administer.

Mrs. Panchley was not aware that Ms. Long had been doing this work and had been communicating with MASC in getting information from them. They have sent her Braintree's policy which she will forward to her to look at.

Ms. Long said that there are a couple of different scenarios and that some of the physicians are writing that when they administer the Narcan, if there are no results in 3-5 minutes, they repeat it and some are not. That would most likely be up to the school physician.

Mrs. Panchley said she thought it was important that they start the conversation and Mrs. Long is well on her way of getting them information and bringing it back to them.

Mayor Sutter asked if there has been an incident in the Fall River Public Schools in the last few years.

Ms. Long said that she has seen a couple instances where it could have been an overdose but it was not a student. It could be staff, parents coming into the buildings and it could be the students.

Mayor Sutter thought it was beyond debate that there is an epidemic. He thought they had 12 fatal overdoses in Fall River in 2012 and 36 in 2014 and that they were on pace for more this year. When he was District Attorney and the epidemic started to hit them, they did a survey of the increase and possession of heroin cases just between 2012 and 2013 and they saw a 25% increase in possession of class A cases and an exponential increase in hospital admissions as well as requests for admissions to treatment centers. There is no debate that they are in the throes of an epidemic and he is relieved there hasn't been an incident involving a student but it seems other school districts are contemplating that it could happen.

Ms. Long agreed.

Mayor Sutter asked if there would be any reason why they would not do this.

There was no response from other members.

Ms. Long said that she and Mrs. Panchley wanted to let them know what is coming and what they are working on. She thought the State had told them that they really do not need permission from the School Department or School Committee, but support from them.

Mayor Sutter asked if it would be just at Durfee.

Ms. Long said it would be at each site including elementary schools because it is not just students. A high percentage of people who had overdoses in Massachusetts were people who had school age children so they are coming into the schools. The State is working on securing a vendor that would service Massachusetts so that they could get it at a cheaper rate.

Mr. Andrade asked if she would want an approval today.

Ms. Long said she was not looking for approval today because she is still working on a protocol. Once that is finalized, she can bring it back.

Mr. Martins asked the shelf-life of Narcan.

Ms. Long said that it is similar to Epi-pens which are every 12-16 months.

Mr. Martins asked the chemical used in the drug to prolong the shelf life.

Ms. Long was unsure.

Mr. Martins asked because he is convinced that much autism is through the inoculations being given in rapid succession and due to the ingredient used to preserve.

Ms. Long was not sure of the ingredient.

Mr. Martins said he would be interested if she could find the chemical make up for him that extends the shelf life of the drug.

Mr. Costa thanked Mrs. Panchley and Ms. Long for bringing this important discussion forward. He felt it was inevitable at some point that there would be a situation occurring on school grounds where they may experience something like this. He asked if there was any data or statistics as to how many instances have occurred in the entire state in terms of an overdose on school grounds.

Ms. Long did not know but thought she could find out.

Mr. Costa was curious if the conversation was started because of an overdose on school grounds where officials began to address it. He asked about the cost to be fully stocked.

Ms. Long said if they need to stock two it would probably be about \$2,000 total for all the schools. The vendor she contacted was \$55 total for the nasal administration (\$110 per school).

Mr. Costa said after he has seen it work in his work field, he is convinced that if it had not been administered, it would have been a fatal overdose.

Ms. Long said she is leaning toward having two at every school because she has known many cases where they have used 4-5 before they came around.

Mr. Costa said she spoke tactfully about someone on site that appeared to have been overdosing and he questioned if they would have used the Narcan if it had been onsite.

Ms. Long said absolutely.

6. **Discussion:** Creation of a Recycling Policy, *as presented by Ms. Melissa Panchley, School Committeewoman.*

Mrs. Panchley said this came from watching one of the City Council debates where they were asked about recycling in schools. It made her ask some questions about what was being done in the cafeteria, etc. She asked Mrs. Caron to look up some Recycling Policies and they were forwarded to her and are in the School Committee binders. She preferred the Holyoke model of the two that they have. She thought it was something that needed to be referred to Facilities and Operations Subcommittee to look into more. They are recycling paper and cardboard now but she thought they could be doing better and reducing the trash costs for the public schools. Her hope is that they could be saving some money while at the same time being environmentally friendly.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Costa: To refer the creation of a Recycling Policy to the Facilities and Operations Subcommittee.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said it was a good program; however, it depends on how it is implemented. He questioned if there would be appropriate recepticals. He also worried about custodians being held

responsible if something was not properly recycled in their area. He thought, while it is a good program, it cannot be such that the person who is in charge of an area gets blamed for things beyond their control. He supports it but with the understanding that there has to be understanding on the part of the supervisors. They need to be very cautious as to how it is implemented.

Mayor Sutter asked if Mr. Tom Coogan could address the present policy.

Mr. Coogan said currently they separate the single stream of trash and refuse from the cafeterias to the paper and cardboard dumpster and it is an effective program. He recently spoke with Mr. Pacheco about the City's efforts around recycling and he was happy to hear that under the current system they have gone from 30 or so tons of material going to the landfill down to about 18-19 and thought that recycling is starting to take hold. He told Mr. Pacheco about the School Department's efforts and he agreed to supply them with materials needed. He did want to caution that when they move forward they need to have a plan that is practical in its nature as well as easy to implement. They also discussed what happens once the trash leaves Fall River. He knows the Green Team at the high school is really interested in tackling this project and getting involved so he suggested that, perhaps with the assistance of Mr. Kochman, they do a PSA that indicates what happens once the trash goes into the recycling process. There are some things they are doing currently but there are ways to expand the effort. They can pilot the program at a couple of schools and come back with what those pilot efforts look like and come up with something that encompasses everything they are trying to do.

He cautioned that when they went through the creation of the Policy Manual with MASC they kept driving home the principle of separating procedure from policy. As they develop something they really want to keep the procedure piece outside of what the policy is and develop a policy that makes sense. He commends the efforts they have made so far but wants to move cautiously about creating a policy that allows them to maximize what the City is trying to do. They are the trash hauler at this point.

Mayor Sutter clarified that it would be policy first and then procedure.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mayor Sutter said he was under the understanding that there wasn't a way to recycle styrofoam in this part of the State and it had to be transported to another location.

Mr. Coogan said from talking to Mr. Pacheco it sounded like the effort would include the acquisition of a machine that allows them to do something with the styrofoam and then turn it into a log. That log then becomes easier to transfer.

Mayor Sutter asked if he knew the cost of the machine.

Mr. Coogan did not but he has looked at a couple of different things. Currently in a number of the cafeterias they have retreated back to washable trays so there is no waste from the tray. In other places they tried to pilot a cardboard tray made of either cardboard or some compressed potato type of material that makes it more biodegradable and it can be composted as part of the garbage. The cost of doing that is somewhere between \$40,000-\$50,000 a year to the program. While they want to be green, they also would like to have money left over. Balancing the two competing goals is a process.

There was no further discussion.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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7. **Vote to Approve:** Policies (IKB) Homework Policy, (JKAA) Physical Restraint of Students, (ECAF) Security Cameras in Schools, (EBC) Emergency Plans, (IJND-IJNDC) Technology Policies, *as presented by Mr. Thomas Coogan, Chief Operating Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To approve policies IKB, JKAA, ECAF, EBC, and IJND-IJNDC.

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley asked that Principals be aware of the proposed added language to the Homework Policy before the Christmas Vacation and make teachers aware.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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8. **Vote to Approve:** October’s Budget Report, *as presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer.*

Mr. Almeida said that they went over the October budget report at the Finance Subcommittee meeting. At this point, they have spent 34% in the operating budget. He highlighted the three items which will require a transfer that they will have in item number nine.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To accept October’s budget report.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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9. **Vote to Approve:** First quarter revolving accounts, *as presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the first quarter revolving accounts.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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10. **Vote to Approve:** First quarter transfers, *as presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To approve the first quarter transfers.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said that at the Finance Subcommittee meeting, he did not understand the health coverage and thought the other members may have questions about it. He asked if Mr. Almeida could briefly explain to the Committee.

Mr. Almeida said that at the Finance Subcommittee meeting they discussed the health insurance and at this point it appears to be going up. Based on projections at this time, health insurance is projected to be over and have a shortfall of about \$2.3M. At the subcommittee meeting they discussed recommendations to close the shortfall.

Mr. Martins said that the Superintendent’s memo did not fully explain what he listened to at the Finance Subcommittee meeting. He thought it was important to know about now versus waiting.

Mrs. Panchley suggested briefly going over the mentioned recommendations noting that nothing was decided on. She reviewed the four recommendations:

- freeze the textbook account (projected savings of \$200,000)
- salaries within the operating budget not filled (\$700,000)
- using the nutrition account to pay health benefits for active employees (\$300,000)
- increase in amount to reach NSS for FY 16 was \$300,000 more than they had projected

All together that was about \$1.5M in recommendations given by Mr. Almeida to begin closing the gap. Nothing will be acted on and they will be adhering to those suggestions until they can have further discussions on what they can do to close the gap.

There was no further discussion.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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11. **Report:** Progress of the Committee addressing its goals, *as presented by Mr. Gabriel Andrade, Evaluation/AIP Subcommittee Chair.*

Mr. Andrade said at this time he did not have anything to report. The major weakness found with the Committee through the survey was its ability to engage with the community so that is the handle they will seek to work with. He will be talking to a few people over the next couple of weeks and a meeting of the Evaluation Subcommittee will be called if needed. He hoped to have something for December.

Mr. Andrade continued while he had the floor that he had requested a couple of agenda items that he had not heard back on but thought they were fairly important and asked for the opportunity to present them under New Business.

Mayor Sutter consulted with Attorney Assad and agreed to take them under New Business.

Mr. Martins added that over the past years he has unsuccessfully tried to have items placed on the agenda and he thought any School Committee member submitted an item for the agenda. If he thinks that something is of importance, he should have the right to place the issue on the agenda just as anybody else should have the right.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Assad said there would be a requirement for an executive session and cited the following: *“Pursuant to M.G.L.C 30A Section 21 (a) (1) (2) and (3) to discuss the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by CJ Ferry dated October 15, 2015 against the Fall River School Committee and its Legal Counsel Bruce A. Assad; and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation with security officers, paraprofessionals, custodians, FREA and FRAA as the Mayor has determined an open meeting may have a detrimental impact on the school department’s bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel including Ms. Rhetta Sabean, Redesign Coach; Ms. Rebecca Caron, Administrative Assistant; and Superintendent Meg Mayo-Brown. We would reconvene and there may or may not be statements at that time.”*

MOTION: Mr. Costa - : For executive session.

Mr. Martins: Objection.

Discussion

Mr. Hart asked if they wanted to deal with the FYI portion of the agenda before taking up the other items.

Mayor Sutter said they were just going to file those for the record. He continued that they are back to Mr. Martins' objection.

Mr. Martins said that all of the people that are listed with the exception of the Superintendent are evaluated by others. He read excerpts from MGL, Chapter 30A and said that they have not had the opportunity to evaluate the Superintendent and did not see how they could discuss negotiations for a successor contract or an extension of a contract without going into an evaluation discussion at the same time. They have not received anything yet from the Department of Education to indicate whether or not the individual schools and the district have improved or declined so he does not see how they could include the Superintendent's contract at this point in time so **he moved that the Superintendent's contract be held in abeyance until they get the evaluation in open session and they receive the information from DESE about where they stand on each school and the district itself.**

He asked to make that in the form of a motion and objected to the executive session to include the Superintendent at this point in time.

Mayor Sutter asked from Attorney Assad's opinion.

Attorney Assad stated that the Superintendent was evaluated in an open session. Once that is done, with respect to her contract which indicates that negotiations would commence upon the vote of the majority of the School Committee which did transpire, they can have a discussion concerning the Superintendent and concerning any type of evaluation that was once held in public session. Since it was in public session, it is appropriate for the School Committee to go into executive session to discuss it. This is a matter that they anticipated as a potential issue and he did contact the Attorney General's office about a month ago and discussed it at length with him. It is appropriate to discuss the matter with respect to contract negotiations as long as there was an open evaluation in open session prior to going into executive session which in this particular case, there was.

Mr. Martins said he disagreed; what was done a couple of months ago was the approval of the Superintendent's goals but they did not have an evaluation on the Superintendent. He recalled it as the approval of her goals. Mr. Martins cited another excerpt from Chapter 30A.

Mayor Sutter asked Mr. Martins why it was that he thought it had not taken place but Attorney Assad thinks it had. He asked Attorney Assad his thoughts.

Attorney Assad said he believed it had; the Committee evaluated her. There was a composite with respect to how she performed and there was a vote by the Committee.

Mr. Andrade said that there was a very involved evaluation but it did take place last October. The last thing that they did, as Mr. Martins said, was an approval of goals for the evaluation.

Mrs. Panchley said they did the formative assessment. She was the only one who spoke when they did the assessment.

Mayor Sutter asked Attorney Assad what the time frame is in which the evaluation has to be done so that it is considered a resolved matter with respect to negotiating a new contract.

Attorney Assad said there is no time frame that he is aware of or that was discussed with the Attorney General.

Mayor Sutter asked as long as it was done within the last 18 months, if they could go into contract negotiations.

Attorney Assad said they can certainly go into contract negotiations with respect to her last evaluation which was done in open session. If, in fact, there was no evaluation performed in an appropriate time, that would seem to fall upon the Committee as opposed to the Superintendent.

Mayor Sutter thought it seemed that Attorney Assad was suggesting that as long as an evaluation was done within a reasonable time period leading up to the contract negotiation then it is considered to have been done.

Attorney Assad said that was correct.

Mayor Sutter asked if October 2014 would fall within the ambit of a reasonable time period leading up to negotiations one year later.

Attorney Assad said yes.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any disagreement on that among the School Committee.

Mr. Martins said he disagreed.

Mayor Sutter asked Vice-Chair Costa how he thought this should be resolved.

Mr. Costa said he thought she had been evaluated. It has been discussed publicly and if there isn't a time frame in which she needs to be evaluated before they can enter into negotiations, as Attorney Assad has clearly stated, then he does not see any reason why they wouldn't proceed. In order to evaluate her before contract negotiations could commence would mean they would have to break the evaluation cycle that they have agreed on and evaluate her in a shorter amount of time than the Committee has gone on record supporting.

Mayor Sutter asked if they should take a vote on whether or not they think the evaluation was done recently enough to continue with negotiations.

Mr. Hart said there was now a motion and a second on the table to go into executive session and requested a roll call.

Mayor Sutter thought that was the way to resolve it, too.

Mr. Costa asked for a point of order; he did make a motion and heard a second but wondered if it was prior to Mr. Martins' motion.

Mr. Hart said there was a second and a motion and the Mr. Martins said he objected. As far as he knows with Robert's Rules of Order, when there is an objection to that, there needs to be a vote on the objection but he did not believe there was a second on the objection.

Mrs. Panchley's memory was that Attorney Assad announced the Executive Session and then Mr. Martins objected without anyone motioning to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Costa said that is what he was trying to clarify.

Mayor Sutter asked if they have a motion to go into Executive Session.

Mrs. Panchley said yes and Mr. Maynard seconded it.

Mr. Martins interrupted noting there was an objection on the floor

Mayor Sutter asked Attorney Assad how it could be resolved.

Attorney Assad said since there was no debate on the motion to go into executive session as he recalls, he believes that it would be appropriate for a motion on the objection and would be a two-thirds vote to carry.

Mr. Martins said one of the issues is that he, for one, did not submit to anyone an evaluation to have a composite and he did not think anyone else did.

Mayor Sutter did not believe that was the issue at the moment.

Mr. Martins disagreed.

Mayor Sutter said that it is now a protocol issue. The issue is the resolution of Mr. Martins' objection. Attorney Assad said they needed a two-thirds vote to overcome the objection. He asked that they proceed with that.

Mr. Martins said that they are in violation because no one can come up with an evaluation.

Mayor Sutter said with all respect, that was his view but not the view Attorney Assad.

Mayor Sutter said they would now deal with the objection. He asked Attorney Assad to guide them.

Attorney Assad said Mr. Martins made an objection so the Committee would vote yay or nay with on it. If, in fact, two-thirds of the Committee votes in favor of Mr. Martins' objection then the matter would not go forward.

Mayor Sutter clarified that it requires a two-thirds vote for Mr. Martins' objection to stand. He then asked for a roll call.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: No
Mr. Costa: No	Mrs. Panchley: No
Mr. Hart: No	Mayor Sutter: No
Mr. Martins: Yes	

2 were in favor (Mr. Andrade/Mr. Martins)	5 were opposed	Motion DENIED
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MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: For executive session.

Mr. Martins said if they were going to follow the procedures then he also made a motion to table the issue.

Mr. Costa asked for a point of order to check with the secretary to see if she recorded a motion to table.

Mrs. Caron said she had; Mr. Martins moved it until more information was received and he objected to the executive session.

Mr. Costa said that was right and that was while there was another motion on the table. Mr. Martins objected and took precedence and was resolved. He asked what the next motion was for. He noted there had been a first motion to table and asked if there was a second on it.

Mrs. Caron said there was no second.

Mr. Costa said there was now a motion on the table for executive session with a second.

Mrs. Caron said that was correct.

Mr. Maynard requested a roll call.

Mayor Sutter asked for a roll call to go into Executive Session.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: No	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Yes	Mayor Sutter: Yes
Mr. Martins: No	

5 were in favor	2 were opposed (Mr. Andrade/Mr. Martins)	Motion passed (8:25 PM)
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At 10:41 PM the Committee reconvened. A roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any motions.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract as negotiated with Ms. Rhetta Sabean, Redesign Coach.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Hart: Yes	Mayor Sutter: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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MOTION: Mr. Costa –Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract with Ms. Rebecca Caron, Administrative Assistant, as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call taken by Superintendent Mayo-Brown showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Abstained
Mr. Hart: Yes	Mayor Sutter: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes	

6 were in favor	None were opposed	1 abstained (Mrs. Panchley)	Motion passed
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MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To adjourn.

Mr. Costa apologized and withdrew his motion to adjourn for New Business.

Mayor Sutter recognized Mr. Andrade.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Andrade explained that there is a bill in the Massachusetts House, House 340 for a three-year moratorium on high-stakes testing. This would not necessarily get rid of testing; however, it would give them an opportunity to assess the whole assessment process. He explained further and said that he would like to make a motion to have the Committee go on record as supporting that moratorium on high-stakes testing.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mr. Martins: To have the Committee go on record as supporting House Bill 340 on high stakes testing.

Discussion

Mr. Costa said he is somewhat familiar with House Bill 340 but he is not comfortable voting to support it until he has seen it and it is fully understood. He agrees there has been a lot talk about standardized testing but he would really need to see the language before supporting it. He would vote no not because he does not support the motion but because he does not have enough information. He wondered if the maker of the motion wanted to bring it back at a future meeting to gather up additional information about what the bill actually entails.

Mr. Andrade asked if they felt more comfortable putting this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor Sutter thought that would be a better idea and agreed with Vice-Chair Costa.

Mr. Andrade withdrew his motion.

Mr. Andrade said he had two more items for purposes of information with issues at a couple of the schools.

At Durfee high school he has heard that they are short special education teachers which they knew that the recruitment has been difficult this year; however, the load for IEP preparation has increased dramatically for those teachers who are there. He asked that that be looked into to see if something could be arranged to lighten the load somehow for those teachers.

Secondly, it is his understanding that they are short a number of positions at RPs. He knows last year they had cut a guidance position but in addition to that he has heard that they lost to history teacher, a science teacher, and a math teacher. Once again he asked that to be looked into and reported back at the next meeting.

Mr. Martins said that when he looks at the For Your Information section under resignations, he notices some people where the names seem to be rather recently hired and then resigning. He would like to also see the date that they were hired and why they were resigning.

Mayor asked if there was anything further and there was no other business.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: To adjourn.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed (10:42 PM)
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Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant

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 School Committee Services.