

REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 16, 2014

6:45 PM

Henry Lord School
151 Amity Street
Fall River, MA 02721

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Sub-Committee 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. c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3)
 - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, FRAA and non-union personnel, including Michael Saunders, CFO, and Kimberly Sihavong, Human Resources Manager candidate.
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

At 6:42 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, June 16, 2014.

A roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

A salute to the Flag followed.

CITIZENS' INPUT

There were no citizens signed up to speak this evening.

RECOGNITION REWARDS

The School Committee presented awards to Michelle Oehmen of Stone Therapeutic Day School, and Teresa Mahjoory and Jason Springer of Silvia School for coordinating their schools' participation in the Greater Fall River Fitness Challenge. They were recognized at the May 16th Fitness Challenge Finale as having finished in first and second place respectively, both with near perfect scores overall. Ms. Marcia Picard, School Wellness Coordinator, read her nomination submission for these teachers.

Next, Mayor Flanagan presented the award on behalf of the FRSC to Rezwana Uddin for her winning third place in the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts "Dear Future Governor" Video Contest.

Finally, Mr. Martins read the nomination submission for art teacher, Rochelle Pettenati. The Committee then presented her with her award.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she had two items to update the Committee on:

1. They have had some communication regarding establishing a new Code of Conduct for FRPS. They have been working with Educators for Social Responsibility who recommended they take a look at two Codes of Conduct from two major cities. Both have been reviewed and they think that New York City's Code of Conduct is well aligned to the practices that are being implemented in FRPS around Responsive Classroom, Guided Discipline, etc. They have requested permission from NYC to use their Code of Conduct and they have been granted that permission. FRPS will begin to work with groups of teachers and administrators to make that Code of Conduct specific to the FRPS and Massachusetts General Laws. She anticipates getting it out to the Committee within another month or so in anticipation of putting it into practice for the 2014-2015 School Year.
2. Superintendent Mayo-Brown then announced that on June 18th at 6PM at Henry Lord School, they will be hosting an open house for prospective students and parents. The school will be opening up with PreK-6 beginning in September 2014. She invited School Committee members to join them as well.

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To approve the minutes as listed.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

TRAVEL

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To accept all travel requests.

Discussion

Mr. Martins questioned the travel request from Mr. Marshall for a Digital Electronics training.

Principal Marshall and CTE Director Michelle Sylvaria came to the podium.

Mr. Martins said he appreciates digital electronics but wanted to know what the curriculum was going to be and what would be taught at the session for \$5,380. He thought it was extremely expensive for this program. He added that he would like the staff member that would be attending to bring back the syllabus and what was discussed there. He noted that he would be upset if the topics that were discussed could be very easily acquired at Bristol Community College. He said he understood some of the cost was travel and lodging but still felt the price was high and hoped that it is a quality program.

Mr. Maynard noted that there were twenty-two travel items and asked if any of the money was coming from the School Department.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the costs to the School Department are through a number of grants which can be seen listed under the funding sources. Other costs were being covered from fundraising, PTO, etc. She thought there was just one out of the operating budget but the vast majority are funded through grants.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

DONATIONS

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To accept all donations as listed.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

ADDENDUM

Mayor Flanagan noted that an addendum which listed contracts had been passed out by the Superintendent.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Costa: To accept the addendum.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

CONTRACTS

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To accept all contracts.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins said these were contracts contingent upon the approval of the FY15 budget. He asked how it weighed on the contracts.

Mayor Flanagan said that was a good question and asked Superintendent Mayo-Brown or Attorney Assad to respond.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the contracts were dependent upon final approval of the budget through the City Council. They would not execute the contracts until a budget was approved and in place.

Mr. Martins said if that was the answer, he recommended that the motion be withdrawn and tabled until they knew what they are dealing with.

Mayor Flanagan said his point was noted but there was a motion on the floor and he would call for a roll call vote after discussion ends. He added that the motion on the floor was to accept all contracts as listed and there was a second.

Mrs. Panchley asked if the contracts would fit into the \$97M budget that was submitted to the City Council by the Mayor.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they would.

Mr. Hart asked about the Swansea Public Schools and Wareham line items.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that those contracts were all for tuition of students with special needs for the SY 2014-2015.

Mr. Hart asked if it was out-of-district students.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown replied yes.

Mr. Andrade said if they did get the \$97M budget, there would be no reason to return but if they did not, only then would they have to come back to react to that.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she believed that was correct.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes
Mr. Hart: Yes
Mr. Martins: No

Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mayor Flanagan: Yes

6 in favor

1 opposed (Mr. Martins)

Motion passed

GRANTS

Mayor Flanagan noted that one grant was listed

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To accept the grant.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked if the ELL grant was a summer program.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was and that Kelly Cooney, ELL Director, was present if there were specific questions.

Mr. Martins asked if they had to have consultants for a summer program at \$500 a day.

Mayor Flanagan asked Ms. Cooney to come to the podium.

Ms. Cooney said the consultants were going to train the staff on curriculum and on multicultural education and efficacy.

Mr. Martins asked if she was telling him that it was a six week summer program and the faculty that are teaching the program cannot provide the additional services that the children require and they have to have four specialists in addition to the teachers at \$200 a day and five consultants at \$500 a day.

Ms. Cooney said yes, and explained that, for example, they have hired someone to come in for PD with teachers on how to build robots. Another is coming in to do engineering and teach students 3D printing. The focus of the grant is for students to learn English and to have enrichment activities in the STEM area. They have hired expert consultants to come in and the State commended them on the curriculum they developed last year.

Mr. Martins asked if it would be part of the normal, yearly curriculum for ELL.

Ms. Cooney said no, they were asked to do something that is different than what they do during the school year. Their focus is to grow their English literacy but to also offer them activities and enrichment programs that may not be part of the regular school year. They use the curriculum for the after school programs during the school year. The consultants come in and train the teachers. During the school year teachers are able to carry through and deliver the services as part of the after school program. They actually train the 21st Century teachers as well with the same money so that the students have access to the curriculum once school starts.

Mr. Martins asked what can be realistically expected from having consultants/specialists/speakers at \$200 a day as far as the improvement of students that take the program.

Ms. Cooney explained some of the specialists' roles that would be coming and that they try to bring in people from the area that can teach the students about the content and also show them that there are jobs in those areas locally.

Mr. Martins said he agrees with that part of it and asked if they do pre or post testing.

Ms. Cooney said they do both and last year they tracked the data so all students in the program outperformed the students who didn't take part both in attendance and their benchmarks in the fall.

Mr. Martins said he is receptive to something that is innovative but it is trust with verification of which case he trusts her but he would like to have something in return after the program is completed for verification.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. School Choice for out-of-district students for SY 2014-2015.

Mayor Flanagan explained that there was a Public Hearing earlier that evening on School Choice for out-of-district students for 2014-15. Massachusetts General Law requires the School Committee to vote each year to determine if the district will accept non-resident students. In previous years, the Committee has voted to accept non-resident students in grades 6-12 subject to space availability.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To accept non-resident students in grades 6-12 subject to space availability.

Discussion:

Mr. Costa said it was also his understanding that the Committee may want to go on record to extend that to K-5.

Mayor Flanagan said that would be done separately.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan said the Committee is also being requested to approve non-resident students in grades K-5 for the Fall River Public School employees consistent with the CBA.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To accept non-resident students in grades K-5 for the Fall River Public School employees consistent with the CBA.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

2. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) testing for 2014-15

Mayor Flanagan explained that currently throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts there is a discussion of whether or not school districts should enter into a two-year test drive for PARCC testing or to continue with MCAS testing. He asked Dr. Roy to give her presentation.

Dr. Roy explained that PARCC is coming from the Common Core State Standards and the reason for those standards is to make sure when students leave they are ready for both college and careers. She said there is a lot of information about PARCC that can be found online. They are considering it the next generation assessment so now that they have new curriculum standards, PARCC is being designed to measure those standards. They will have to make a choice by June 30th to DESE on whether or not they want to go with PARCC next year or continue with MCAS.

She continued by saying the biggest question is “what is the difference between the two assessments?” She showed examples of typical multiple choice MCAS questions and PARCC questions and said the rigor of PARCC, in her estimation, is greater. She showed examples of open response differences and math as well.

She continued with the presentation by discussing information on what students say about taking PARCC online; possible proposal on how the state will equate MCAS to the new assessment; pros and cons of administering PARCC for SY14-15; and the timeline.

She noted that by June 30th, the Superintendent needs to send a decision to the state for their first choice; however, her understanding is that a final decision can be made by October 31.

Mayor Flanagan thanked Dr. Roy for her presentation and explained that the Superintendent and her administration were recommending that the School Committee remain with MCAS for the 2014-15 School Year to provide educators time to further prepare students for PARCC testing. He asked if there was a motion from the Committee to remain with MCAS.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Martins: To remain with MCAS.

Discussion

Mr. Costa asked Dr. Roy who provided the pros and cons that she presented.

Dr. Roy said they compiled the information as a district from information provided to them from DESE.

Mr. Costa noted that one of the cons was that the district feels that MCAS is a more consistent measure of progress of schools.

Dr. Roy said at this point in time she cannot make a decision because they have asked what the transition will look like and have not been given the information other than the slide she showed them earlier. She can predict improvement if they take MCAS again. She can tell them whether or not their schools truly improved in a year from now if they took the same test two years in a row. They were told it was going to get a little “dicey” especially with grade 10 which is why they are holding off a bit.

Mr. Costa asked who made the statement that MCAS is a better assessment.

Dr. Roy said they are not saying better but easier to judge improvement if they stay with the same test two years in a row.

Mr. Costa asked again who made the statement.

Dr. Roy said the administration is making that statement.

Mr. Costa asked if it was her position that MCAS is going to be a more consistent measure of progress for the schools than PARCC will be once implemented.

Dr. Roy said they just need another year.

Mr. Costa asked if after the one year mark it would be a better assessment than MCAS.

Dr. Roy said her personal opinion would be yes and that the items in PARCC better prepare kids for college and career readiness. However, she feels they haven't provided enough support in terms of the curriculum and benchmarks to get students ready for that level.

Mr. Costa said for the purposes of discussion that evening, the reason for the request to continue with MCAS is because as it stands right now, you feel as though MCAS is a more consistent way to measure progress. He asked because he is trying to capture what that statement is because if their feeling is that even when PARCC rolls out, MCAS is still a more consistent measure of progress...

Dr. Roy interjected that she would not say that and explained that if the students did take PARCC and didn't perform well, she wouldn't know if that is truly because they didn't learn the material well or if they didn't give them the opportunity to learn the material well because they needed another year of training in terms of the district benchmarking and having teachers interpret those results.

Mr. Costa thought it would be safe to say that even when PARCC is rolled out, they will be in the same predicament with that first year of testing.

Dr. Roy did not agree and explained that they have already started the work and will continue over the summer to take their district benchmarks and infuse PARCC-like assessments to it. That will give teachers some good information and tools to use throughout the year so come September, the benchmarks will look more like PARCC and after the students take it, the teachers will have something to work from that is more like PARCC. She feels they need a year for the transition.

Mr. Costa said that was fine and he was just trying to get a sense and added that PARCC is controversial and people have different opinions of it.

Dr. Roy said that her professional judgment is that PARCC is a very good assessment but they will need a year to transition. The Superintendent asked the Commissioner why they are not giving school districts one more year to pilot so that they can learn more and he did not have a good answer for them.

Mr. Costa asked rhetorically if that was typical of the state and added that he was okay with waiting for the various reasons she stated because he truly thinks that this type of change is going to be an

adjustment for students and the more time they have to train staff and get students acclimated the better.

Mr. Costa then asked the Superintendent if there was a forum being held Wednesday at 6:30PM at Morton to discuss PARCC.

Mayor Flanagan said it is not sponsored by FRPS or the Mayor's office and that it was sponsored by State Representative Carole Fiola who has invited a number of guests to discuss PARCC.

Mr. Costa asked if anyone from the school department would be present.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said there would be and explained that Representative Fiola asked herself, Rebecca Cusick, FREA President, and Morton Principal Sheryl Rabbitt who is considered a PARCC fellow and participates in national conventions around PARCC, to be members of the panel.

Mr. Costa said he did not realize the school department and the Mayor's office were not sponsoring it but asked why it was taking place.

Mayor Flanagan said he believed a number of constituents of Representative Fiola contacted her asking her to set up a meeting.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that Representative Fiola asked if FRPS could notify families through the automated phone call system to alert them of the forum which they have agreed to.

Mr. Costa said he was going to ask that because he felt if there was going to be representation from the school department, it gives parents an excellent opportunity to ask the questions regarding PARCC.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she had also asked if it could be advertised on FRED-TV and be taped so that it can run for families who cannot attend.

Mayor Flanagan authorized the taping of the forum.

Mr. Andrade said that he understood that the first year of PARCC testing in New York State was a disaster where the failure rate was off the charts and he would hate to see that happen here. He thought it would not benefit the students and he would like to put it off as long as possible. He does not understand why they are trying to push it so quickly.

Mr. Martins said he had attended two sessions on PARCC that had DESE officials as presenters and the term college and career ready was used frequently until the point he asked if they could tell him how the test is going to make a student career ready. The presentation was being made at a vocational school and there was no answer to his question. He noted that he does not consider resume or cover letter writing as career ready. He felt MCAS was a better indicator of what is going on in school and he does not understand why the PARCC test is even coming about especially when the PARCC test for Massachusetts was developed by three individuals (Governor, Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Education). There was no legislative action on the PARCC test unlike the MCAS.

Mr. Martins asked Dr. Roy if she knew what the cost would be for full implementation.

Dr. Roy said they have the option of doing a paper and pencil test like they do for MCAS. They also have the option of computer based. She does not have the exact numbers but the district is building capacity to support more technology in the classroom for a variety of reasons, not just because of testing – more because of blended learning.

Mr. Martins said the cost is going to be high for those schools that have all of the technology, he hopes that what they have is aligned or configured to what is required for the PARCC. Lastly, he thinks the questions are vague as to what the students are expected to do especially in math in regards to calculating out a particular answer for a problem. He is glad the Superintendent is recommending that this be put off for a while. Hopefully these questions will be answered and implemented. He does not mind challenging exams but thinks they have to be fair in scope.

Mr. Hart said he is not sure if he is in favor of this test as well and thinks it is good to take a year to look into it. He asked Dr. Roy if she is going to head a committee to assess PARCC and how it will be implemented if it is mandated.

Dr. Roy said they have multiple committees working on curriculum over the summer. They are mostly teachers and some coaches and department heads. They will come together and look at the standards against which they are being measured and make suggestions and revisions around the curriculum. Her hope is that the teacher led groups will be doing the bulk of that work.

Mr. Hart asked when she thought there might be an end date to go back to the School Committee to explain it a little more in depth.

Dr. Roy said they can give the School Committee regular updates. Curriculum work never ends and every year they revise the curriculum and assessments.

Mr. Hart asked if parents would be included in the updates.

Dr. Roy said that was a great idea and they will try to find a way to make it so that it makes sense to families and would be great for school based teams. She agrees with Mrs. Panchley that parents should understand the assessments that they are giving to all the students.

Mr. Hart said parents are interested in this and the more involved they are the better the program can be better understood.

Mrs. Panchley said that as they do benchmark assessments she thinks it should be shared with parents. Many parents will work with their children at home if they know the areas they are struggling with. Regarding PARCC, she said that the “hold harmless” was appealing to her but everything Dr. Roy said convinced her they should probably wait another year and give teachers a chance to work on it a little more. She asked if the FREA president or teachers were asked to see if they concurred with the administration’s recommendation.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that she and Ms. Cusick have had many conversations about the amount of testing in the district to include PARCC and she shares in the recommendation that there is a lot coming at the teachers and that they need to slow down and give teachers an opportunity to be comfortable with the assessment. She feels they will all be better off slowing down the process a bit.

Mrs. Panchley said it sounded like a good plan and is glad everyone is in agreement. She likes rigor and knowing that they are going to be expecting more of students. She doesn't think that those questions make children ready for college and career but she thinks by preparing them to answer those types of questions like that make them ready for college and career.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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3. 2014-2015 budget adjustments

Mayor Flanagan explained that based on a recommendation from the finance subcommittee, they are being asked to approve the 2014-15 budget adjustments.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To accept the 2014-2015 budget adjustments.

Discussion

Mr. Andrade asked which adjustments they were referring to.

Mayor Flanagan said he believed there was \$2M of expenditures for the FY15 budget.

Mr. Andrade asked if it was the additional services.

Mayor Flanagan said that was correct.

Mr. Andrade said he did have an issue with this. He had attended the subcommittee on finance and as he took a closer look at what was presented, he questioned how much of an impact the addition of 21 more teachers and 20 paraprofessionals would help out with class sizes in the elementary grades. He does not have a problem with ESL teachers or the paraprofessionals; however, he questioned how the 6 PreK teachers were going to impact the crowded elementary classrooms.

Mayor Flanagan suggested that if the motion failed Mr. Andrade should bring it back to the finance subcommittee and ask them to make adjustments on the allocation of funding. He asked Mrs. Panchley what the vote was coming out of the subcommittee.

Mrs. Panchley said it was 2-0 in favor. Mr. Hart was not present. She added that the 21 teachers are for Henry Lord and they are in the \$97M budget. That will impact classroom size. Other than that, they do not have available classrooms to put a teacher into until Westall School is opened.

Mr. Andrade said he was confused because he believed he heard the Superintendent say that she was moving three PreK classes from Silvia School to Henry Lord which would open up three classrooms. He added that they do not know how many students from the south end schools agreed to move to Henry Lord and if that would open up any space. That was part of the thinking of a few of the Committee members when they did re-open Henry Lord as a PreK-6.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that the opening of Henry Lord will lower class size at Greene, Viveiros, and Letourneau. They are moving one PreK classroom from Silvia and even though they are moving the classroom, Silvia will still have a FTE there to either add another classroom, interventionist, or whatever the school would like in terms of addressing class sizes. The additional teachers that the finance subcommittee discussed would be to assist with the student to teacher ratio in a number of

schools. Most importantly, it would allow for a full-time Kindergarten paraprofessional in each one of the schools. They have about 40 kindergarten classrooms and they each have on paper a half-time paraprofessional to service the needs of the students. However, those paraprofessionals are often pulled for other duties.

Mr. Andrade said he certainly did not have a problem with the paraprofessionals. He just feels that if they have a few more classroom teachers assuming there is space or in a co-teaching model that they can head off some problems as opposed to playing catch up later with an interventionist. He added that one of the schools that was not impacted by Henry Lord and he is very concerned about is Fonseca.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed and noted that Fonseca does not have one room available/space is tight. She would consider the interventionist with a number ten after it as a placeholder and schools could use those positions for a classroom teacher instead. They want to support schools in whatever way the school wants to make a decision to lower the student to teacher ratio. They can talk about it more at the subcommittee level but she would encourage the Committee to look at the interventionist number as ten teachers and how they are used can be determined by the schools and/or School Committee but the intent is to reduce class size.

Mrs. Panchley said for the record that reducing classroom size is her number one priority and agreed that this was the best way to address that with the space that they currently have and hopefully they will be in a different situation next year and will have more space. They can look at different staffing if and when that happens.

Mr. Martins asked what an interventionist does.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that an interventionist is a licensed teacher who works with a group of teachers. It is unique to each individual school. Some schools may focus their interventionist on certain grades. At times they pull students out to work in small groups and even provide individual instruction. She noted that the Silvia School Principal was sharing her data with her around the improvements that the grade 2 students have made by working with interventionist teachers and it has been remarkable. She added that it was ten teaching positions and she wants to encourage schools to be thoughtful and strategic in how they use those positions.

Mr. Martins asked how many interventionists they currently had.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she did not have that number with her.

Mr. Martins asked how many units the Silvia School had for second grade.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was 4 or 5 units.

Mr. Martins asked if one interventionist was responsible for that improvement.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she wouldn't say that any one particular teacher was responsible for the improvement. The two interventionist work closely with the grade 2 team at Silvia to support the needs of the students.

Mr. Martins said he dislikes having a term to store ten positions if they are going to be used as a classroom teacher. He would rather see that they be ten additional teachers for the purpose of having a lower class size. Additionally, he had issue with the three custodians and asked what work load increased that warranted the additional request.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they were opening Henry Lord as a new school and needed the custodians for that school.

Mr. Martins said when Henry Lord was opened before those custodians were incorporated into other areas of the school system.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that Mr. Coogan has absorbed some attrition in his facilities department as well and is looking to restore his levels so he can have a fully functioning custodial staff.

Mr. Martins asked if she was saying that those three custodians would bring them back to the level of custodians they had prior to Henry Lord being closed.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said yes.

A roll call showed:

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

4 were in favor

3 were opposed (Andrade/Martins/Mayor)

Motion passed

4. Job descriptions for District Coordinator of STEM and District Coordinator for Physical Education and Health (PreK-12).

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the job descriptions for District Coordinator of STEM and District Coordinator for Physical Education and Health PreK-12.

Discussion

Mr. Hart asked if Talbot was a STEM school.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that Talbot is a STEAM school; they put the A in for the arts. Mr. Hart asked if the STEM person would start the next school year.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said yes.

Mr. Hart asked what they would start by doing.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked with the Chair's permission for Dr. Roy to explain. She explained that jobs currently available and for the future are largely in the STEM field and they want to be sure that they are preparing students for that field.

Dr. Roy explained that they have already invested, with the support of the Committee, PLTW and engineering in the high school but they are learning that they need to prepare students PreK-8 so that

they can thrive in the STEM related field in high school. One of the primary responsibilities would be curriculum alignment PreK-12 so that when they begin to make choices, the district has provided as much opportunity for students to be ready for that rigorous science/STEM work that they will need at the high school. They will also serve as a school review partner having district responsibility overseeing and facilitating curriculum and professional development around STEM for teachers as well as work as a school review partner to provide feedback and support to particular schools.

Mr. Hart asked if this person would start at one school as a pilot or if it would be the whole district.

Dr. Roy explained that they already have some pilots going on in grades 6-12 and they have had conversations at a couple of schools at the elementary level about piloting PLTW. She noted that there are innovations every day in the STEM related field so there is a lot of work to do and they need somebody to coordinate and facilitate that work.

Mr. Hart asked about the District Coordinator for Physical Education and Health and asked if this person would be working with the Athletic Director.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is similar to what Dr. Roy described for the STEM field. The physical education and health department has limited leadership in their field which is such an important part of the social-emotional and overall wellness work the district is doing. When talking about an educator evaluation system, they want to be sure they have content expertise providing some input into that supervision and evaluation system. The teachers in that department do not have that currently. They have principals that evaluate them but there is no one, other than Marcia Picard by default. She has been organizing those teachers around professional development and curriculum but there is such a call from the teachers to have someone in that position that they can go to and receive support from. The district level would benefit from that expertise as they continue to refine and revise the curriculum in health/PE. It is the one area that they don't have someone coordinating the work around what teachers are identifying as needing support in.

Mr. Hart asked if this person would be strictly within the physical education and health department at all levels.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said yes, PreK-12.

Mr. Maynard asked what the salaries were for the two positions.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that both positions would be in the FRAA contract under Directors of Curriculum and would be negotiated in that salary range.

Mr. Andrade asked about Ms. Picard currently doing that work and if it is beyond the scope of her position and asked what her position is.

Ms. Picard said she is employed by Partners for a Healthy Community and not FRPS.

Mr. Martins asked if the Superintendent knew what the ballpark figure of the salaries might be.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that FRAA is on a four-step salary schedule and she thought it would be in the mid-70's average. The salary schedule depends on the years of experience, degrees, and credits.

Mr. Martins asked how many students were in the STEM program.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked if he meant PLTW or all programming.

Mr. Martins said that PLTW has been going on for quite some time and does not have a director for it. Now, they are asking for a District Coordinator for STEM and the numbers of students in his opinion does not justify having a district coordinator for that particular program. He felt that they have department heads that should be able to meet and discuss how to move forward. He thought the same regarding the health/PE position especially during a time where they were having financial issues and had not approved an FY15 budget yet.

A roll call showed:

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

4 were in favor	3 were opposed (Andrade/Martins/Mayor)	Motion passed
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5. Wellness Policy

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the Wellness Policy.

No Discussion

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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Mrs. Panchley thanked Marcia Picard for working with her to come up with language and for Ms. Picard's passion and not compromising her principles while allowing Mrs. Panchley to keep parents happy and engaged without turning them off as well.

6. Community Eligibility Program

Mayor Flanagan said that Madame Superintendent asked that they table this item.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To table item number six.

No Discussion

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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7. Whitson's Contracts

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the Whitson's contracts.

No Discussion

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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Mr. Martins asked for an explanation of the claims on the second page of Mr. Coogan's document.

Mayor Flanagan said item number six was the discussion on the free/reduced lunch and was tabled to be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Martins asked if Whitson's was the provider of school lunch.

Mayor Flanagan said that Whitson's does provide the nutritional component to the FRPS and they just voted to approve their contract.

Mr. Martins thought that one interacted with the other and thought he needed more information than what he was seeing regarding the money and how it relates to the Whitson's contract.

There was further discussion between the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Mr. Martins as to what item they were discussing.

Mayor Flanagan explained that Mr. Coogan would answer any questions Mr. Martins might have and then he would revisit number 6 and 7 and do roll calls on the votes.

Mr. Costa said he wanted to make it known as a point of order that number 6 had been tabled and there was no discussion on the motion to table.

Again, there was more discussion between the Chair, Vice-Chair and Mr. Martins as to the process and what item Mr. Martins wished to discuss.

Mayor Flanagan concluded that Mr. Martins was having difficulty voting on number 7 without knowing more about number 6.

Mr. Costa said that may be the case but he did not think one had to do with the other.

Mr. Martins said that was Mr. Costa's opinion but he feels that it does.

Mayor Flanagan said he would like to go back to number 6.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To table item number six.

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan noted that item number 6 has been tabled; therefore, under parliamentary rules of procedure, they cannot have discussion on it.

8. Busing Contracts

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To approve the busing contracts.

Discussion:

Mr. Costa asked what the total cost of the recommended contracts for busing was.

Mr. Coogan said the number for the regular education transportation services was based on historical data and the bid rate was \$6,183,600. The special education contracts broken up into the components with the lowest bidder winning the bid and then applied to the historical data was \$6,943,729.80.

Mr. Costa said that was a total of just over \$8.1M. He asked what was requested in their FY15 budget.

Mr. Coogan said they originally put in a placeholder of \$8.2M.

Mr. Costa asked how much was in the proposed budget from the Mayor and the City Administration.

Mr. Coogan said he believed \$8M was the number mentioned by the City Administrator and they factored in \$8.2M within the \$97M.

Mr. Costa said that “we” are factoring \$8.2M and “they” are factoring in \$8M. He said he would not support awarding contracts over \$8.1M when what was allocated for transportation was under that.

Mr. Coogan said for budgeting purposes, they use a historical number with a high and a low particularly with the out-of-district and McKinney-Vento vans. Those two numbers do have some flexibility with respect to the regular runs to school bus routes; they know it is a solid number because they know how many students run back and forth. Within the \$8.2M figure, there is forecasted high or low leeway and they can reduce the number of vans to get down to the number that is budgeted. In applying the contract, they have to forecast out the number and award a contract based on that.

Mr. Costa said if they have to eliminate vans in order to meet the budgeted amount of \$8M that would reduce services to students in the district.

Mr. Coogan said potentially but they have looked at a high and a low number and picked a number in the center. They don't foresee having a year like this past one with big increases. By putting a placeholder in, they can anticipate a best estimate based on historical data.

Mr. Costa asked what Mr. Coogan anticipated the total expense for FY15 exposure for transportation would be.

Mr. Coogan said if they end up using the same number of vans for the entire year, it would be right around \$8.2M. He added that is if they started with the same number they ended with and hold that number for the entire year with no increases or decreases.

Mr. Costa asked if they have seen a year where they have had decreases.

Mr. Coogan said they have.

Mr. Costa asked if he was comfortable with the Committee taking a vote to award more money in contracts than they have budgeted.

Mr. Coogan said or reducing the contract to the number that the district has done. They follow the number on a monthly basis and can report back if there doesn't appear to be any trend high or low.

Mr. Costa asked if there was a need to reduce the contract, what services would he suggest they reduce.

Mr. Saunders spoke on the subject of the budget and explained that the budget that they have always budgeted in all the documents that they put forward, \$8.2M. The document that they voted on that evening (budget adjustments) included the \$8.2M. Even though they are in negotiations with the Administration, FRPS numbers have always been \$8.2M and that is what the School Committee has approved.

Mr. Costa said if they award contracted services, they would be doing so for \$8.1M.

Mr. Saunders said that would be within the \$8.2M that they have always put forward.

Mr. Costa said he is saying that the conversations that have occurred for budgeting purposes to date is that the budget number that was submitted was \$97M and contained within that, the city proposed that their exposure for transportation is \$8M.

Mr. Saunders said that is correct but FRPS exposure by every document that they produced is \$8.2M.

Mr. Costa said he understands that and is not disagreeing. If that is the recommended line item based on forecasting, he is okay with that but they are being asked to take a vote on awarding contracts based on a number that exceeds what they have been told to date is contained within the \$97M FY15 operating budget that has been submitted to the City Council for its consideration and vote. He is not comfortable endorsing expenditures that are higher than what they know has been appropriated.

Mr. Saunders said in all the discussions they had at City Hall, one of the things that has come up is the use of the \$8M and the McKinney-Vento money that has not been included as a revenue source.

Mr. Costa said they discussed that and will continue that dialogue but for the purposes of that evening, they have no commitment from the City Administration or its finance team that the number that is being used for transportation is going to exceed \$8M.

Mr. Saunders said if they award this contract at \$8.2M; even after that process, they cannot sign contracts that exceed whatever was appropriated.

Mr. Costa said that was correct so that would fall back on the Committee to find the additional money within the FY15 budget to make good on the contracts so they can provide services to students.

Mr. Saunders said that was correct.

Mr. Costa said that was his point.

Mr. Martins went over the companies and totals supplied in the bus data. He said that the cost is \$8,126,932.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mr. Martins said that Mr. Coogan told him that some of the numbers are in flux so the \$8M also becomes in flux.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct particularly with the number of vans. The number of buses is fairly static but the van numbers can move up and down.

Mr. Martins said they have an \$8.2M budget for transportation but they are estimating costs at \$8.126. He did not understand the purpose of the \$8.2M. He also said there was no bid for one of the items titled "emergency use".

Mr. Coogan explained that that is for emergency evacuation if they had a fire at a school or a weather emergency and had to evacuate a school.

Mr. Martins said there was no bid for that but is a possibility they have to take into consideration and questioned why there was no amount of money associated with it.

Mr. Coogan said they can adjust such as in a weather emergency; they can call the carriers and move the time up. He noted in five years, they have never spent any money in that line item. They did not receive a bid for it but can try to negotiate a bid for an emergency service but none of the vendors wanted to commit to the placeholder of ten vehicles until they knew where they stood on their other bids.

Mr. Martins asked if there really was a need for that particular item.

Mr. Coogan said that is why he budgeted it as zero. Even if he had a bid, he would still budget it at zero after never having expended money.

Mr. Martins said he didn't understand the argument in regards to the \$8.2M vs. \$8.1M.

Mr. Coogan said within the \$8.2M, they anticipate the numbers may drop a bit but they have also expended close to \$170K this year on SRTA passes which lives within the operating budget as well.

Mr. Martins said that is not shown.

Mr. Coogan said it is not shown there because those are only the bid contracts and the SRTA passes are not part of the contracts. They expect an \$8.2M placeholder based on the fact that some of the numbers will go up or down during the year and approximately half of the cost of the bus pass expense has been factored in to the \$8.2M.

Mr. Martins said he now knows about the SRTA bus passes and feels the additional expenses that are not part of the contracts should be shown.

Mr. Coogan said that one of the things they faced this year was the McKinney-Vento vans that fluctuated often. He knows that in that \$8.1M there is going to be some fluctuation and believes that the \$8.1M to \$8.2M range will cover the fluctuations and the bus passes.

Mr. Martins said when he adds the \$8.1M to the \$170K in bus passes; it comes out to \$8.246 and can now accept the \$8.2M budget.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Coogan for a point of clarification if he needed a vote from the Committee to engage the bus vendors.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct; to offer letters of award so that they can start to process contracts.

A roll call showed:

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

6 were in favor

1 was opposed (Mr. Costa)

Motion passed

9. FY15 Expenditure for Henry Lord renovations

Mayor Flanagan explained that the request is to proceed with the bathroom renovations pursuant to contract and to award partial payment in FY14 and FY15.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Martins: To accept the FY15 Expenditure for Henry Lord renovations.

Discussion:

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Almeida to come to the podium. He said that historically he had always been under the impression that if they are beginning work in a fiscal year, they would have to pay for it in that fiscal year. He asked from an auditing standpoint, if Mr. Almeida was okay with them breaking it up into two fiscal years.

Mr. Almeida said he was.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there would be any audit findings.

Mr. Almeida said they would be splitting it up into two different contracts. One would be paid for in FY14 and one would be paid in FY15.

Mayor Flanagan said that was fine and confirmed that it would be two separate contracts.

Mr. Almeida said it was just to get the process going; to order the materials because of how long it would actually take so that it would not interfere with the opening of the school.

Mayor Flanagan said that should clear up any findings as long as it is two separate contracts and two scopes of work.

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

10. Revision to the Henry Lord Middle School to have the name reflect the PreK-12 configuration.

Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Superintendent if they are being asked to drop the “Middle” title or if they are being asked to give the school a new name.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said as a point of clarification to what she wrote, it is PreK-8 and not PreK-12. She asked with the Chair’s permission if they could invite Principal Tracy Curley up to discuss her proposal for the name. She added that they do need to address that it is more than a middle school in its name.

Ms. Curley proposed that the new name be the South End Community School at Henry Lord. She explained that she is trying to recognize the location of the school in the community they are trying to serve; the sense of community they are trying to build within the building; and paying honor to Henry Lord and keep the name that the community appears to want to preserve. When she met with families many asked if the name would be preserved and they said they would. They also wanted to know about school colors and mascot and they were told they are looking to preserve those as well. They are trying to bring it all together to where they are respectful to the origins of the school as well as create a new sense of community within.

Mayor Flanagan said he respected her for putting a lot of time and effort into the recommendation of the school name and asked Madame Superintendent about the Doran school noting that it is of similar make-up in grades and it is called the Doran Elementary School.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is called the Doran Community School.

Mayor Flanagan asked if it made sense to call it the Henry Lord Community School and asked why there was emphasis on the South End.

Ms. Curley explained that they were looking to identify with the population that they are aiming to serve. There were a lot of meetings held and consideration given to the fact that they are trying to offer another choice in the South End of the city and to alleviate some of the classroom sizes in the South End of the city and to create a new image. In talking to people, a lot of them are really excited about the opening of the school and it is just a balance in trying to recreate something on the site while paying respect to the name of the original school.

Mayor Flanagan asked Ms. Curley to repeat the name.

Mr. Costa suggested the Henry Lord South End Community School saying he was just trying to put the emphasis on the individual the school was named after. He explained that when reports on data come out, they always seem to clip the second part of the name and it would be called the South End Community School and Henry Lord would be dropped. He wanted to preserve that by moving his name to the front.

Ms. Curley said she wanted to be honest and had done research over the last couple of months and could not find anything about Henry Lord. The only thing was in the sales archives and it was more

about the History of Fall River. There was not a lot of history around Henry Lord, the man. She suggested that if they are looking to preserve the name and heritage, she wants to be able to speak to people about why. She added that she also had the Durfee High School librarian looking into it and she could not come up with it anything either.

Mr. Andrade said that in the Herald News, right around the time of the controversy around the Innovation High School, there was a small article about Henry Lord that he may have saved.

Ms. Curley said she would appreciate that because they had pulled some of the information and it comes up as if there is some history but the article is not there when the link is selected.

Mr. Andrade said he forgot a lot of the details but would see if he could find it.

Mr. Martins supported Mr. Costa in regards to Henry Lord being first. He noted that if they look at the Silvia School on DESE reports, it is called the North End Elementary School which causes confusion. He suggested Henry Lord Elementary and Middle School. He did not think "South End" added to the school.

Mr. Hart said that Principal Curley came up with the name and felt that they as the School Committee should support Ms. Curley's suggestion and move on.

Mr. Maynard said he was on the Committee when the school was built and Henry Lord was a great name to put on the school. He, too, thought it should be listed first.

Mayor Flanagan said as a student of the old Henry Lord and the current building, he concurs with the other members and thinks Henry Lord should be listed first. He also liked Mr. Martin's suggestion as well as his suggestion of keeping it in line with the Doran Community School. He thought they should do a motion to table so that Ms. Curley could do a little more research and speak with students and parents.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Maynard: To table.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

11. Progress of the Committee addressing goals on the AIP

Mayor Flanagan explained that this item was a report from Mr. Andrade on the AIP.

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

Discussion

Mr. Andrade said they may want to know what they are voting on because he has a couple of items to present. He continued that the first item they would not need a vote for was regarding the self-evaluation. He turned back the surveys to Committee members. He explained the averages/scoring of the survey. There were three items he thought they should look at to create goals and a course of action around. He said if that was agreeable, he would discuss it further with Dr. Tom Kelly and then have a meeting of the evaluation subcommittee to try to formulate a few goals and a plan of action. He added that he also received three goals from three individuals not knowing what the composites would be and went over what those were.

Mayor Flanagan said there was a motion on the floor to accept the report and a second. He asked if there was any discussion on the acceptance of the report.

Mr. Costa said he wanted to commend Mr. Andrade for his work on this cumbersome project. They all know the importance of the evaluation and hopes it will be a tool that will drive them in a direction they are all hoping to continue to be on. He also offered his assistance if needed.

Mrs. Panchley asked for a clarification on the three goals Mr. Andrade mentioned. She thanked Mr. Andrade as well.

Mr. Maynard thanked Mr. Andrade for his time and effort on this evaluation as well.

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Andrade if there were any other motions he would like to make.

Mr. Andrade said he had emailed the members of the Committee a copy of the subcommittee descriptions. They had previously approved the first part of the policy up to the descriptions. He is now looking for approval of the descriptions but first asked if there were any corrections or suggestions to amend any of them.

Mr. Martins had a correction on the Grievance Subcommittee. He said it makes reference to union representatives in two locations but there are some non-union people who are employed and they, too, can file grievances. He has added, following the word unionized, "or non-unionized". He gave those corrections to Mr. Andrade.

Mr. Martins continued that the second one was the Instruction/SPED Subcommittee which he also chairs. He thought the second line that states (including SPED) should be removed because it is in the title and it is all-inclusive and equally of importance and does not need to be singled out.

Mr. Andrade asked if it sounded reasonable.

Mayor Flanagan said that the Superintendent has indicated that she has not been able to review the subcommittee revisions. He urged them to go forward with making recommendations but requested that they take no action until the Superintendent has a chance to review them so there is no element of surprise.

Mr. Costa asked for clarification on the union personnel language. He thought that the non-union personnel would not go to the Grievance Subcommittee and that it only applied to membership that are covered by the collective bargaining agreements. He asked for guidance on that and said he cannot recall in the past ten years there ever being a grievance that ended up before the subcommittee without it being filed through the collective bargaining agreement with the unions. He deferred to Attorney Assad.

Attorney Assad asked Mr. Martins what he was specifically referring to in regards to non-union personnel.

Mr. Martins said they have non-union personnel employed by the school department.

Attorney Assad said they do and that generally speaking, non-union personnel have a process by statute. If there was a disciplinary action taken against an individual, they may have a right to arbitration pursuant to their contract or even a court action. With respect to the Grievance Subcommittee, he believes that is set up for the CBA for the union personnel.

Mr. Martins asked if it might be better to have it presented to the subcommittee instead of taking it to court litigation. The subcommittee could make the recommendation to the full Committee.

Attorney Assad said he would think in order to do that they would have to rewrite the terms and conditions of the contract to give them the rights to a grievance procedure. As of right now, he would look at a grievance procedure being set up strictly for the CBAs and union personnel and take a look at what the issue would be in respect to non-union.

There was no further discussion.

Mayor Flanagan said he believed Mr. Andrade was looking for authorization from the Committee to meet with Dr. Kelly to set up goals and asked if he wanted to make it in the form of a motion.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade– Mr. Maynard: For Mr. Andrade to meet with Mr. Kelly for further information.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

Mr. Andrade asked for direction regarding the Superintendent’s evaluation explaining that it was set for August; however, part of that evaluation involves the MCAS scores. He asked when the scores are released.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said the MCAS data is involved in the goal setting and would be part of the new cycle.

Mr. Andrade stated that they could go ahead with the evaluation in August.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed and mentioned to the Mayor that they would probably want to schedule a special meeting to do the evaluation.

12. Monthly Budget Report

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the monthly budget report.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

13. 2014-2015 School Committee Meeting Dates

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade To approve the 2014-2015 School Committee meeting dates.

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley said she believed the Superintendent mentioned that the locations were going to change.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct because of the live broadcasting they want to have the rotation between Morton and Kuss. She said they will revise the document and get it out to the Committee.

Mr. Martins said that some time ago, the Committee voted to dedicate the library at Kuss to Dr. Fradkin. He asked that the September meeting be at Kuss and at that date and time, the library be dedicated to Dr. Fradkin.

Mayor Flanagan said there was already a motion on the floor and would take Mr. Martins after the vote.

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Andrade: That the September meeting be held at the Kuss Middle School for Dr. Fradkin’s library dedication.

No Discussion

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To place the For Your Information portion of the agenda on file.

No Discussion

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Secretary to send letters of condolence to the bereavements listed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Costa - Mr. Maynard: For executive session.

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed (9:05 PM)
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Mayor Flanagan asked for the reason for Executive Session.

Attorney Assad: “Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, and FRAA as the Chair has determined that a public session could have a detrimental impact on the negotiating posture, as well as to conduct strategy session with respect to nonunion personnel including Michael Saunders, CFO, and Kimberly Sihavong, Human Resources Manager candidate. We would reconvene. There may or may not be statements at that time.”

At 9:53 PM a roll call was requested by Mayor Flanagan to reconvene:

Mr. Andrade: Present	Mr. Maynard: Absent
Mr. Costa: Present	Mrs. Panchley: Present
Mr. Hart: Present	Mayor Flanagan: Yes
Mr. Martins: Present	

Mayor Flanagan asked if based upon discussions of Executive Session, there were any motions to be made.

Mr. Costa said there were.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: That the notices that were sent out to FRAA for budgetary reasons back in April be rescinded.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion approved

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

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion approved (9:55 PM)

Respectfully submitted,



Interim Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services