

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 8, 2015

6:30 PM

**B.M.C. Durfee High School
360 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720**

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 or grievances, as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, FRAA, and non-union personnel including Maria Pontes, Principal-Elect BMC Durfee High School; Nancy Kasprzk-Magoni, Redesign Coach; Kelley Mahoney, Athletic Trainer, Amanda Medeiros, Behavior Therapist; James Meyen, NJROTC Instructor; Elsa Rebello, Data Technician; Helen Sowinski, NJROTC Instructor; and Chou Tang, Data Technician.*
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 6:41 PM Mayor Sutter read the Open Meeting Law.

A Salute to the Flag followed.

Mayor Sutter then asked for a roll call for attendance which showed Mr. Andrade, Mr. Hart, Mr. Maynard, Mrs. Panchley, and Mayor Sutter were present. Mr. Costa and Mr. Martins were absent.

Transcriber's note: Attorney Assad was also absent.

Citizens' Input

There were no citizens signed up to speak this evening.

Subcommittee Reports

There were no subcommittee reports this evening.

Recognition Awards

Madame Superintendent said that there was one recognition award and asked the Committee to join her on the floor.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown announced that they were delighted to have a former Fall River Public School student by the name of Gregory Eugene Watson there to present the recognition award and asked that he come up to explain why he was there.

Mr. Watson explained that he had nominated teacher, Anne Marie Silvia, because she is a wonderful teacher who has changed the lives of many, many children. He wanted to thank her for all of the things she has done for the Fall River School System and felt this was a good way to do it.

Ms. Silvia came forward to accept her award and said a few words.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she had a few items to announce:

1. They had several Fall River teachers who received awards from the Bristol County Educator's Association on Wednesday, May 20th. All those that received awards were nominated by their peers. (Rochelle Pettenati, Kathleen Roberts Human Relations Award; Jim Nasser, Pauline Boardman Award for Positive Impact on Teachers; Ashley Minihan and Matt Medeiros, Rookie of the Year; Kerry Nunes and Jesse Cohen, Teacher of the Year; Mike Costa, Mentor of the Year; Carol Rogers for Distinguished Service)
2. She would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce and their own School Committeewoman, Melissa Panchley, for Friday's College Day which was a great success across the city and across the schools. She thanked them for organizing that on behalf of their students.
3. Finally, they have a number of students who are part of the Freedom Writers' Club who journeyed to Europe in the audience. They were there to present a little bit of their experiences.

Mr. Costa thanked the Committee for having them and explained that they would show a video clip and then hear reflection from some of the students and then they could open up to the Committee if they had any questions for the students.

A video clip that lasted approximately five minutes was shown. Various students then spoke about their Europe trip and answered questions from School Committee members.

Transcriber's note: Mayor Sutter called a one minute recess at 7:12 PM.

At 7:13 PM, Mayor Sutter called the meeting back to order.

Minutes

Mayor Sutter said the next item was the approval of minutes.

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

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Travel Requests

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that given the time of year, they have quite a few travel requests that carry them through the summer.

Mayor Sutter asked if they wanted to do them individually or as a whole.

Mr. Maynard asked if there was any cost to the school department for any of the travel.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that some of them do and they could go through them one by one if he preferred.

Mr. Maynard requested they take them one by one.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To review the travel requests individually.

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the first request was from the high school and the cost is \$13.50 per student with the funding source being directly from the students.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Newport Mansion Tour(s) travel request.

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said the second was for a staff member to attend Project Lead the Way training for green architecture paid for out of the Morton Title I grant.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the University of Maryland staff travel request.

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

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Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that this next trip was for 57 grade one students with a cost of \$10.00 per student. The funding source is the PTO and the student will pick up any costs not covered by the PTO.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the (Tansey) Roger Williams Zoo travel request.

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this is required training for NJROTC instructors and is covered by NJROTC fundraising.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the (Durfee) staff travel request to San Diego, California (NIOT Training).

Discussion

Mr. Maynard asked how many instructors and Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded one.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that this travel is for two staff members to attend math professional development paid for out of the Title I grant.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the (Doran) staff travel request to New London, Connecticut (Conferring with Young Mathematicians at Work, Grades 3-5).

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley said that the information on the summary did not quite match up with the information in the binder and she wanted to clarify. She questioned the travel mileage and that it was figured out for the two staff members; she wondered if they could travel together to save money.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked Principal Pontes if the staff members would be traveling together to reduce the cost of mileage.

Principal Pontes said they would.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this travel was for 90 students involved in the summer school program at Talbot. The cost is covered by the 21st Century Grant.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the travel request to The Breakers, Newport, Rhode Island (Talbot).

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this is for one staff member from Morton Middle School to attend Project Lead the Way course training in computer science and is paid for out of the Morton Title I grant.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Worcester Polytech staff travel request (Morton)

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this travel also was for a Morton Middle School staff member to attend Project Lead the Way course training in medical detectives paid for out of the Morton Title I grant.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the University of Maryland staff travel request (Morton/PLTW).

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this is for a Durfee High School staff member to attend PLTW training for biomedical innovations paid for out of the School Committee’s operating budget travel line.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Stevenson University, Owings Mills, Maryland staff travel request (Durfee/PLTW).

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley asked if this was to be paid out of the 2015 or 2016 budget. It is taking place in July but she wondered if they would be paying for it in advance.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown believed it was out of the 2016 budget and clarified that with Mr. Saunders who agreed.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this was for two staff members from Durfee High School to attend the NJROTC training paid for out of the NJROTC fundraising.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the McGuire Air Force Base, Lakehurst, New Jersey staff travel request (Durfee).

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said this travel is for Tansey’s summer day care students to attend. It is approximately 55 students and the cost is \$10 per student to be paid for some out of the day care account and student fees.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the (Tansey) Colt State Park, Bristol, Rhode Island travel request.

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained the last travel was for Talbot to attend Brown University. It will be 20 students for the summer program and is paid for out of the 21st Century Grant Program.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the (Talbot) Brown University travel request.

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley said that she was excited that they are going to Brown University and would like to see more of these kinds of field trips especially in the elementary and middle schools. They tend to think about college when students are in high school and it goes along with planting the seed at a young age.

Mayor Sutter agreed wholeheartedly.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Donations

Superintendent Mayo-Brown took the opportunity to point out the sizeable donation they received from Bristol County Savings Bank to support the planning and implementation of the new Fall River Parent Academy. She and the Mayor received the check for the \$20,000 donation and she specifically wanted to thank them for their very generous donation.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Maynard: To accept the donations as listed.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Contracts

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To accept the contracts as listed.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Addendum

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Andrade: To accept the addendum.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Maynard: To accept the (addendum) contracts as listed.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Grants

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the grant as listed.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

Discussion Items

1. Vote to approve: Policy revisions

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To approve the policy revisions as written.

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley asked if they had an Emergency Plan Policy. The policy was directing them in what they needed to do and she wondered if they had it in place.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they do and asked Mr. Coogan to speak to that through the Chair.

Mrs. Panchley asked Mr. Coogan if there was a policy in place and if so, when it was last reviewed.

Mr. Coogan said he believed it was reviewed this fall and they were submitted for all buildings and they will review them again this summer then submit it before the end of the summer to hit the September 1 deadline.

Mrs. Panchley said the policy says every three years but it sounded like they are doing it yearly.

Mr. Coogan said every other year.

Mrs. Panchley said the other question she had was regarding the professional staff hiring policy. It states that *the administrator responsible for the hiring of a staff member is directed to establish a representative screening committee. The administrator has the final say in determining who will be hired but it is expected that the screening committee's input would be a factor in this decision.* She wondered if they were using that process.

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Superintendent Mayo-Brown said the language that was added in the red text is a recommendation by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. In many cases, particularly for teacher positions, principals have a variety of factors to create interview or screening committees for those positions.

Mrs. Panchley thought it was saying they were to establish one every time they hire and if they are not and do not need that wording in there she is not sure it should be in there.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed.

Mrs. Panchley said she would be more comfortable pulling that policy from the vote and discuss more what their practices are and making the policy reflect that.

AMMENDED MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To approve the policy revisions as written except policy GCF, Professional Staff Hiring, that will be taken up at a later date.

Discussion

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they would be removing policy GCF from the group to be taken up at a later date.

Mayor Sutter said before voting he had a question regarding the bullying prevention and intervention plan. He asked what the status of that was.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that they have a bullying prevention and intervention plan as well as policies and procedures that are in effect.

Mayor Sutter said he reviewed it quickly but was curious as to what the prevention plan was.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the plan is included in their binders and was put together by a district-wide committee that oversees both the prevention as well as intervention around bullying which can include instructional opportunities around bullying prevention that occurs throughout all of their schools.

Mayor Sutter asked what her assessment would be as to the pervasiveness of cyber bullying and if it was increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same. He wondered if the plan was working and if it was being tweaked.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked to call through the Chair for better perspective, Principal, Maria Pontes, and Ivone Medeiros, Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education who oversees this component.

Ms. Medeiros explained that a lot of the cyber-bullying comes under their Sexual Harassment policy and they have a formal policy and procedure for that. Often, the administrator under that procedure will refer the case to the School Resource Officers and they take it from there.

Mayor Sutter asked if she was involved in the recent invitation to the nationwide expert who went to Kuss to speak.

Ms. Medeiros said that she did not attend but many of their School Adjustment Counselors and other staff attended.

Mayor Sutter said he was dismayed to hear that there were very few parents there. He believed it was fifteen. From his perspective, they have a problem that is great and growing and he wondered if she was part of the team that the Superintendent is designating to deal with this issue and asked what the overall assessment of what is taking place was.

Ms. Medeiros said they cannot provide numbers to him but she does know that each individual school has a bullying coordinator who receives the bullying complaints and they also have a district bullying committee as part of the appeals process. Over the last three years they have seen a significant decrease in referrals up to the district bullying committee as appeals.

Mayor Sutter said that is encouraging. He asked what is taking place overall and when the prevention programs started.

Ms. Medeiros said they start in pre-school and continue through 10th grade and then in 11th and 12th grade a lot of it is done through their health curriculum at the high school.

Mayor Sutter said he would be interested in discussing it further with her and thanked her. He asked if she felt the overall problem was getting better.

Ms. Medeiros thought that people were more apt to identify; what they struggled with and communities all over struggled with is trying to define bullying and conflict and harassment and trying to help families and students define what bullying actually is. A lot of times someone will say “bullying” but it really is not bullying and may be a conflict between two peers. It is not a repetitive behavior. Helping the public and their students understand that is a large part of their education.

Principal Pontes said at their school they had the Sheriff’s department come down and do some education with their families and work with students – separate assemblies – for grade level spans.

Mayor Sutter said they were now back to the motion to approve the policy revisions with the exception of Professional Staff Hiring.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

2. Vote to approve: Resiliency Preparatory School Program of Studies

Principal Vinacco said they had their Program of Studies for the Committee’s review. There were not too many differences to report. The most significant change is under the history department where they are following what Durfee started in terms of blending U.S. and World History together. It is not something RPS is currently doing and would like to. Other than that they did not have many other changes. She noted that the credit awarded to the physical education classes went from .4 to .5 and she believes those were the only changes and asked if the Committee had any questions.

Mrs. Panchley said at their subcommittee meeting they talked about the pathways and wondered if it is something that would be worked on over the course of this year for next year’s Program of Studies.

Principal Vinacco responded that there was nothing indicative of that currently but she thought they would see some changes in the future.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the RPS Program of Studies.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

3. Vote to approve: B.M.C. Durfee High School Program of Studies

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked that Dr. Fran Roy and Associate Principal, Michelle Sylvaria, come to the podium. She also invited any other Durfee staff there that wanted to come up as well.

Dr. Sylvaria said that their Director of Guidance, Kim Napolitano, was also present.

Dr. Roy said they had over a week to look at the Program of Studies and now that they are moving forward with the five-period a day, A/B schedule, they are beginning to apply that now to actually scheduling students as well as teachers. Now that they have had the chance to look at the Program of Studies it might be more efficient if they pose any questions.

Mrs. Panchley said she believed last year with the Pre-AP English the extra weighting versus taking honors English was that it was that extra period a week and that made the weighting more. Now she believed the times would be the same as an honors English and a pre-AP English. She wondered if there was any advantage weighting wise for a student to take pre-AP English versus other than that it might be more rigorous to get them ready for AP English.

Dr. Roy explained that they both get one credit whether they take AP or honors; however, if they get a B in AP it is equivalent in terms of their GPA to an A in the honors so it is weighted heavily in terms of GPA, just not in terms of credits.

Mrs. Panchley said she understood that for an AP class and was wondering specifically about pre-AP English; before when it was an extra period there was an advantage to taking it.

Dr. Roy said it is a scale. They have two pre-AP courses in the whole Program of Studies. They are designing their Program of Studies to not really need that. They are working out a weighted way to scale for those particular courses.

Mrs. Panchley said she hears that feedback sometimes from students and it is not clear in the Program of Studies so she wanted to make sure that there is some kind of weighting advantage for taking the class.

Mr. Andrade gave a few words of caution noting Dr. Roy spoke about the new five period schedule; it went to a vote of the faculty and there was a great deal of faculty input in terms of what the schedule was going to look like. He knows it was not a very enthusiastic backing that they got to get it through and his impression was that there was not enthusiastic support for it. It does not mean he necessarily opposes it but he spent thirty years in the building and went through a number of schedules. The point he was trying to make is that these things run in cycles. They design schedules to deal with certain problems that a new schedule may address but very often a new schedule brings with it a new set of problems. The only thing that he would caution is that they take a good look at it and monitor it closely and get feedback throughout the year to see how it is working.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the B.M.C. Durfee High School Program of Studies.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

4. Vote to Approve: B.M.C. Durfee High School Teacher Leader job description

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said in their packets they have the job description of Teacher Leader at Durfee High School. This was presented to Committee members as part of the overall redesign so that they have a stronger focus on teaching and learning that involves the Deans of Teaching and Learning supported by or with Teacher Leaders and next year Team Leaders become part of that process as well. She drew their attention to the terms of employment on the back page that did include a \$4,000 contractual stipend. In the FREA collective bargaining agreement there is language around an extended day. If teachers are working an additional 30 minutes they received a \$4,000 stipend for that extra time. There would be six teacher leaders who would work on average an additional 30 minutes per day and, therefore, would receive that stipend. Under performance responsibilities they can see that teacher leaders are teaching two periods out of five per day and then the rest of the performance responsibilities detail their direct work with teachers in supporting their planning, instruction, data analysis and professional development.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any discussion and there was not.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Durfee Teacher Leader job description.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

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

4 were in favor 1 was opposed (Mr. Andrade) 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

5. Vote to Approve: Transfer of Dean of Teaching and Learning FTE from Viveiros to Henry Lord

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that this position, Dean of Teaching and Learning, is currently filled and has been supporting teaching and learning at the Viveiros. They are requesting to move that position and the individual filling it over to Henry Lord to support teaching and learning. As Committee members realize Viveiros has undergone a terrific turnaround from a level 3 school to a level 1 school and they have many teaching and learning systems well embedded in the school, they have a coaching model, they have a teacher leader model much like they approved for Durfee that evening and they feel comfortable recommending to the Committee that capacity has been built at Viveiros and they are able to sustain that. Meanwhile, they have Henry Lord that could benefit from the skill and expertise of the current Dean of Teaching and Learning at Viveiros by placing her at Henry Lord to support the work there.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Maynard: To approve the transfer of the Dean of Teaching and Learning FTE from Viveiros to Henry Lord.

Discussion

Mr. Maynard asked if there was any increase in the salary.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said no and explained that it was a straight transfer of the FTE. They will not be backfilling the position at the Viveiros.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

6. Vote to Approve: Whitson's Food Services contract renewal

Mr. Coogan explained that this is the third year of a three year contract and comes up for renewal each year. They are in the final year of their second three year contract with Whitsons. They performed well financially over their time in the district. If renewed, this would be their sixth year. They did all their performance goals as far as returns to the account and he went over some highlights:

- The program serves over 7,000 lunches a day
- The program feeds over 4,000 breakfasts a day
- They are feeding approximately 65% of the students in K-5
- They have provided over 13,000 MCAS breakfasts just over this past year
- They have provided over 43,000 MCAS snacks this past year
- The program has gone from one that was financially struggling 5-6 years ago to one that is a consistent performer and shows significant returns every year. They have been able to shift some operating costs over and apportion them correctly now that the account is in good shape.

Mr. Coogan recommended the renewal and noted they would be out for a fresh three-year contract in one year after this one.

Mr. Maynard asked if there was an increase.

Mr. Coogan said the contract contains the same language it did five years ago; it is indexed to a Northeast Urban Consumer Price Index for food away from home and it went up 2.3% in March. That is the benchmark they have to hit each year. The renewal does include a 2.3% which is just over \$6,000 in next year's fees and is born by the food service account.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To accept the Whitson's Food Services contract renewal.

Discussion on file

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

7. Vote to Approve: School Code for Gateway to College program

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that this was a technical mechanics issue. The Gateway to College (GTC) Program is a program for their students at Bristol Community College (BCC). What she would like the Committee to consider doing is to designate it with its own school code. She explained that meant when data is recorded both in terms of graduation rates and dropout rates it gets assigned to the GTC program rather than to Durfee. If this were to be adopted, when they receive their graduation and dropout rates they will receive them for Durfee as a separate school code, RPS as a separate school code and then GTC as a separate school code. The district as a whole receives a graduation and dropout rate in combination of all of those programs together. It just really enables them to track specifically the graduation and dropout rates and prevents Durfee from receiving the dropout rate from GTC assigned to Durfee as it stands now.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Hart asked how long the program had been active for.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown believed it was in its third year.

Mr. Hart asked what the statistics have shown including GTC in with Durfee and what kind of effect has it had.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it has a negative effect on Durfee's dropout rate so she thinks it is only fair to Durfee to have its own school code. The students that are in GTC are referred both by

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Durfee and RPS with the majority being referred by Durfee. For some students it is a referral to prevent a dropout and the student may or may not dropout. For other students they have dropped out once and are reengaging and if they drop out again, it is a second hit to Durfee's dropout rate. In terms of the program, she is not suggesting any modifications to GTC but simple to designate it as its own school code for reporting purposes to make it more systematized.

Mayor Sutter said he thought the Superintendent delineated two categories. He understands one and thought it did seem fair if a student drops out of Durfee and is resuscitated in GTC and then drops out of that program, it really shouldn't count twice as a dropout. There was another category she delineated and he asked what that was.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is a prevention program and the student has not dropped out yet.

Mayor Sutter asked her to explain that one to him again.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the guidance department at Durfee would make a referral to the GTC program of a student whom they feel is ready to drop out and feel that GTC would be a viable option for a particular student they would make the referral directly to GTC. The students are still theirs and are on their roster and received Chapter 70 funds for them but they are serviced through GTC as an intervention strategy.

Mayor Sutter asked when that student is referred to GTC what her view was on how that should count.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that would be a transfer. They would come off of Durfee's rosters to GTC rosters. They still own those students but GTC would be seen as a school within Fall River Public Schools for reporting purposes.

Mayor Sutter asked if they then dropout of GTC how that would be counted in terms of their overall statistics.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they are charged as a dropout to the GTC program and charged to the district at large but not Durfee.

Mr. Andrade asked if they were housed at BCC and do not go to Durfee at all.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct.

Mr. Andrade asked how many students they have at any given time.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said approximately 40.

Mayor Sutter asked what percentage would fit into the two categories (dropouts/intervention).

Superintendent Mayo-Brown believed the majority would be referrals rather than a re-engagement.

Mr. Andrade asked if RPS was considered a separate school.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct and explained that she is asking that in the same way she is asking that GTC be its own school for reporting purposes.

Mrs. Panchley said she was thinking about it back and forth but in the end what was said that gave more clarification was really that GTC is similar to RPS but for a different type of students so she wondered why they wouldn't treat them the same and more importantly that the District receives the dropout as a whole. If they were not receiving that hit as a dropout then she thought it would be dishonest but since the district will still be receiving the dropout she does not feel that it would be dishonest and that it makes the most sense.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown clarified that they would have a dropout rate for the district and then subcategories that make that dropout rate would be Durfee, RPS and GTC, if approved.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Andrade: To approve the school code for the Gateway to College Program.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

8. Vote to Approve: Fall River Youth Soccer request for extension/new three-year use agreement

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To approve Fall River Youth Soccer's request for extension/new three year use agreement.

Discussion

Mr. Maynard asked how much the district would be getting.

Mr. Coogan explained that the arrangement is the same as the one they have had for the past three years. In exchange for the use of the grass fields the organization has a team of people/volunteers that puts maintenance into the fields every year and in exchange for their work on the fields to get them ready for their league, they are given use of the fields and other groups are kept off of it.

Mr. Maynard asked if the students from Fall River can use the area.

Mr. Coogan said they cannot use it while the league is in session but the students of the school use the fields on a regular basis.

Mr. Maynard said he received a couple of calls from grandparents telling him they went there and were told they could not enter the field.

Mr. Coogan said they do keep the field locked because they have had some vandalism such as dirt bikes, etc. that damage the surface of the fields. In order to protect the fields to make it ready for league play they do lock the gates.

Mr. Maynard said he could not vote for it because he thought the people in Fall River should have the right to play on any field. They are tax payers and deserve it so he had to vote against it.

Mayor Sutter asked Mr. Coogan if he was talking about the fields out at the Silvia School.

Mr. Coogan said correct.

Mayor Sutter asked if Mr. Maynard's issue was that he felt those fields should be open at all times to Fall River.

Mr. Maynard said to the public, yes.

Mayor Sutter asked if anyone else had any questions or wanted to weigh in on it.

Mrs. Panchley said that the league serviced many Fall River children and if they voted it down they would be receiving a lot more calls from grandparents not happy with that.

Mr. Maynard said he thought they should be open at all times and if they have a game they should post it so parents know about it.

Mrs. Panchley said there are a lot of parks in the city and the amount of work and money they put into it to keep the fields takes a lot of burden off of the Fall River Public Schools with the work they put into the fields.

Mayor Sutter said it is an interesting question because he might pose the same question about the tennis courts at Durfee High School because those are always locked but was a conversation for another day because they are dealing with soccer fields now.

Mr. Hart said the Vice-Chair had put it plainly at a previous meeting that every park in the city has a schedule of teams they know are going to be playing at that particular park at that particular day or time. He cannot show up when there is a game going on and expect his kids to play there. There are certain times when they can go onto the fields and certain times they cannot. He thought they were missing that a little bit. It was the same with the fields at Durfee. He has gone to Mr. Coogan several times to try to get them open to the public but he thinks the bottom line is there are 800-1000 kids and it has been going very well and working as far as he is concerned. The place is crowded and people are having fun. If they can't go on the soccer field at Silvia School they can go to the baseball field. There is no problem finding a park in Fall River but when there is a game scheduled, they cannot go on that field.

Mr. Maynard said when baseball plays at that parks they have to get a permit from Government Center and wondered why FRYS could not take out a permit so that the grandparents and rest of the public know the field is taken at that time.

Mr. Coogan said that is essentially what the agreement is. He explained that the schools do receive a lot of use by the students during the day, every day; the funding for those fields, courts, playgrounds and stadiums is provided through the educational budget which is largely supported by the state. That money is given to the city not in essence for a parks department but for the use of the schools. If they accelerate the use of those schools, that brings that equipment into replacement condition much faster. That is why the Committee several years ago adopted a policy for the use of facilities in exchange for what is a relatively modest fee arrangement for most of their facilities. For most of their facilities – basketball courts, etc. – they do allow leagues and organizations to use the auditoriums, fields, gymnasiums, etc. so that they do receive some use and in exchange for that they cover any expenses that the school department would bear as a result of that use such as cleaning up and any proceeds are held aside and used for some other project that directly impacts the students of the school. He cited an example of them making an approximately \$150,000 investment in a security camera system for Durfee. They have also done projects with benches, painting, etc. that help refurbish those fields and facilities. The arrangement is such that in most cases they are collecting some sort of fee or getting something in return for the use by that organization. This particular arrangement – they first entered into it years ago; this formal three year arrangement they negotiated

three years ago with the city attorney and with Attorney Assad and the use of facilities committee and it has worked out to be a very productive arrangement. There are 800-1000 students of the city that use those fields and this particular arrangement calls for them to make the investment in the fields and in return for their investment to keep that field and playing surface ready for those students and ready for the practices and league games. They agree to hold the use of that during that cycle when they are in season and not let other people go on the field and potentially damage it. It is basically the permit Mr. Maynard was discussing, in exchange for protecting their investment in the field which is made at their expense, the district forgoes any fees or expenses and they do not light the fields. They do run a sprinkler system on the field which was already installed. The agreement calls for them to cut the fields as well – everything else is done by the league and they have been very good partners over the last three years and very respectful.

Mr. Maynard said he received calls about it and he wasn't even aware that they locked the gate. He just feels they should have the right to go play in any park.

Mayor Sutter said he doesn't want to sound like he is talking on both sides of the issue but thought it was a concerning point about the vandalism. Mr. Coogan did say it was an issue that was part of the decision to lock the fields.

Mr. Coogan agreed.

Mayor Sutter said in respect to the tennis courts is that it is an ongoing problem at BCC with people walking their dogs on the court, skateboarding, etc. If that takes place at the Durfee courts then it will cost the school department money to repair. BCC has had to have their courts resurfaced twice within the past five years. He thought the vandalism issue is a compelling argument.

Mr. Coogan said they do open the tennis courts during the day and have facilities and security staff on site to keep an eye on them but at night it is not staffed so without collecting some sort of a fee to offset the cost of watching it, they would have to secure the gates.

Mr. Maynard asked if someone was driving a motorcycle over Kennedy Park, if they would lock or fence.

Mr. Andrade said his three children played in the league years ago and it is about 1,000 kids who are mostly from Fall River. They used to play at Durfee and the fields were full on Saturdays; however, when the teams practiced during the week and it was not as crowded the opportunity was there to use the fields that were not occupied. As Mr. Coogan said it has been a great partnership and he has no problem with keeping the arrangement.

Mayor Sutter said that Mr. Maynard gave an interesting example but the difference is that the fields are kind of tucked away. If someone is driving a motorcycle in a damaging way at Kennedy Park, that person is conspicuous. He thought it was an interesting point on both sides.

Mayor Sutter asked for a roll call vote.

A roll call showed:

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

4 were in favor 1 was opposed (Mr. Maynard) **2 were absent** (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

Mr. Coogan said that they had a representative from the Fall River Youth Soccer League who wanted to address the Committee.

Mayor Sutter agreed.

Mr. Eddie Almeida introduced himself as the coach and current president of Fall River Youth Soccer and he wanted to address Mr. Maynard's point. During their practices Monday through Friday they have a number of different teams that practice. At this particular time of the year they are trying to resurface those fields so practices have been put aside and they have sought alternative areas to practice in but at the very least he is there every Friday with his 15-year-old son lining the fields and just about every week that he has been there has been a boy that shows up on his bicycle and is currently not a FRYS player but has asked to come on and play and kick the ball on the fields and he has always allowed that. Even when he is there doing something for the league and the fields are closed and he sees kids are there he has opened up the gates and had them kick the ball around and has even offered to leave the lock unlocked for them to lock up. Many times they say they feel more comfortable for someone to be there. His point is that during the week if they have anyone whatsoever he most certainly would welcome them to the field and would never push anyone off by any means. He agrees that it is a public place and would never kick anyone off by any means.

Mr. Maynard thanked him for coming forward.

9. Report: Progress of the Committee addressing its goals

Mr. Andrade said it would be a very short report. Mike Goodman at UMass Dartmouth is still working on the survey. When it is ready to be turned over to them he will give them a lengthy report.

10. Vote to Approve: The assignment of the supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,198,579

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Maynard: To approve the assignment of the supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,198,579.

Discussion

Mr. Saunders explained this was a realignment of the appropriation that the School Committee approved, the capital projects, technology investment, and the CVTE, this is taking that money and putting it into the proper slots.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

11. Vote to Approve: May's expenditure report

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To approve May's expenditure report.

Discussion

Mr. Saunders said they would be bringing back at the end of the month a transfer to the subcommittee for the accounts that they are highlighting that have potential to be exceeded. They do not anticipate exceeding the current year's budget.

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

Mayor Sutter said he believed that concluded the Committee of the whole.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked that they put the FYI portion component of the agenda on file.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To place the For Your Information portion of the agenda on file.

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she had one item and explained that the district’s wellness committee that was created in policy by the Fall River School Committee needs a School Committee representative. That Committee has asked if the Mayor would appoint Melissa Panchley to the District Wellness Committee.

Mayor Sutter said he would be happy to do so and appointed School Committeewoman Panchley to the committee.

Mrs. Panchley thanked Mayor Sutter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Sutter asked if there was a request for executive session and Mrs. Panchley said yes.

Mayor Sutter cited the following:

“To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation or grievances, as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, FRAA, as the Chair has declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating positions of the School Committee and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel including Ms. Pontes, Ms. Kasprzk-Magoni; Coach Mahoney, Ms. Medeiros, Mr. Meyen, Ms. Rebello, Helen Sowinski, and Chou Tang.”

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Andrade: For Executive Session.

Discussion on file

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed (8:18 PM)

At 9:14 PM the Committee reconvened. A roll call for attendance showed: Mr. Andrade, Mr. Hart, Mr. Maynard, Mrs. Panchley and Mayor Sutter were present. Mr. Costa and Mr. Martins were absent.

Transcriber’s note: Attorney Assad during executive session at 8:48 PM and also was present at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the MOU with the Fall River Educator’s Association.

No Discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Elsa Rebello as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor 1 was opposed (Mayor Sutter) **2 were absent** (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

This motion was done twice:

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Elsa Rebello as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor 1 was opposed (Mayor Sutter) **2 were absent** (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Chou Tang as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor 1 was opposed (Mayor Sutter) **2 were absent** (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Nancy Kasprzk as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor 1 was opposed (Mayor Sutter) **2 were absent** (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with James Meyen as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) **Motion passed**

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Helen Sowinski as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

Mr. Martins: Absent

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Kelley Mahoney as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Maria Pontes as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

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

Discussion

Mayor Sutter asked if all were in favor. Mr. Andrade, Mrs. Panchley and Mr. Hart responded “aye”; however, Mr. Maynard interrupted and said he had something under New Business.

Mr. Maynard said he had some questions for Mr. Coogan. He had received calls that custodians do not have lawn mowers, weed whackers, shovels, and rakes. He asked what the plans are for that.

Mr. Coogan said he appreciated him bringing that issue up and explained that they had done better than expected on some of the negotiations within the \$200,000 that the Committee allotted for the capital purchases for the program so they are going to be able to make some equipment purchases out of that and he will bring back to them a list of items which includes 18-20 lawn mowers and some tractors to replace equipment that’s been in service for years. Some are 10-12 years old. It was a good point to bring up and a fair item that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Maynard asked if every school will have a lawn mower.

Mr. Coogan said at 20 some will get more than others but yes it will be addressed at every location.

Mayor Sutter asked if Mr. Maynard had any other new business and he yielded.

Mr. Andrade asked to add a quick item which includes small tools like mops, rakes as well.

Mr. Coogan said they replace a number of those items every year as part of their summer program.

Mr. Andrade thanked him and yielded.

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

No discussion

5 were in favor None were opposed 2 were absent (Mr. Costa/Mr. Martins)
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services

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