

**Meeting of the  
Finance Subcommittee**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2015  
4:15 PM**

**School Administration Building  
417 Rock Street  
Fall River, MA 02720**

**Agenda**

- Discussion: Letourneau Grant Award to provide extended day
- Discussion: Disposition of Lease for Boys and Girls Club

**MINUTES**

At 4:18 PM Mrs. Panchley, Chair of the subcommittee, read the open meeting law.

A roll call for attendance showed Mr. Costa, Mr. Hart, and Mrs. Panchley were present.

Also present were Superintendent Mayo-Brown, Mr. Kevin Almeida, Mr. Tom Rose, Dr. Fran Roy, Mr. Tom Coogan, Principal Brian Raposo, and a member of the press.

Mrs. Panchley then called to order the meeting of the Finance Subcommittee for Wednesday, July 1, 2015.

1. Discussion of Letourneau Grant Award to provide extended day

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she was going to have Principal Brian Raposo describe the grant for the subcommittee but gave a little bit of background. Letourneau discussed through most of last year trying to get the opportunity of more time for teachers and students for teaching and learning. They pursued a grant opportunity similar to what Morton achieved through their grant proposal. The grant covers a portion of extended time but not all of it so they need some direction from the subcommittee if they want them to look at the budget and make a determination or recommendation to the Committee around where the funds could potentially come from. Mr. Kevin Almeida will talk more about how much they would be looking for in the operating budget. The Superintendent noted they are not getting all of the operating budget money until free cash/a supplemental appropriation is made to the School Committee so it makes it a bit more challenging from a financial perspective and she appreciated having guidance from the Committee.

Mr. Hart asked if they would be getting the appropriation in October.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said their understanding is that free cash will be certified by that time and that a supplemental appropriation will be made to the School Committee.

Mrs. Panchley recalled it as \$1.6M would come at that time and then there would be an additional \$1M that they would see sometime over the course of the year but not necessarily in October.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she thought that changed during the City Council meeting because they seemed reluctant to do that. She left that meeting with the understanding that the Council's strong preference would be to award that entire amount out of free cash rather than waiting.

Mr. Almeida agreed.

Mrs. Panchley said she watched it on television and did not recall adding that it may be the Council's preference but wondered if the administration agreed to that with them.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown believed that Lou Pacheco was communicating with the Mayor during the meeting and indicated that would be the direction they would be going in.

Mrs. Panchley questioned it only because as they saw last year the Council may have a strong preference but if the Mayor did not present to them that that is what he wants then the City Council has their hands tied so she wanted to know if the administration was on board.

Principal Brian Raposo recapped about Letourneau that they are a program school for English Language Learners - about 190 of their students are ESL (about 30% of their population). The proposal came from their staff. He has several teachers on his instructional leadership team and as they looked at Letourneau's performance over the last several years and dug into the data one of the things they discussed was the idea of providing a little bit more time for their students. This past year they invested in Responsive Classroom and chose to do a morning meeting every day. They were not an ELT school but thought it was an investment that was worthwhile because they saw a major impact with the social-emotional learning (SEL) and the behavior of their students. With ELT they would be able to continue to provide morning meeting every day for 20-30 minutes and on top of that be able to provide academic enrichment intervention.

Principal Raposo continued by explaining their plan would be to start their day with morning meeting for every child which has some really important components where kids are greeting each other by name, sharing, and participating in an activity. They found that that has been instrumental in developing a positive culture in the classroom community at Letourneau. In addition, they would be able to provide a targeted enrichment block for kids which would be STEM. They are trying to target academic literacy skills and language in science which is an area where at times they are not meeting their goals or paying as much attention to it as they should be. They would also be able to provide intervention to struggling students during that time which would be data-driven. He added for teachers ELT allows for increased collaboration. He is going to be able to expand their common planning time from 45 minutes to 75 minutes weekly. They are engaged in looking at student work and analyzing data as a team. They know that the teacher workday extends well beyond the school day so any additional time that they can provide during the day for that collaboration with a coach, department chair or interventionist will be beneficial for the kids. They have also looked at increasing their blended learning and piloted some blending learning models with Chromebooks, etc. They are looking to expand that a little bit next year specifically with science in the upper grades.

Principal Raposo concluded by saying he thought that ELT would allow them to meet social-emotional needs of the students but also provide the academic enrichment specifically with their population who really needs a lot of support with language development; science is a great way to work on that. They

also would be able to deploy their interventionists for targeted instruction even if it was for 30 minutes 3 to 4 days a week to provide interventions for groups of six students or less.

Mrs. Panchley asked what the current school day was.

Principal Raposo said it is 8:35 am to 2:52 pm.

Mrs. Panchley asked what the proposal would be and Mr. Raposo explained that the grant was for 180 hours for kids so they would be expanding the day by one hour. In conversations with his staff and parents (they had several forums) it looks like they would propose 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon so it would be 8:05 am to 3:22 pm.

Mrs. Panchley said they have been having the morning meeting anyway without the ELT and wondered if that would be expanded or give them another hour to do other things.

Principal Raposo explained that they have had morning meeting at the expense of some instructional time but they have invested in that because they know it is important so they would rather take 15 to 20 minutes to develop a positive community because it gets them much further that day so this would be uninterrupted time for that. They're going to continue with that and this would allow them to have an enrichment and an intervention piece which has been very difficult to carve into the day.

Mr. Costa asked when the grant was awarded.

Principal Raposo and Superintendent Mayo-Brown thought it came a week or two ago.

Mr. Costa asked how much the total was.

Principal Raposo said it was \$285,900 which is based on a per pupil allotment.

Mr. Almeida explained that the total cost is projected to be about \$360,000 and the grant itself can cover about \$260,000 of the \$285,000. He explained that they have a portion that is designated to cover a partnership that was written into the grant. From an operational budget standpoint it would be looking to cover approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Costa asked how long the grant was for and Mr. Raposo responded it was for three years.

Mr. Costa asked if it was the same total amount and Mr. Raposo believed so. When they applied for the grant it was based on per-pupil and he is not sure if it changes slightly based on the enrollment each year.

Mr. Costa asked if they could find out because if it was a grant that tapers off over time it would increase the exposure to the operating budget.

Mr. Almeida said he knew with the Morton grant that it stays the same for three years.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown added that it is \$500 per student.

Mr. Costa thought if their enrollment goes up the dollar amount should go up. He asked if that was written into the grant or if it was the expectation.

Superintendent said that was part of the grant and how they released the funding for students.

Mrs. Panchley said at Silvia it seems that they have one enrichment class per week and wondered if that is what this would look like.

Principal Raposo explained that they would be looking to expand to have a 90 minute block for science which is why they have a partnership with the Lloyd Center. They have used them for an afterschool program with their ESL students and they are using them again for this summer program that they are developing. They have been a pretty good partner and the goal would be to have them in there with the classroom teachers and collaborating. They would not just be coming in and providing instruction to kids but working in collaboration with the classroom teacher and they can bring in resources that they may not necessarily have at their disposal. That enrichment would be all STEM focused so they wouldn't have enrichments that are falling all over the place but instead enrichments that are aligned with a STEM focus which would end with some sort of a project that kids would produce. In addition, they will have blocks of time where they can pull small groups for instruction. He believes Silvia's model was longer at 300 hours and their's would be 180 hours which would be more like Doran or Morton.

Mrs. Panchley asked Mr. Almeida if he had any idea where they could come up with the money.

Mr. Almeida said he would need to look at the budget and get them an answer for the July meeting.

Mrs. Panchley said they have certainly seen that extra time has been a key component in turning schools around so when they have a staff come together and put the effort in to do a grant for much of the funds and say that they want to do this knowing how successful it is been, it is hard to not want to back something like that and she always wants to back something like that. She thought at this point it seemed like they could recommend to the Committee to look further into this to see where they can come up with the money. She was concerned because it was July 1 which is the first day of their budget and she would like to think that they passed a budget that they needed every dollar put into it. She thought if they could look at things and come up with a recommendation she would certainly like to listen to it because she knows it has proven successful in turning schools around. Without that information it was really hard to say anything more than that because unfortunately they have to live under a budget. She wants to support teachers and support extended learning time in hopes that they can find the money.

Mr. Hart agreed that it has proven to be successful and asked if all the teachers and parents were on board.

Principal Raposo said that they did some forums with families in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. They also discussed it at parent teacher meetings and different events throughout the year and families have been pretty supportive. Any concerns were similar to concerns they have heard in the past about it being too long of a school day, etc., but they have examples of it in Fall River already to show that schools have been pretty successful with it.

Mr. Hart asked if a stipend had been discussed with the teachers at Letourneau.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was negotiated in the teachers' contract; \$4,000 with 30 minutes of extra time and \$8,000 for 60 minutes of extra time which is what the Letourneau would be receiving.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown continued that it is going to be a challenge to try to identify funding but they would be looking at the teacher line item because this is additional teacher compensation. Much of it depends on the hiring over the summer because as they have teachers who are resigning they have to see what it looks like in terms of teachers back filling those positions. It is a tough time of year to try and navigate if the money is going to be available because in fairness to families and teachers they should let them know as soon as possible; but they are midway in their hiring process and they have the \$2.6 million sitting out there. They all want to do it but it is just the challenge of how they best go about it.

Mr. Hart thought it was good to get the ball rolling on it and wondered how many people have resigned or retired at Letourneau.

Principal Raposo thought they had three resignations.

Mrs. Panchley said in her mind there is no elementary school position that someone would retire or resign in that they would not fill. She is not as familiar on the middle or high school level. They have talked about losing kids to Argosy as they fill up and as Henry Lord takes on middle school students. She thought one spot would be looking at retirements at the middle schools and if there is a savings there.

Mr. Hart asked what effect it would have on transportation.

Mr. Coogan said as Letourneau explored the option, Donna Cabral looked into alternative plans. She is very creative with the pairings and how the bus routes are tiered and was able to come up with a solution that would work and is cost neutral. It also helps with a delivery issue that they have had with two routes running very close together.

Mr. Coogan also pointed out that as a position either resigns or retires there may be some savings from that and it is not necessarily at the expense of not replacing a position but there is also a shrinkage factor with someone going out at a higher salary than their incoming replacement who may be on a lower step and they capture a small amount of income from that. It is tough for Mr. Almeida to create something off of a model that is being filled as they speak and is not a closed position.

Mrs. Panchley understood and thought it was a good point.

Mr. Hart clarified that there was no additional cost to transportation.

Mr. Coogan said no but it was a good question because it is often a factor that gets overlooked in a project like this but they did take it into consideration and are able to do it at no additional cost.

Mr. Costa said with respect to ELT they would be hard pressed to find anybody on the Committee or administration that would not want to welcome more learning time for students. Going back to his early days when Kuss was getting up and running he recalled all the heartache and nervousness about students staying longer and what that would mean to them socially and emotionally and now they know how it affects their students. All of their ELT schools are level 1 schools and high performing. He is not so concerned about the \$100,000 and is confident in Mr. Almeida's abilities noting there is also lag time between money that is budgeted on today's date that isn't used for a month or two so even if they are bringing someone in on the same step they have still saved that salary for the thirty days they had not paid anybody out of that particular line. Although he would not say there is a whole lot of

money there but he would imagine that Mr. Almeida and Mr. Saunders have a sense of how much wiggle room they have had year after year with the professional salaries line. He said the \$100,000 does not necessarily scare him off because they are just starting off a budget and are trying to fill positions. It is a little bit of a concern but he thought the budget cycle is a long process and that \$100,000 for what they are receiving on the grant side is a small investment for a great opportunity.

Mr. Costa added that he thought it was also wise to split the hour of extended time and was glad to hear they have made that decision. The more time students are in class, the more opportunities they can give to their teachers to do more common planning time or being in the PLCs discussing what is going on in the school and they have seen the benefits of that. Although he will wait for Mr. Almeida to provide some direction to the Committee as to where the money will come from, they certainly have his support today on it and he is confident in Mr. Almeida's abilities. He knows that that is short money for something like this and to not invest \$100,000 and give up \$285,900 to him, for something like this, does not make good sense when they are in the business of educating students.

Mrs. Panchley asked what schools that left them with that do not have extended time and will they be coming down the pike.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said there are more and more requests; once educators find out the impact that that additional time can have both for teaching and learning they want to know how they can get that too. Schools such as Tansey, Spencer Borden, Greene and Henry Lord will be those that do not.

Mrs. Panchley added Talbot and Durfee. She thought that at the high school level with sports, etc. it would be very difficult.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed that the athletic schedule at high schools across the state makes it difficult.

Mr. Costa noted that Tansey in the past has submitted applications for ELT and also Talbot as part of their innovation has applied and were passed over this last application process. Talbot was encouraged to reapply as part of their STEM. He agreed that they were going to see this not just in Fall River but also other districts. He noted at Silvia School's graduation Principal Facchiano indicated that they did the math and students who participate in ELT are actually in school two years longer than traditional students. He asked rhetorically what impact two years of additional education have on students. They have seen the results and he thinks they will see that there will be a move to ELT. The dilemma is then put on local districts, School Committees, local tax payers, and City Councils to determine if they can invest the money in their budgets to allow for them to do those things. He thought they were on good footing to advocate for that because they have had some great success with it. He thought in terms of putting their money where their mouths are, they have shown time and time again to the City Council and the administration that they are using the educational dollars for good use and will continue to do that.

Mrs. Panchley asked if there was any other discussion on the topic and there was none.

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To refer to the full Committee for further consideration and a vote on the Letourneau extended day learning proposal.**

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley added with the additional information from Mr. Almeida on a funding source provided.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Principal Raposo exited the meeting at 4:44 PM.

- Discussion: Disposition of Lease for Boys and Girls Club

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that Ivone Medeiros had been in contact with DESE regarding moving the ACESE program over to Stone and having one consolidated program and they are able to move in that direction now. That puts the ACESE program out of the Boys and Girls Club so they no longer need that facility for that purpose.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown continued that at a facilities subcommittee meeting Mr. Coogan was given the directive to go scout around for a potential site for the Parent Information Center so that they can remove that from Durfee for purposes of safety and security of the building and reducing foot traffic inside the high school. She asked Mr. Coogan to describe what his research had led them to noting they did have a site for the Committee to consider and talk through.

She added that she wanted to be clear that she had spoken to the Boys and Girls Club who are great partners and they are not committing to anything at this point but they would have future conversations around how they best can continue their partnership. Peter McCarthy has been very interested in supporting Watson School in a variety of ways and Mr. Hart had made a connection between the two of them in terms of having the school use the facilities at the Boys and Girls Club. They have not made a financial commitment to them at this point but they do not want this move out of their building to be interpreted in any way as losing any partnership opportunities with them.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they wanted to shift to the Parent Information Center and talk about the options for that and their recommendation for the Committee to consider.

Mr. Coogan said they have located a potential site and he explained their criteria process (centrally located, near identifiable landmarks, and close to busing). There is an area close to downtown and approximately the same overall footprint of the offices they have at the high school which would allow them to shift the operation out of the high school and accommodate it downtown. It does have some off street parking for those who would be there for an extended period which is a factor because it is engineered parking where they are in for the day. There is close-by street metered parking for visitors there for a short time. From a cost standpoint, rent and utilities would be cost neutral with the amount they are expending for the ACESE program at the Boys Club. Although the two events are not connected, from a budget standpoint they are a swap off.

Mr. Costa asked where the site was.

Mr. Coogan said it is down at the end of Bedford Street, near Purchase about a block from Government Center.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is where O'Journal was located at 10 Purchase Street.

Mrs. Panchley asked what the rent was.

Mr. Coogan said it is \$35,000 which is what it was at the Boys Club for the ACESE program.

Mrs. Panchley asked the square footage.

Mr. Coogan explained that there are some first floor offices where the public would enter and exit and then there is second floor office space. He thought approximately 3,000 square feet.

Mrs. Panchley asked when they would move.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was currently vacant so they could start the process but it would be a late August move.

Mr. Coogan said it would be a late August to early September shift adding that there is some infrastructure work just for phone and internet connection purposes that would have to be done before they relocate. The work could begin in advance of the actual move. They could coordinate it for the start of the school year which is late this year.

Mrs. Panchley said she was unsure off the top of her head if it is a good price for that many square feet but between now and their School Committee meeting...

Mr. Coogan interrupted by noting he had compared 2-3 different locations and some faced setbacks in terms of no parking, issues with location within the building, and another place that was potentially available that the current lease owner decided not to vacate on North Main Street. This one seemed to be the best option looking at the criteria and at a price that was either cost neutral or even a potential savings.

Mrs. Panchley asked if City Hall had confirmed whether they would have that kind of space.

Mr. Coogan said they do not have that type of footprint available within their building.

Mr. Hart thought it sounded like a good spot. He asked how many square feet they were in at Durfee.

Mr. Coogan said approximately 3,000.

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – : To accept the disposition of the release of the Boys and Girls Club from Bedford Street to Purchase Street and refer to the full body.**

Discussion

Mr. Hart asked if Mr. Coogan would be bringing more information.

Mrs. Panchley thought they were two separate items and Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed.

**NEW MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To refer the disposition of the lease of the Boys and Girls Club to the full Committee.**

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Costa: No

Mr. Hart: Yes

Mrs. Panchley: Yes

**2 were in favor      1 was opposed      Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To refer for discussion to the full body regarding the relocation of the Parent Information Center.**

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Costa: No

Mr. Hart: Yes

Mrs. Panchley: Yes

**2 were in favor      1 was opposed      Motion passed**

Mrs. Panchley asked if there were any other items and there were not.

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Costa: To adjourn.**

**All were in favor      None were opposed      Meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM**

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for  
School Committee Services