

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, August 24, 2015

6:30 PM

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

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Subcommittee Reports
5. Recognition Awards
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Approval of Minutes
8. Committee of the Whole
9. Request for Executive Session
M.G.L. 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 Ms. Susan Steen, School Administrative Manager; Ms. Rochelle Pettenati, Administrative Intern; Ms. Ivone Medeiros, Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services; and Ms. Meg Mayo-Brown, Superintendent of Schools.*
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

Donations

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

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Contracts

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Costa: To approve all contracts as listed.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Grants

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve all the grants.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Discussion Items

1. Vote to Approve: Appointments of Susan Crossman, School Nurse and Christene Patenaude-Sokol, School Nurse

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the item is a presentation of two nursing candidates to the School Committee. In accordance with MGL, the School Committee appoints school nurses. Nursing Director, Karen Long is present and members have the two resumes of the individuals listed in their packets.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the nurse appointments.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

2. Update: Westall School

Mayor Sutter called for Mr. Ken Pacheco, Public Works Director, to update the Committee.

Mr. Pacheco addressed the Committee and explained that on January 31, 2013 the Westall School suffered severe damage due to tropical storm winds and microbursts. The damage was severe on the roof and the building itself suffered about 50% of its total square footage in damage – water damage mostly. The school department acted quickly to repair the roof and they saved the rest of the building or it would have been demolished.

He continued that a lot of time has passed since the incident in 2013. After the emergency roof was put on, the building inspector along with other officials from the city determined that more than 50% of the building was destroyed and that triggered some upgrades that would have to be performed in order for reentry into the building. He noted that some of those items included handicap accessibility such as an elevator and ramp, as well as some upgrades in the restrooms, fire suppression system, electrical, etc. They had discussions with the insurance company for quite some time and came to an agreement about 2 1/2 months ago that they both can live with. They are ready to move forward on the project if that is the will of the Committee.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

Mr. Pacheco said that he had William Stark Architects present who would describe the improvements in a little more detail and Jim Rogers from LeftField who will be the project manager on this particular endeavor. He explained that the project will be funded approximately two-thirds of insurance settlement and the final third to be borrowed by the City of Fall River. The overall project is \$4.4 million and \$500,000 of contingency which will bring them to \$4.9 million. He cautioned the Committee that the building is not new construction so from the outside it is going to look like the old Westall and on the inside is where they will see all of the dollars spent. There will be some improvements on the outside such as the ramp and access doors but most repairs will be on the inside along with the upgrades he mentioned. They are going to get exactly what they feel they need to put the students back in the building.

Mr. Pacheco asked Mr. Stark to come up to give the Committee an idea of what those improvements will look like.

Mr. Stark addressed the Committee and introduced himself as an architect in Fall River. He reiterated that the building was extensively damaged in January 2013 and the key issue as far as the building code is concerned is the extent of the damage that was done. The building code requires any work being done on the building exceeding one-third of its appraised value, than the building must be brought up to current building code. The current appraised value on the books at the time was \$1,286,800. One-third of that is \$386,000. The extent of that damage in their estimate exceeded \$1 million which far exceeded one-third of the value of the building which triggered the enforcement of the current building code. Most of the issues are fairly cut and dry but also triggered that the building become handicap accessible where a lot of additional monies are being spent. A fire suppression system was also required which in turn triggered a new water service; the elevator triggered a new electrical service; and so on.

He continued that they have been in constant consultation with the building department, Mr. Bizko, the fire department, the plumbing inspectors, the electrical inspectors, and Mr. Pacheco's department has also been very helpful. They have developed a set of documents and have put them out to bid to cover the damage done by the storm and also to bring the building up to code. They had a public bid opening a few weeks ago and the bids are on hold while they're waiting for approval by the Committee as well as the Mayor's office and the City Council. The contractor is ready to go and the insurance company has committed to the amount of the repair work.

Mr. Stark said what is in limbo at this point is the value of the code related construction costs and the project manager and the contractor are working through those numbers to come up with the values related to repair versus code upgrades. As Mr. Pacheco explained earlier, his concern is that it be very clear that after this money is spent and the job is done and the building is open to the students, it is not going to be a new school. He continued that they have hard bids and are ready to go noting that they have until June 30, 2016 to expend the money in accordance with the agreement with the insurance company. He thought it was realistic to consider September 2016 as occupancy for the school department.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any questions from the Committee.

Mr. Maynard asked if he could tell him a little bit more about the handicap accessibility.

Mr. Stark explained that there will be a new ramp from the street to get into the first level. They are cutting in a new doorway for entrance into a vestibule area which will be handicap accessible. Access to all of the levels will be provided by an elevator right inside the administration offices. The toilet rooms will be handicapped accessible.

Mr. Maynard asked if they would be private handicap accessible or if they will be in with the regular bathrooms.

Mr. Stark said by code they cannot segregate so there will be handicapped toilet facilities in each of the toilet rooms. In the past, the school only had toilets in the basement and now by code they are required to put them on each floor. There will be a boys and girls room on each floor which will be handicap accessible as well as a staff men's and women's toilet facility on each floor which are also handicap accessible and will meet the current Massachusetts Occupational Access Board requirements in all regards.

Mr. Costa understood that the exterior of the building would not be new as the majority of the damage occurred on the roof and the interior but wondered if during the assessment process there were any flaws or issues noted on the exterior as part of the walk-through and accessing the damage. It is a large sum of money to expend on the interior and he wants to make sure that the exterior of the building is in good shape so that they are not looking at investing millions of dollars down the road to fix the exterior. He felt there was a need to have another available building particularly for the elementary students as they talk about class sizes and this gives them a great opportunity to make an impact on the number of students they have at the elementary grades and classes, however; he wants to make sure that the overall physical structure of the building is sound and not going to require additional monies.

Mr. Stark responded that on the west side of the building there is a wooden structure that is unsound and does not meet code and they are making that a stairway on the west side accessible to the exterior and modifying that. The basic exterior of the building being brick is sound but he wished they could power wash it and appoint it but they need more money to do that. He suggested that Mr. Pacheco has included some contingency funds and he thought if they monitor at the contractor they might be able to have a little bit of money left over to address some of those things. He would like to see it cleaned up but structurally the building is sound.

Mr. Costa said doing cosmetics would be great but he is more worried about reappointing the bricks, windows, etc.

Mr. Stark said the windows are not energy efficient but because they are not touching the windows they are not required to be brought up to energy code. To his knowledge there are no leaks through the walls or windows. The roof will be new and will be up to code with energy requirements as far as installation is concerned.

Mr. Costa asked about the bid amount.

Mr. Stark said it was \$3,078,000.

Mr. Costa asked if it was possible for the Committee to get a copy of what was bid on and what is actually going to be done. He asked for a breakdown of where the money is going to be spent within the building.

Mr. Stark said they have developed cost estimates which totaled \$3.4 million and the bids came in at \$3.1 million so they were fairly close. They are working with the contractor and project manager now to develop the schedule of values with the contractor and identifying where the money is going. They need that to work with the insurance company. He does not have problem sharing that information with the Committee once they have it.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

Mr. Costa said if they are able to that would be great because as this becomes more of a discussion item as they go forward members of the public are going to ask what is being done and having that information is helpful.

Mr. Stark thought it would be easier for them to prepare a hit list of things that are being done and a list of things that are not being done so that they are all on the same page and there is no confusion down the road. He thought in conjunction with Mr. Pacheco's office they could probably prepare a list of items for them.

Mr. Costa said that would be fine. He is looking for the costs associated with what improvements are going to be done. He understood that they are just that estimates but was just looking for the rough costs associated with the project.

Mr. Martins said that Mr. Stark had mentioned that the money had to be expended by a certain date and asked when that was.

Mr. Stark and Mr. Pacheco responded June 30, 2016 which was a requirement of the insurance company.

Mr. Martins asked if that was for the insurance money.

Mr. Stark responded yes.

Mr. Martins asked if that was approximately \$3.7 million.

Mr. Pacheco said the conformance side only; they have a ballpark number between \$1.5-\$2.5 million which is the code upgrade to bring into today's building code. Those dollars are the ones that have to be expended. The entire project does not have to be completed by June 30, 2016, just the upgrades on the code. There may be ancillary issues that may not be included such as replacing floors, doors, ceilings. All of those items are not code conformant so they will not have to be done by June 30.

Mr. Martins asked what would happen if the project was not approved.

Mr. Pacheco explained that the code conformance portion would go away. The arrangement with the insurance company is that they do the work and get paid after they are finished. They have received all the money for the damage upfront; however, the code conformance portion of the project will be a reimbursement. If the project is not approved then they will only be getting what they have already received on the project and then the school will not be used as a school again.

Mr. Martins said they would lose that \$3.7 million.

Mr. Pacheco said that they would lose the code conformance portion. The city already has the first \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million. They could lose anywhere from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million depending on how much the upgrades come in at. They have expended \$600,000 to date for the temporary roof, the cleanup by the disaster company, and putting them is back on.

Mr. Martins said that this was new information to him and sheds a whole new light on the direction that he was going to go in. He asked Mr. Stark the status of the heating system.

Mr. Stark responded that the heating system is functioning but that is all he can say. The code requires them to bring the building up to proper ventilation requirements as far as air changes. They are doing that

by introducing some rooftop units to ventilate fresh air into the corridors and hallways. The classrooms have natural ventilation which is opening a window. The heating system is functioning and is not being addressed.

Mr. Martins asked about the parking lots, playground, etc.

Mr. Stark said that they are not touching the playground or parking lot at this point.

Mr. Martins said his point was that in addition to the money to be expended, the playground will need to be done at some point, as well as the windows and the heating system. It could be considerably more money.

Mr. Pacheco explained that the School Committee at a later date could entertain Ameresco doing an audit of the building where they could upgrade the heating system and change the windows and air conditioning as well as other energy updates. They have done that with some of the city's older buildings and it has worked out well.

Mr. Martins said all of those other items could boost the costs up to around \$4 million.

Mr. Pacheco said right now those upgrades are not being considered because of the fact that unless they act on this particular project now, they won't get the money anyway so it is not a situation where they can extend the project anymore. They need to move forward with the current project if that is the will of the Committee and then they consider the upgrades at another point in time. The building will be functional and meet standards for an occupancy permit. It will be the newest of the older buildings. If they don't do this particular portion then they have an old building that they cannot use anymore.

Mr. Martins said he understood that but explained that he was weighing the roof condition of Resiliency Middle School/Resiliency Preparatory School which recently came to light with literature regarding the murals. There are students currently occupying that building. He does not know how much it would cost to replace the roof but he knew it would be costly. He wondered if both projects could be done with bonding. The longer they wait on that roof the more damage there will be. He believed both were needed and he did not realize about the loss of money and if he had to vote for one it would be the Westall so they would not lose that money.

Mrs. Panchley said for the two years that she is been on the Committee she has really been focused on lowering classroom size as they all had been. They have listened to Mr. Coogan tell them about the Wiley School and what they would need to do to bring that online. It does not have as many classrooms and in the end would cost more money than with the insurance money for the Westall School. Everyone has the will to reduce classroom size and they cannot say that if they cannot open more classrooms. Some of the things that were said scare her as far as the heating system, etc. but she still feels like if they bring in Ameresco, etc. it would still be cheaper than opening the Wiley School and it would have more space. She was prepared to make a motion but would wait for further discussion.

Mr. Hart asked about the process from the beginning and when the insurance company started working with them because he feels like the process has been long. He understood it takes a long time to get the claim taken care of but he wondered how the process worked as far as Mr. Pacheco was concerned.

Mr. Pacheco explained that the insurance company came the day after the storm and they immediately started to work on the damage portion of all of it. Three to four months into the process they came up with a settlement that they looked at and went back-and-forth for about 2 to 3 months on top of that. In

the meantime, they started to discuss with their own internal people at the building department where they would move forward and they started looking at the quantity of damage and that is when the conformance piece kicked in which was not received very well by the insurance carrier and that lasted as long as nine months. They also had a situation where the insurance company decided they were going to bring other adjusters into the process and at that point the city hired a private adjuster to have a level playing field. Through the efforts of the carrier they were able to come up with this last agreement. He acknowledged it has been a long time and was a back-and-forth process that took a lot to get an agreement on.

He continued that in the process, insurance claims always have a Cinderella clause and it was a two-year clause which they are now beyond so they had to get six-month continuances and then they finally agreed on this last one. The insurance company is not willing to go any further than June 30, 2016 so they took that after confirming with all the parties that it is a doable project. They have a good contractor on board who is willing to move forward and the subcontractors are all locked in. He feels they have a good project and they are ready to move on it. The exterior is going to be a challenge and they do have the \$500,000 contingency where they are hoping to be able to get to anything on the outside or inside that is absolutely necessary.

Mr. Hart noted some other exterior concerns and asked if they would be addressed.

Mr. Pacheco said not currently. One of the first things that they are going to do once they award the contract to the contractor is to take a look at what he is providing, what his numbers look like, and how close he is going to hit the time frames. Because they have taken so long to evaluate the building there shouldn't be a lot of unforeseen issues on the project. He does not think they're going to find a lot of hazards that would cost them money so his hope is that they are going to be able to look at some of those other things. He knows they will not be able to do anything with the playground for sure and pavement may be a stretch. They are going to do some pavement at the ramp area and any place that they take up they will be replacing the pavement but there will not be wholesale parking lot repairs.

Mr. Hart said that he appreciated them coming and he agreed with Mrs. Panchley that the school is needed by the school department to reduce class sizes. He thanked them again for their work and said he looked forward to voting on this tonight.

Mr. Pacheco asked that Mr. Rogers come up.

Mr. Rogers said he is the OPM on the project and his firm is LeftField. He explained that he had only been involved in the project for the last several months but in doing so they quickly sat down with all parties and went through the drawings to try to understand what they could do as part of the \$4.9 million and what they could not. As they went through the process they quickly realized that where the damage happened to some of the classrooms on, only a portion of the classroom was being upgraded because only a portion of the floor tile (for example) was damaged. Their hope is in utilizing the \$500,000 in contingency that they will be able to finish areas such as if they are painting three walls, they can paint all four and if they are tiling a section of the floor, they can tile the whole floor. The hope is that when people walk in, the interior look as new as possible. That has been a goal as a team and they have walked through with Mr. Coogan who is trying to find other funds to do some of the things outside of the project that they talked about. He believes it has been a real team effort and they are hoping they can do as much as possible with the \$5 million and maybe some extra funding that Mr. Coogan. Their hope is to give them as complete a project as possible.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

Mr. Andrade thanked the gentleman for appearing before them. The Committee has had a lot of questions about the Westall School over time and it was great to hear this discussion. He also indicated that he was in agreement with Mrs. Panchley and the importance of bringing the school back online to deal with the class size issue which is important to every member of the Committee. He always looked at the school in a very positive light because it is relatively more centrally located than the Wiley School and is more able to deal with overcrowding in schools throughout the district as opposed to strictly the north end.

Mr. Andrade asked Mayor Sutter if they were going to have to borrow some money and if so, thought that meant a City Council vote would be needed.

Mayor said it is for \$1.2 million if he is hearing correctly.

Mr. Pacheco asked through the Chair to respond to Mr. Andrade and explained that they would be borrowing the full \$4.9 million and then they would be reimbursed from the insurance company so the long-term bonding would be for the \$1.3 million.

Mayor Sutter questioned that they would be reimbursed by \$3.7 million and Mr. Pacheco agreed.

Mayor Sutter had some questions regarding some of the standards that were discussed. Mr. Pacheco said that he had misspoke and that one third was the trigger.

Mayor Sutter said he understood and asked that they explain to him the contingency aspect of the \$4.9 million.

Mr. Pacheco explained that the project should be able to be built for \$4.4 million. The \$500,000 is for a normal procedure in construction to have that contingency for anything unforeseen such as opening up a wall and something is in that wall that shouldn't be. If all goes well that contingency won't be expended entirely and then they will actually have extra money that they can do some of the items that are not figured in.

Mayor asked how that figure was arrived at.

Mr. Stark explained that when working in an old building like this 10% is a reasonable number. He has been doing this for 40 years and he is always surprised in every job. He knows that the building is well-built and sound but they will have some unknowns. They have done their due diligence short of opening up every wall ahead of time and they have looked at everything that they can and used their experience in doing this work to anticipate what they need to do. He feels it is a reasonable number.

Mayor Sutter asked what degree of confidence he had that this would all be completed by the fall of 2016.

Mr. Stark said that he feels confident that they will have them in for school in September 2016.

Mayor Sutter thought that was exciting.

Mr. Stark thought it could be done and it was plenty of time but added that they did not have time to mess around right now. He explained that winter was right around the corner and it is a good winter job because the contractor can get in there. He believed the contractor bid the job anticipating a job over the winter where he has a roof and four walls to be working in. He has worked with this contractor on public jobs in the past and he is a no nonsense and honest contractor who knows Mr. Starks standards established over the years.

Mrs. Panchley asked what that left them with if they did the conversion and asked if they would have anyone directly overseeing ELA.

Principal Raposo explained that the Dean of Teaching and Learning would take on teaching and learning in general in the building across all content areas. He is really trying to build an informal network of teacher leaders and he also takes a piece of the instruction which leaves the current structure with two assistant principals, himself, and then the Dean.

Mrs. Panchley clarified that there would be no one directly overseeing math or ELA but people who were overseeing it all.

Principal Raposo said that was correct and within his team they look at each other's strengths and the needs of the building each year and as they know another piece of this work would be the teacher evaluation process. It is their goal to grow and develop their educators and to do that process with fidelity so they really decide the needs of their building at the start of the year.

Mr. Andrade said it was also indicated that that person would have more responsibility for the ELL program.

Principal Raposo said that was correct and explained Letourneau is a program school for newcomers so the population changes throughout the year and they have that particular need. Ideally they would want to attract somebody who had some expertise in that area as well.

Mr. Martins asked how many students were in the building.

Mr. Raposo responded slightly fewer than 600. Last year they were at approximately 590 and they are adding an additional PreK class for an a.m. and p.m. so he is envisioning that his numbers will be slightly over 600.

Mr. Martins questioned that he wanted to have a Dean of Teaching and Learning but they already have an ELA department Head. The differential is approximately \$12,000 and he wondered if they were talking about the same person.

Mr. Raposo responded no and said they were talking about a conversion of a position.

Mr. Martins asked if they wanted to give up the Department Head for a Dean.

Principal Raposo said that was correct and that he was not asking to retain both positions.

Mr. Martins asked what the Dean of Teaching and Learning would be doing that a Department Head did not do.

Principal Raposo explained that the department chair oversees only ELA and the Dean of Teaching and Learning is a position where that person could build capacity for teaching and learning in the building across all content areas. Their added challenge in their building is that a department chair may come in and focus on reading and writing but they may not necessarily have the expertise in the ESL piece as well. This person would oversee instruction across the building and would also work to build up some teacher leaders at each grade level so that some teachers take the lead around planning and they would be responsible for evaluation of a caseload of teachers and would also work closely with three interventionist in the building around their RTI model.

Mr. Martins noted that if they removed the funding for the department head he would not get it back.

Principal Raposo understood.

Mr. Martins asked if he knew where he stood as far as his overall MCAS rating was concerned.

Principal Raposo responded yes.

Mr. Martins asked if he was happy about it and Principal Raposo responded no. He recognized that the staff has worked hard but there is a lot more work to be done.

Mr. Martins asked if they had someone in mind for the Dean position or if they would advertise.

Principal Raposo said pending School Committee approval they would advertise and go through that process to create a pool of candidates and then go through the interview process.

Mr. Martins asked if that person was going to be an expert in English language arts, math, and science.

Principal Raposo said that they will be looking for somebody who has expertise in teaching and learning. It would be ideal because of the needs of their building to bring somebody to the table with a language and literacy background.

Mr. Martins asked if the department head is evaluating teachers.

Principal Raposo responded yes and explained that both positions are supervisory and could evaluate.

Mr. Martins asked if the Dean was going to be evaluating teachers in math, science, ELA.

Principal Raposo said that they would evaluate the needs of the building. His background is in math and special education so it is possible that he may take on some math teachers. They look at their administrative team and the teachers that they have and match people up based on their needs.

Mr. Martins wondered if they would be better off instead of asking for a Dean of Teaching and Learning to have improved student learning by increasing the responsibilities of the ELA Department Head to also be responsible for social studies and have a Department Head for math and science.

Principal Raposo explained that they currently have two Assistant Principals and himself and they are proposing the Dean because they feel that the structure is what would be necessary to improve teaching and to build capacity with their staff.

Mr. Martins said the Dean of Teaching and Learning started with one school and then other schools wanted one and followed suit. He is the principal of that school which has a history of going through a lot of teachers and administrators and he wonders why. He thought it was because the staff does not have the support that it needs. He will go along with this but explained that Principal Raposo knew where he was overall on their MCAS scores. If they get this, he wanted something in return which was for those figures to go up. He said Principal Raposo wants this and that is what he wanted in return and asked if that was a deal.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown directed Mr. Raposo to not answer that question. She explained that it is not a deal to be made with an individual.

Mr. Martins said that that was all right because that is what she would be evaluated on.

Superintendent said rightly so.

Mr. Martins said he did not know what she was going to do in 2017.

Mayor Sutter interjected that there would be plenty of time to discuss that at another point in time and asked that Mr. Martins continue with his questions.

Mr. Martins yielded.

Mr. Costa felt strongly about the fact that it is the role of the Committee to hear from the building leaders about the needs of each of their respective schools. They concur they are not happy with the data but he thought it was important to trust the building Principals when they bring the proposals forward that they know the end result. He likened it to building a team – they are not proposing to put someone on their team that is going to fail them and would be looking for someone who possesses the background knowledge that is required to do the position well to make them more successful and in turn they become a more successful district. He noted that Mr. Martins indicated and was correct that the Dean of Teaching and Learning did start off at one school and other schools thought that it sounded like it could be useful in their school and those positions were added overtime. It is not surprising that principals are evaluating and shifting gears. If they are seeing that having a department head is not useful any more then he would expect them to come forward and say it is not working like it was intended or they are changing the way they are doing things based on the team members they have in their school.

Mr. Costa continued that Principal Raposo’s presentations about what is school needs have been candid and to his knowledge honest and frank and he thinks he's doing it with good knowledge of what is needed to make his school successful. He made the motion because he has confidence in Mr. Raposo and the work that is being done there and believes given the right tools and used and managed properly will lead to a successful turnout. He thought it was a sound proposal and wished him the best of luck with it.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any further discussion.

Mr. Martins asked to make one last comment and said one of the concerns he has about Deans of Teaching and Learning and bringing more and more onboard is how they are used. He is the chair of the Grievance Subcommittee and recently they had a grievance and he looked at the teacher evaluation system that is currently in place and felt the evaluations could differ depending on who is evaluating the teacher. He suggested that Principal Raposo - and all schools - make sure that his faculty knows exactly what is expected for each of the standards so that the evaluations are meaningful. He wished him luck.

Mayor asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak and there was not. He noted there was a motion made and seconded and asked for a vote.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

4. Vote to Approve: The addition of two English language learner teaching positions for 2015-2016

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Costa: To approve the addition of two English language learner teaching positions for 2015-16.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

5. Vote to Approve: The consolidation of the Liaison and Team Liaison/Team Facilitator job descriptions into one new job description for an Evaluation Team Chair (ETC)

Ms. Medeiros explained that the rationale was that they had two separate job descriptions and depending on when a person was hired they fell under a certain title which is confusing for school staff, parents, advocates and DCF workers. The rationale was simply to call in an Evaluation Team Chair for what it is. The job descriptions are very similar. She noted they are not asking for any new positions and it is still an FREA teaching position.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Andrade: To approve the consolidation of the Liaison and Team Liaison/Team Facilitator job descriptions into one new job description for an Evaluation Team Chair.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

6. Vote to Approve: District Student Handbook

Ms. Medeiros explained that all three handbooks were reviewed by Attorney Michael Joyce and he made sure policies were aligned across all three handbooks to School Committee policy, laws, and regulations, and were aligned compatibly. She also updated the bullying policy which was approved back in the fall and had not been updated in the previous handbook. It was updated in this handbook as well as the vision that Committee members approved during the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept the District Student Handbook.

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley during discussion noted that on Pg. 79 (drop off procedures for bus students); the first one says when a student leaves a school on a bus it is the responsibility of the bus driver to make sure each student is met by an adult who is responsible for the child. She questioned that because she knew there were different age/grade levels. She thought grade 3 and up did not need to be met by an adult so she wondered why it was worded like that universally in the district handbook.

Ms. Medeiros said that she could clarify that. They did not change anything that was already in the handbook that didn't pertain to laws and regulations.

Mrs. Panchley said it is a long handbook and she may not have picked up on it last year but it got her attention this year. She knows bus issues and drop-offs have come to the Committee's attention a few times in her short time on the School Committee and she thought if it were clarified it would lessen any confusion.

Ms. Medeiros agreed.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

Mr. Martins asked if she was prepared to uphold the provisions of the two handbooks for Durfee and Resiliency Preparatory School.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that those would be presented after the K-12 District Handbook.

Mr. Martins said OK but he had the same question the district student handbook and asked if they were prepared to uphold the provisions of the student handbook.

Ms. Medeiros asked if he meant as far as the policies.

Mr. Martins said yes.

Ms. Medeiros responded yes.

Mr. Martins explained complaints he had received regarding dress code issues etc. that were not being enforced. He wanted to know if they were going to uphold the provisions in the handbook to everyone involved.

Ms. Medeiros said that most of the dress code is in the Durfee and RPS handbook.

Mr. Martins said he did not want to hear any more of this and will tell teaches to file a grievance and he will uphold the grievance because he feels it is wrong if the administrator is not willing to challenge a student and then expects the teacher to challenge the students. Policy handbooks are to be upheld by everyone and he did not have a problem with that as long as that was understood.

Mayor Sutter thought the policy on when to stay home regarding fevers was relatively stringent.

Ms. Medeiros said that those were general guidelines for parents.

Mayor Sutter asked the difference between a general guideline and a policy.

Ms. Medeiros explained that a policy is guided by laws and regulations and is generated through School Committee approval. Those were just guidelines for parents; there are no laws and regulations when a child should stay home or not. For medical purposes it is really up to parents to make that decision.

Mayor Sutter understood and asked how the general guidelines are conveyed to parents.

Ms. Medeiros said they would be conveyed through the handbook which everyone receives a copy of at the beginning of the school year and the handbooks are also posted online.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any follow up to maximize the chances that parents were going to be reading the handbook.

Ms. Medeiros said that there is a sign off for the handbook at the back.

Mayor asked how it is conveyed to students.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

Ms. Medeiros said a lot of the guidelines are reviewed at the open house at the beginning of the year at each school. It is also conveyed through teacher meetings with students at the beginning of the year about expectations for school.

Mayor Sutter was not sure if he missed it but asked the guideline with respect to a teacher's responsibility if a teacher notices that a student is ill.

Ms. Medeiros said that their teachers are really good about it and would send the child to the nurse's office or contact an administrator that they had concerns. The child would go to the nurse and they would go from there.

Mayor Sutter asked what would happen if the home was a single-parent home or both parents worked.

Ms. Medeiros explained that the parents provide as part of a profile at the beginning of the year information on emergency contacts. If a nurse felt a child needed to go home, the nurse would go through those emergency contacts and contact the next person on the list. If they are unable to get someone then the child has to stay in the nurse's office and be monitored there.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any other questions and there were none.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
-------------------	-------------------	---------------

7. Presentation and Vote to Approve: Physical Education Waiver Policy

Superintendent explained that this was briefly mentioned at the July School Committee meeting regarding whether or not the policy around permitting students to waive their physical education requirement should be reviewed, revised, or even take place. Durfee High School has created a number of new physical education and health courses in order to encourage students to participate in physical education. She explained that they have their typical PE courses but the department also designed new courses such as stress management. In presenting the waiver to the School Committee, they would like it to be viewed as an exception rather than the norm for students who may have difficulty fitting in their academic requirements. For example, there may be a student under the new schedule that in order to participate in physical education would have to take one less core class; however, that student may be an athlete and that would be a scenario where they could consider waiving the physical education requirement.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown made a correction to the memo that the Committee received. She had indicated to them that the class-size would be an average of 27 without the two additional PE teaches that the high school is requesting which is an error on her part. The class size of 27 would be with the two additional physical education teachers at the high school that they are looking for. Mr. Bustin had put together for a cover memo detailing the physical education standards, laws, number of students, etc. as well as a draft of what the waiver contract would look like. She called their attention to the first paragraph leading into it and noted again that this was a draft for School Committee discussion but the purpose of the policy was to expand access and opportunity for students to participate in approved rigorous academic courses and who also have a scheduling conflict that would not allow room for a physical education class. That is the scenario in which they present the waiver to them for discussion and review.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Martins asked if it was possible using the rules that they have there that a student does not take any physical education.

Mr. Bustin said it was possible if they are involved in an MIAA sanctioned athletic team.]

Mr. Martins asked if that was every term.

Mr. Bustin said no; they were just going to play one sport during the school year.

Mr. Martins clarified that it would be just one sport every school year such as the fall sport of soccer.

Mr. Bustin said that they would have to complete the season in good standing and then they could qualify.

Mr. Martins questioned the fall season starting in September and ending just before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bustin said they looked at the number of hours that the student is at practice time compared to the number of hours in PE. That would fulfill their requirement. He noted it would only be for a conflict in their schedule and explained that the way the schedule is now at Durfee, the new five block schedule allows for a lot of electives so they do not foresee this being an issue with very many students. Having a red day and a black day with the new schedule allows for students to take many electives which was one of the benefits for physical education.

Mr. Martins asked about other extracurricular activities besides sports.

Mr. Bustin said no right now it just applies to NJ ROTC which can fulfill their PE requirement and always has been the case. The other sanctioned events (sports teams) are listed on the waiver form.

Mr. Martins asked if this would not run afoul of the law that requires four years of PE.

Mr. Bustin said no the law says that school officials have the discretion to determine whether and how a student, particularly at the high school level, will meet the physical activity such as participation in an interscholastic sport.

Mr. Martins yielded and there was no further discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the Physical Education Waiver Policy

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

8. Vote to Approve: Durfee High School Attendance Policy

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the Durfee High School Attendance Policy.

Discussion

Mr. Hart said he had a couple questions but asked Ms. Fogarty to go ahead with her presentation.

Ms. Fogarty believed they had all received a packet that they provided and explained that they were looking to revamp their policy. With the restructuring at the high school, they felt it was a good time for them to take a look at some of the things that were not working as well as they had hoped for.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

They looked at their attendance policy knowing that they have reached 89% attendance last school year and pretty much the year before that so they wanted to take a step back and look at a policy that would provide more supports for students and not be so much reactive but more proactive. They feel that the policy they are presenting to them tonight does that for them.

Mr. Hart said he has some pretty alarming stats regarding the absenteeism. He has data for seniors who graduated and 102 seniors were absent between 10 and 20 times. He asked if she had those statistics.

Mrs. Fogarty said she did not have the seniors' statistics but explained that they are looking at supporting their current juniors who will be seniors. She noted the absences were broken down into three tiers and explained them.

Mr. Hart was alarmed at how many times students were out. He also asked about the grading and students receiving an F6 (64). He asked if there was anyone who had an absence of more than six times.

Mrs. Fogarty responded absolutely.

Mr. Hart asked to explain.

Mrs. Fogarty said that is what is driving them to look at this right now. If they look at the Class of 2018 they have 171 students who were absent between 10 and 19 times for the year (tier 1 students). For their tier 2 students in that same class they had 127 who fell into the 20-34 absences range and then there were 66 tier 3 chronic students who had 35 or more absences.

She continued that the trend that they are seeing as they look at their incoming eighth-graders is that they are already looking at 148 students coming to them (20% of the incoming class) as chronic attendance offenders. They need to attack it as they are coming up as freshmen so they have a fighting chance when they move up the ladder as sophomores, juniors, and seniors. She agreed that it is alarming.

Mr. Hart agreed and thought they had the right resources in place for this year with the Freshman Academy model from Lowell. He was just really taken aback by the number of absences.

Mrs. Fogarty said it is staggering and once they get to be 60 and over it is a battle to get them into school and have them understand that the days count and if they are absent they are missing that quality instruction piece. They're going to have supports in place to attack it. They felt their policy in the past was a little more punitive and let the structures and systems in place and now they have built something where they feel they may have a fighting chance with them. Their focus is on the incoming freshman class right now.

Mr. Hart agreed and thought it all happens from home and getting everybody involved. He thought it would be a big task and has been for a long time but they are alarming stats and he hopes it improves. He wished them luck and thanked her for her time.

Mr. Martins questioned family vacations.

Mrs. Fogarty said they have been built into the calendar during February, April, Christmas, etc.

Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee – Monday, August 24, 2015

Mr. Martins asked if a family vacation planned at a time that does not coincide with the school vacation was an unexcused absence.

Ms. Fogarty said it was unexcused.

Motion Mr. Martins that family vacation also be included in the excused absence list. There was no second motion failed.

Mayor asked if there were any other questions

Mr. Martins said he did not have any other questions but thought there would be a lot of angry parents but the wisdom of the SC is such that it's too bad.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

9. Vote to Approve: B.M.C. Durfee High School and Resiliency Preparatory School handbooks

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the B.M.C. Durfee High School and Resiliency Preparatory School handbooks.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

10. Presentation: AIP presentation and quarterly report

Dr. Roy said they have the most recent version of the accelerated improvement plan in their packets. They had been released from the DESE and can monitor themselves in terms of the accelerated improvement plan. They have four strategic objectives. The first is how they use central office resources to support schools in a differentiated way. The second strategic objective is more about the districts systems that will really support all schools like district curriculum teams, district networks. The third one is the social-emotional learning work that they do and the last one is around building teacher capacity. What they see in their packets are some of the benchmarks that they used for this quarter to monitor their progress.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any questions.

Motion: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa to except the AIP quarterly report.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

Mrs. Panchley asked if they will be working again to come up with the four objectives for the next school year noting they will not necessarily be the four listed and the School Committee would have to approve them. She asked if that was correct or if they carry into the next school year. She thought they would have to go through this process again because this was the ending cycle of the school year.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct and explained that some may carry over and some may not which will be a discussion they will have with the School Committee. This is the closure of AIP for the year they just completed and in September or October they will bring back another.

Mrs. Panchley said she just wanted to comment the second objective was good and she would be looking and hoping that they use that again. She thought having that data presented to them as the

school year went on and seeing the benchmarks was helpful. To her that is the meat of why they are there and it gives them an overall picture if schools are meeting what they are supposed to. Regarding objective number three, she knows they have been working really hard on the Parent Academy and it will be a big piece. Whether it is an objective for next year or not she thought the Academy would really be pushing that along. In the last objective they talked about survey data and she requested that any surveys on teacher retention, etc. be shared with the Committee once that is compiled because it is something the Committee is concerned about.

She added that looking at the Superintendent's formative evaluation information, it is something the District Capacity Project is working on so thought it would be great if any information they haven't gotten could be shared with the Committee.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown pointed out that they discovered when Jocelyn completed the area for teacher turnover rate that it was significantly lower than what was posted on the Department of Education's website. When they asked why there was a discrepancy it was pointed out that DESE calculates it differently. In a scenario where they had a teacher of record who exited for whatever reason and they had a long-term sub from December to March and then another sub from March to June, the department calculates that as three different turnovers. They do that to all districts and it is not unique to Fall River; however, when human resources calculates their turnover they do a straight calculation and do not count subs moving in and out as DESE does.

11. Discussion: Superintendent's mid-year progress report

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that Committee members received a packet from her with information. This is mid-year where they discuss progress on the four goals in her annual plan which were mutually agreed upon and voted on at the March meeting. Her cycle changed and runs October to October. As the School Committee approved timeline for the Superintendent's evaluation states, she is to prepare a progress report on the goals that have been in her plan to be discussed with the School Committee at the mid-year point at a public meeting. She is to present the report to Committee and the School Committee in turn reviews the report, offers feedback, and discusses progress and any possible mid-year cycle adjustments. She noted that everyone in the evaluation system across the state is subject to this process.

Madame Superintendent continued that she captured the four approved goals as well as artifacts. The artifacts are representative examples and do not capture everything but if the Committee needed more information on any specific piece of evidence or goal she would be happy to provide that. The mid-cycle is an opportunity for feedback and there is no rating system at this time for the mid-cycle; that comes at the end of the year with the summative.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown briefly walked the Committee through the four goals.

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Martins said noted that the font in some of the artifacts was very small and he had trouble reading them.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that she could print it out differently so members could read it more clearly.

Mr. Martins asked the Chair if this was an update only and not an approval of the data.

Mayor said it was for information only and Mr. Martins yielded.

Mrs. Panchley asked to make a couple of comments because she thought this was the time for feedback. She noted they did not have the PPI data yet which is a big part of the first criteria but that it looked like the benchmarks and the steps have been taken that were agreed upon with the School Committee. When the PPI data is available, they will be looking at that as a Committee. The second one she commented that some of the examples weren't definitive whether or not they would be provided or not. She is hoping that when the summative is done they will be able to see a breakdown of the percentages of where the principals fell (with redacted names) but some evidence of what feedback from her to a principal might look like. On the third one she was looking at the AP scores and the high school has gone beyond the ten percent increase. She was interested to see by subject but was able to look back into an email and find that data. She added that some subject areas did phenomenal and she is sure the high school and Superintendent are aware of the areas that need some improvement as far as the AP scores.

Overall, everything they agreed upon there is evidence that it is being done so she doesn't think there is any negative feedback at this time. In a couple of months when they get more of that PPI data and are able to look at more concretely at how some of it has panned out they might be able to discuss it. They have been able to see how some of it has turned out such as the AP and putting in the application for the Environmental Science Program. Different things they agreed upon have been done and have increased. Overall, she expected that the evaluation would be good on her end.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any further discussion and there was none.

12. Update: The Parent Center re-location

Mr. Martins said for a point of information it seemed as though this was already approved when it was not and it looked like they were going out for bids and involving the purchasing agent from the city when it hadn't been discussed or approved as something they are going to do. He wondered if they were waiting for that information to make that decision or if it was already an approved thing that they have not voted on.

Mayor Sutter thought Superintendent Mayo-Brown could clarify.

Madame Superintendent explained that the RFP was written in a way that the Committee could reject all bids. She articulated to the School Committee that the recommendation is to have the Parent Information Center removed out of a school setting for the safety and security of the students in their buildings. They do not know where to recommend the relocation to until they have some options for the School Committee to consider. The RFP is out and sealed bids are expected to be submitted through the city's purchasing agent by September 14. After that, they would present to the Committee and they can then decide to move forward with it or not at that time.

Mr. Martins asked if there were other options. He recalls the last time this was discussed that it was considered to rent 10 Purchase Street which is the O'Journal building.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was briefly discussed and then they decided it was in the best interest of the School Committee to know all available options and see what the most suitable location would be so they went out for a formal process to see what comes in.

Mr. Martins said he would want to know who owns the buildings as well as other things.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed.

Mr. Martins thought they could still keep it at Durfee by using the Tradewinds parking lot and entrance noting the grass area could be paved to allow for more parking and there is security already stationed there. He also thought it would bring more patronage to the restaurant. He wondered if this option had been fully looked at.

Madame Superintendent said that Mr. Coogan could go into details of that and it was also the Committee's prerogative to look at that as an option as well once all bids were back.

Mr. Martins said he wants to consider all options that would not cost money.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she understood but noted when they spoke on the topic at the July meeting she believe he made a motion to have it in a school setting and the motion was not seconded so they continued to move forward all in the spirit of providing the Committee with options. Her recommendation was that a Parent Center is not best to have in a school. She would defer to Mr. Coogan to what has been in place and the set up in terms of parents having to be escorted and signed in. It is a whole process and there have been strangers in the building with students in unauthorized locations. She wants to avoid that situation completely and to her that involves getting those kinds of centers out of schools.

Mr. Martins said of course safety is always paramount but questioned how much they really needed to ensure a reasonable level of safety. He does not mind getting the information from outsiders as far as places that would be rentable but he also does not want to make it look like that is what they are going to do when they have not had a vote on what is going to be done. He asked Mr. Coogan if arrangements could be made so that there is an entrance by the Tradewinds restaurant for the purpose of housing the Parent Center.

Mr. Coogan said he would propose that that particular arrangement would not be the optimal solution only because the daycare center is right near that area as well as well as the Tradewinds restaurant. That is already creating traffic in that area and parking is very limited on that side of the building. He explained that the purpose of the RFP (Request for Proposal) was to solicit potential proposals for lease options for the school department. They have pointed out the right to reject any and all proposals. If the Committee wished that they go back and consider other options such as preparing Durfee in some other way, they would have to weigh the costs of preparing those options against the potential for lease at an extra location. Mr. Coogan said there would be costs associated with Mr. Martins' suggestion of paving at the Tradewinds entrance. Part of the consideration process when they receive proposals is to look at whether one of those proposals is more advantageous in the current arrangement or some option of the current arrangement. They will bring the options back and compare them for the benefit of the Committee.

Mr. Martins asked if he knew the approximate per square foot price for commercial space in the City of Fall River.

Mr. Coogan said he would not want to set a price at this point because he is booking for the best price and does not want to say what he is entertaining.

Mr. Martins thought it would be somewhere around \$32 per square foot and Mr. Cogan thought that would be on the higher end of what is available in the city.

Mr. Martins asked how many square feet they were looking for.

Mr. Coogan said the Parent Center is approximately 3,000 square feet right now. Within the RFP they have asked for a range between 3,000 to 6,000 depending on what is available.

Mr. Martins said this was for discussion purposes only so he yielded.

Mr. Coogan said as soon as they got some submissions they can begin the evaluation process and report back to the Committee.

Mrs. Panchley thanked Mr. Coogan for sharing the RFP with them and recalled that the Committee had voted at the last meeting to go in this direction where they were not committing to anything but asked him to go out for an RFP and bring that information back to them so that they can make the important decision. She sees that the bids are due on September 14 which is the date of the next meeting and she thought that they would not have time to discuss it then.

Mr. Coogan explained that they had to follow the guidelines set forth by Mr. McCoy's office for purposes of posting, advertising, and complying with a real estate RFP so it back to them into a corner but as soon as they can get the process rolling, they would get back to them with the information.

Mrs. Panchley said she appreciated that and believed that was the will of the Committee at the last meeting.

Mr. Maynard asked Mr. Coogan if they were going to take the lowest bidder.

Mr. Coogan responded that they would be looking for the lowest bid; however, it spells out within the RFP that price will not be the only consideration. Other factors would be considered such as convenience, location, ease of access for the public, parking facilities, etc. The low bid may not potentially be the most advantageous with all things considered.

Mr. Maynard said he would like to take a walk through when it is decided. He also wanted to know if there would be tenants in the building and what type of insurance would be on the building.

Mr. Coogan said all that information would be great to share with the Committee and they are looking for that type of information on the submissions.

13. **Report:** Progress of the Committee addressing its goals, *as presented by Mr. Gabriel Andrade, Evaluation/AIP Subcommittee Chair.*

Mr. Andrade said the last time the Committee met he had been in contact with Mike Goodman at UMass Dartmouth and they had agreed that he would make a presentation to the Committee at the September meeting. He will remind Mr. Goodman of the meeting.

14. **Vote to Approve:** Budget Transfers, *as presented by as presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the budget transfers.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

15. **Vote to Approve:** Revolving Accounts, *as presented by as presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To approve the revolving accounts.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Panchley updated the Committee that the Finance Subcommittee had met prior to the regular meeting to discuss the \$1.3 million in additional funds that they will be receiving from Title I and recommendations. The Superintendent had emailed members regarding some funds that were being lost in different areas.

- 21st-century grant funding which would be a loss of \$260,000 but there was some carryover money so they are looking for \$190,000 in that area to cover some monies needed for extended learning time at Morton and some monies needed for afterschool programming at Morton, Talbot, and Watson.
- There is \$125,000 that they committed already at the previous meeting to the Letourneau Elementary School for their extended learning time request which was matching money that they needed for the extended learning time grant that they had received.
- There was some reduction in the state budget as far as the extended learning time at the ELT schools and Kuss Middle School requires \$75,000 to continue their extended learning time without any cuts in what they're providing.

Mrs. Panchley said that the total of those items would require \$390,000 of the \$1.3 million in the Title I funds. The subcommittee did refer that to the Committee as a whole and they discussed with the Superintendent looking at the other \$910,000. It was discussed that they would be reaching out to teachers in the lower elementary grades to see what their preference would be as far as student to adult ratio. They cannot open classes right now until they get a school like Westall open but they can reduce ratios in a way they think is most advantageous.

Mrs. Panchley noted that it was cautioned by Mr. Almeida that they should not to use all of the \$1.3 million for reoccurring expenses like salaries because funding has been known to decrease by up to \$500,000. If they used all of the money for salaries and then the money came in less the following year(s) they could build a structural deficit. The Superintendent's office will also be reaching out to schools to see what kind of funds they may be looking at as one time finds whether it be for technology, computer programs, books, etc. She will be letting them know that there may be a small amount of money available to each school to help guide them in where it will be best spent.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Andrade: To approve the \$390,000 for the areas that were previously discussed.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

New Business

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked for clarification and a possible vote regarding the an unresolved item from the July meeting in regard to the high school's request for two additional physical education teachers. She explained that if the PE teachers were not approved by the Committee they can anticipate that those class sizes would be above the average of the 27 that she noted. She needed a

sense if the Committee would support the two additional FTEs or if they wanted them to come back in September with this item.

Mr. Costa said his concern was whether or not they had a grasp of how many students would actually execute the exemption waiver and if it would make a difference in the total class size. If the numbers show that they have to make additional offerings available and they are going to need the two extra PE teachers, then they either need to hire two PE teachers or have class sizes that exceed 27 in physical education. He said he is not necessarily opposed and it seems as though Mr. Bustin has done a review of the number of students executing the waiver based on what he knows from students who participate in MIAA sanctioned sports, so he would be willing to support the additional two PE teachers. He thought having PE offerings with more than 27 students becomes challenging and in some cases unsafe for the PE teachers in charge of a class that size. If the administration is comfortable that there is going to be a need at the high school for two additional positions then he would support that.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the two positions for physical education for the high school.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

New Business

Mr. Martins said there was discussion and a vote at the last meeting to have a meetings start at 5:30 PM. He had some trouble hearing and voted in favor of that. He would like to reconsider his vote since he was in the majority. He felt starting at 5:30 PM was early and also made it difficult to hold subcommittee meetings prior to the regular meeting and would be too difficult for parental involvement as well. If the Committee wanted to maintain this he would like to reconsider vote and be recorded as a “no”.

Mayor Sutter said that he liked the idea of a 5:30 start time noting with the exception of one meeting he has chaired, there has not been one that ended before 10:30 PM. He thought if they had early morning appointments the next day it gets to be problematic. He would strenuously oppose Mr. Martins' motion. He thought that a 5:30 start time in view of how long the meetings last is absolutely needed and he urged his colleagues to support that.

There was no further discussion.

Mayor asked if they needed a vote and Attorney Assad advised that there was no second to the motion.

Mr. Martins asked about changing his vote to show objection.

Mr. Costa thought Mr. Martins ultimate goal was to have the meeting times changed back to 6:30 PM but wondered if he was more interested if that was not going to be the case to have the record reflect that he is opposed to starting at 5:30 PM. If that is the case, he will second the motion.

Mr. Martins said either they go back to a starting time of 6:30 or if the Committee does not wish to do so and wants to keep it at 5:30 PM then he wants to change his vote to a no.

Mr. Costa said for the purposes of Mr. Martins vote to reconsider the start time of 5:30 PM as opposed to 6:30 PM he will second his motion.

Mayor Sutter said it was purely that he wanted to change his vote and asked if that was what Mr. Costa was seconding.

Mr. Costa agreed.

Mrs. Panchley questioned if they were voting to change it back to 6:30 PM.

Mr. Maynard said he was elected to show up to the School Committee meetings and he does not care what time it is, he will be there.

Mayor Sutter said Mr. Maynard was going to be asked to vote on his preference.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Costa: To change the meeting start times back to 6:30 PM.

A roll call showed:

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

1 was in favor (Mr. Martins)

6 were opposed

Motion FAILED

New Business

Mr. Costa said he had one more item for new business and asked through the Chair to the superintendent if she could give the Committee an update on the status of the Kuss Middle School principal without going into specifics.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that they had posted the position and have had a number of interviews. There was a Kuss team that was put together to participate in the interview process. They are still in process but she feels confident that she will be able to notify the Committee by the end of the week in terms of what the plan is for 2015-2016.

Mr. Costa said they obviously want the best for that position and that takes time to vet the individuals which he fully understands but it is getting close to the opening of the school year and Kuss has been a school where they have made significant gains going from a Level 4 school and coming out of that status. He hopes to have someone in place who can open up the school year and have enough time to understand Kuss before they open the doors. He asked if there were any other principal positions that were not filled.

Superintendent responded no, Kuss was the last one.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any other new business.

New Business

Mr. Hart said he had emailed the Mayor and Superintendent and was hoping that at some point they could bring back the alternative and special education subcommittee as part of their group. He wondered if that was possible.

Superintendent explained for the Mayor's background information only that the School Committee had voted to fold that into the instructional subcommittee.

At 11:02PM the Committee reconvened. A roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract with the clerical association.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract as negotiated between the Fall River Public Schools and Susan Steen.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: To deny FREA grievance 7-15 with modifications.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To enter into negotiations for a successor contract with Meg Mayo-Brown, Superintendent of Schools.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor 2 were opposed (Mr. Andrade/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the contract with Ivone Medeiros as negotiated.

No Discussion

A roll call showed:

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

6 were in favor

1 was opposed (Mr. Costa)

Motion passed passed

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

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services