

## REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 10, 2013

6:30 PM

B.M.C. Durfee High School

Nagle Auditorium

360 Elsbree Street

Fall River, MA 02720

### AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Sub-Committee Reports
5. Superintendent's Report
6. Approval of Minutes
7. Request for Executive Session  
M.G.L. c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3)
  - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, and FRAA.
8. Committee of the Whole
9. New Business: Topics for discussion that could not reasonably be anticipated by the Chairman forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting
10. Addendum

## **MINUTES**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

At 6:50 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Special Meeting Public Hearing regarding the Fall River Innovation Academy (FRIA) by noting that there was a sign up sheet at the podium and two people had signed up to speak.

#### **Dr. Jack Sbrega, President Bristol Community College**

Dr. Sbrega stated that he is excited about this innovation because they have a healthy and robust Dual Enrollment Program and a healthy and promising Gateway to College Program. BCC would like to do anything they can to eliminate barriers as students progress. He said that he is very much in favor of something like FRIA and wanted to commit to the Superintendent their support.

He went on to explain that in supporting FRIA he must state that they are not getting into any debates the School Department/Committee might have about location, preparation, admissions, etc. They are more concerned with the end product/students who will be deemed ready for college work. BCC would be in control of the BCC courses.

#### **Mr. Alferos, Citizen**

He stated that he had several questions the first being what grade the Innovation School would begin with.

Mayor Flanagan asked the Superintendent to answer Mr. Alferos's questions.

Superintendent: She responded that it would open with one hundred 7<sup>th</sup> graders and one hundred 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mr. Alferos asked if she could explain the difference between this program and what there is at Durfee.

Superintendent: Currently at Durfee there are dual-enrollment classes with BCC and students are recommended for those courses as they meet with guidance counselors. There are also advanced placement classes that students take at Durfee that are eligible for college credit as well if they have a qualifying score. The proposed model at FRIA begins with students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to prepare them for those types of dual-enrollment courses so it begins earlier. There are also wrap-around services/close work with the students and their families to support them through the process.

Mr. Alferos: Would FRIA give the same programs given at Durfee?

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Superintendent: No, not necessarily. She offered to give Mr. Alferos a copy of the presentation that was handed out and presented to the School Committee at the informational meeting. She explained that a standard schedule for the student focuses on the core academics and then as the student starts to take college courses, the student starts to narrow in on their area of interest.

Mr. Alferos: He confirmed that the budget was approved at the previous meeting. He then asked if the new school was included in the budget.

Superintendent: What was included in the budget is what currently is budgeted for Henry Lord. As they start to assign those students to other middle schools, the teachers/money would follow those teachers to their designated schools. "So what I have committed to for the Committee is that this will be a fiscal neutral budget. In other words, we won't be coming to the Committee to ask for additional funding in order to launch the Innovation Academy."

Mr. Alferos then questioned colleges taking transfer credits explaining he knew someone who applied to UMass Dartmouth and was told she would have to take her BCC courses over again.

Superintendent: BCC credits are college credits and would be on the student's transcript as such. Our understanding is there is an articulation agreement between BCC and our State university system that those college credits are accepted.

Mr. Alferos asked if there would be any layoffs from Durfee if FRIA passes.

Superintendent: She responded that they were not laying off teachers to start up the school.

He then asked if teachers would be transferred from Durfee to FRIA.

Superintendent: She explained that if the school is approved, there would be vacancies and current teachers would be encouraged to apply.

Mr. Alferos concluded by asking rhetorically "what happens if the school fails" and that it worries him.

Dr. Sbrega stood and asked if he could respond to Mr. Alferos's public concerns regarding the transfer of credits.

Mayor Flanagan agreed.

Dr. Sbrega explained that they have a number of articulation agreements but some courses would not transfer if it is not in the same program (i.e. engineering at BCC wouldn't transfer to art at UMD). He said he would be happy to talk to Mr. Alferos privately to discuss the courses he spoke of.

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Mayor Flanagan asked, for a point of clarification, if a student takes Western Civilization at BCC, UMass Dartmouth would accept that course?

Dr. Sbrega said that was correct. He noted that the beginning courses will transfer (English, math, history, sociology) it's only when you get into the more specific categories that you want to be sure before signing up.

Mayor Flanagan asked if they have people at BCC who will work with students in their first year of BCC who know already what they want to do/where they want to attend beyond BCC.

Dr. Sbrega: "Yes. We have dedicated transfer officers and dedicated advisors."

Mr. Martins asked if he could ask Dr. Sbrega a question before the Public Hearing closed.

Mayor Flanagan agreed if Dr. Sbrega did not mind.

Dr. Sbrega agreed.

Mr. Martins said it was his understanding that Dr. Sbrega supports the concept of an early college high school and didn't care about location as long as the students that go into his classes are college ready.

Dr. Sbrega replied that that statement essentially captures the spirit of his position and that he respects the Superintendent's work and the Public School's and Committee's work in arranging the academy. He doesn't want to say he doesn't care but that it is not BCC's business. They are only concerned with students being college ready.

Mr. Martins: So if the program was housed at Durfee High School and the concept was approved there, we would still have students prepared to go on to secondary work.

Dr. Sbrega responded that that was not a question for me. That gets into the budget, resources, etc. He was willing to talk to the Superintendent about the product coming out of the Innovation Academy.

Mr. Martins: Just so that I am perfectly clear, that indeed where it is housed, as long as the students are prepared to do the work, BCC supports the concept of an early college high school.

Dr. Sbrega said he felt that was a fair statement but he doesn't want to get in the mix about location. He feels that is an FRPS and School Committee decision. Their only concern would be college readiness.

At 7:10 PM, Mayor Flanagan closed the public hearing.

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

At 7:10 PM, Mayor Flanagan asked for a roll call for attendance for the open meeting. The roll call showed all members were present.

A salute to the Flag followed.

## **CITIZENS INPUT**

### **Heather Smith, Second Grade Teacher, Greene Elementary School**

She has been teaching in the system for the past eight years and has been reflecting on her teaching at the end of each day. She asked that the Committee also reflect on some things over the coming summer months. She is concerned, speaking for herself, about the lack of support/intervention/help in the classroom. She noted that she currently has 28 students and does everything on her own. She noted that they have 6 benchmarks in the last 30 days of school. She feels there is a need to support the kids because they become discouraged with coming to school because of all the testing. She gave a snapshot of her day to give some of her perspective. She added that she was not there to complain but wants people to understand the lack of support/help.

Mayor Flanagan asked if Ms. Smith had spoken to her principal regarding her thoughts.

Ms. Smith said she had but felt it had to be talked about with the District since there is a schedule that they follow (testing). She feels she – and all teachers – are working hard but that it is hard to keep up with the lack of help.

Mayor Flanagan noted they are all working hard and commended the Greene Elementary for being taken off Level 3 status. He also mentioned that there were going to be math and reading positions posted for the upcoming school year to give teachers more assistance. He advised Ms. Smith to stay engaged and if she felt like she was hitting a wall with her school principal, to speak to the Superintendent or the Committee. He added that the more input they get from the classrooms; the better they can make their decisions in allocating the budget.

### **Elizabeth Hajder, Teacher**

Ms. Hajder approached the podium along with several other FREA members stating they were there to present the Committee with a gift. “Fall River teachers care deeply about the academic success and the well-being of their students. As a result we often reach into our own pockets to purchase classroom supplies as well as coats, hats, food, etc. to help meet the basic needs of our students. The FREA recently polled its members to see just how much they have spent on their classrooms this year. After compiling data, we are please to present the Committee with a check made out to the students of Fall River. Our generous contribution this year came to \$483,060.”

Mayor Flanagan asked Ms. Hajder if they knew what the money was spent on.

She responded that they had asked FREA members to give a ball park figure of what they had spent just this year on things like school supplies, things for their students' families. "We noticed at the elementary schools, the spending was much higher than secondary levels."

Mayor Flanagan thanked the FREA on behalf of the entire city. He added that he has heard countless stories of teachers that have had to reach into their own pockets and that it does not go unnoticed. "I have gone on record many times saying that teaching is one of the noblest professions one can enter into."

Paula Kaylor, FREA President

Ms. Kaylor read the following statement:

It has come to the attention of the FREA that the Fall River Innovation Academy has gone through some substantial changes in the last few days in an attempt to fend off mounting criticisms. If it is, in fact, true that requirements related to student reading level, residence within the City and family financial situation have been relaxed or eliminated, then the FREA needs to be apprised of any and all such changes and it must be brought back to the negotiation table for further discussion. Furthermore, with these changes on the table, FREA asks for the benefit of all, what makes the proposed FRIA an innovation school other than the autonomies it seeks from the FREA collective bargaining agreement currently in place and standard curricula practices? It should also be recognized that insulating teachers at the FRIA from bumping in the displaced teacher process takes away School Committee rights under higher ed. It appears from our perspective that the FRIA has been railroaded through Committee without proper consideration or support. In addition, it has come to light that the \$1M promised at the outset to assist in funding has been reduced significantly to \$600K and the commitment from Connect EDU seems to have changed substantially as well. FREA encourages the creation of a state-of-the-art learning experience that is collaborative and targets those students within our City that need innovation the most. The Talbot Innovation Middle School is an example of district-wide collaboration. We can do this. We have the ability and those committed to the education of our young people to make this a positive experience. We urge the Fall River School Committee for the sake of our children and the future of our community to rethink this FRIA proposal and to vote no on it as it is presented.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as listed on the agenda but then stated it had come to his attention that the listed minutes were not available so they would move on.

**RECOGNITION AWARDS**

**Peaceful Coalition Group**  
B.M.C. Durfee High School

**Paul Leite**

School Adjustment Counselor, BMC Durfee High School

**Francesca Karam**

Parent Volunteer, Tansey Elementary School

**Jesse Sampson**

Physical Education Teacher, Letourneau Elementary School

**Tina Shorette**

Youth Connection

**Kate Politano** (not present)

Workforce Investment Board

**Patricia Diegel** (not present)

Program Manager, Junior Achievement of Southern Massachusetts

**William Crocker** (not present)

Teacher, Morton Middle School

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no subcommittee reports this evening.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent: She provided an update to the Committee (for informational purposes only) stating that the Innovation Planning Committee (comprised of eleven individuals) reconvened after the presentation the previous week to the School Committee to make some changes to the selection criteria so that no student would be excluded from applying to the lottery (detailed in the hand out provided to the Committee titled *Fall River Innovation Academy Student Selection Process*). The Planning Committee also voted to remove two other provisions – reading level and first-generation college. In addition, a phone survey to all households of current sixth and seventh graders was conducted over the weekend (put together by Aimee Bronhard and Brian Mikolazyk) to assess the level of interest in FRIA. The information the Superintendent sent to the Committee over the weekend indicated that approximately 336 households responded and 209 indicated their interest in FRIA. The data Ms. Bronhard has today from a second call to homes that had not responded showed 67% interest from 529 responses.

**DONATIONS**

Mayor Flanagan thanked the Superintendent and asked if there was a motion to accept all donations.

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

**All in favor**

**None opposed**

**Motion passed**

**TRAVEL**

Mayor Flanagan noted that there were a number of travel items listed on the agenda and asked if there was a motion to accept all travel as listed?

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all travel as listed.**

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Martins: He found as he was reading through the material that there were discrepancies in travel and had questions. He is willing to support all of them; however, the one listed for the Career Academy Grant to Orlando, FL. "What Career Academy is this going to be supporting?"

The Superintendent responded that Fall River was one of the recipients of a Career Academy Planning Grant which makes the District eligible this coming year to competitively apply for a Career Academy Grant upwards of \$500K. "So this planning grant is to set us up to apply for the larger grant." She explained that the request is for four individuals to attend the National Conference. It is not to plan for any number of specific academies; it is for them to go and hear more from the experts around the process for planning and for the District to continue to develop and expand the Career Academies.

Mr. Martins asked if it had anything to do with FRIA.

Superintendent: "No it does not."

Mr. Martins: He noted that there was a discrepancy with the Project Lead the Way date requests.

Superintendent: She responded that she was not seeing that in her material.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Martins to direct them to where he was looking.

Mr. Martins said he was looking at the travel requests; Core Training for Project Lead the Way.

The Superintendent apologized and said that she did not have that in her materials. She asked if he had it on his agenda or if he was seeing that in his binder.

Mr. Martins responded that it was in his binder.

Mayor Flanagan said he knew it was in the binder but asked Mr. Martins if it was on his agenda and asked him to direct them to where it was there.



Mr. Martins responded that it was not on his agenda but there were papers included in the binder that were not listed on the agenda.

Mayor Flanagan stated that as Chair of the School Committee he can only go by the agenda. If an item did not make the agenda it can not be approved even if it was in the briefing binder. Looking at the agenda several times, he does not see the request on the agenda that Mr. Martins is referring to so it cannot be approved even if there was an error of submission on the part of the requesting principal or secretary who put the binders together.

Mr. Martins said that he was all in favor of approving the items that were not on the agenda and noted there were other items in the binder that were not listed on the agenda (i.e. Mystic Aquarium, and the Breakers).

Mayor Flanagan responded again that if the travel items were not listed on the agenda, they could not be approved. "The motion was to approve the travel items as listed."

Mr. Martins noted that he was finding several more that were not listed on agenda and that it was getting late/if people needed to attend these travel requests he could support it but whichever ones the Chair would like to approve, he could.

Mayor Flanagan responded that one of two things had happened. There was an error on behalf of the secretary when preparing the agenda or what made it into the briefing book was not moving forward and did not make the agenda. Either way, the agenda was published and he can only go by what is on the agenda. "If those items that are not being approved; if they do need to go on those field trips, we can always call a special meeting and take them up at that time but by law I have to go by the agenda and that is what I am going to do. There is a motion on the floor to approve travel as listed. There was a second."

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

### **CONTRACTS**

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – no second: To accept all contracts as listed.**

Mr. Costa asked if he could ask a question through the Chair to the Superintendent and he agreed.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Costa: "Again, I noticed a contract out of the operating budget for FY14. In keeping with my previous comments, we are not spending money from a fiscal year that hasn't been approved yet. Is that correct?"

Superintendent: "That is correct Mr. Costa."

Mr. Costa: "I just ask then, why do they keep appearing before the Committee in this fiscal year?"

Superintendent: She asked if he was looking at X2/School Information System."

Mr. Costa responded that it was. He added that that was the only one coming out of the operational budget. The rest were grants.

Superintendent: She responded that her understanding was that they just need to begin to prepare the contract but that the contract would not be executed or presented for any signatures until the FY14 budget was approved. She added that Mr. Saunders could clarify if needed.

Mr. Costa said that he was okay with that process but it seems like more often this year than in previous years these contracts are coming to them to ask to enter into agreement with monies from fiscal years that haven't been approved yet/received funding for. "I don't mind the practice as long as it's dually noted that these contracts are not to be executed until the funding becomes available."

Superintendent: "Correct."

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To accept all contracts as listed.**

**All in favor**

**None opposed**

**Motion passed**

### **GRANTS**

Mayor Flanagan noted there was one grant listed (Career Academies-Planning) and asked if there was a motion to accept.

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To accept the grant as listed.**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Martins asked what academies the funding was going to be for.

Superintendent: She responded that it was the explanation she gave earlier during the travel conversation. "We are the recipients of the planning grant which required us to create a planning committee. The Workforce Investment Board is part of it. Mr. Marshall can probably explain better for you as he is leading the planning committee at this juncture."

Mr. Martins: “So this is planning for career academies that hopefully would be part of the U.S. Department of Education’s sixteen career clusters and potentially be Perkins approved vocational education, Chapter 74 approved programs?”

Superintendent: “Possibly Mr. Martins. It is primarily a planning grant to then go after the \$500K competitive grant which they expect to release in the fall.”

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*#1: Request for approval from the Committee for the Mastery School of Independent Learning.*

Mayor Flanagan noted they had been provided with material and asked if there was a motion to accept.

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To approve the Mastery School of Independent Learning.**

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Martins noted that Dr. Desmarais and others had put together a comprehensive binder with regards to its curriculum and purpose and he highly supports the endeavor and wished them well.

Mayor Flanagan added that he echoed Mr. Martins and said he had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Desmarais. The concept is to provide educational opportunities, especially to those students from grades up to third; that is the most critical time period to get them up and running in their mathematics and their reading. “To have a student at the levels they need to be coming out of the third grade makes their educational process so much easier when they move to the upper grades.” He thanked them for bringing the concept to the City of Fall River. He added that it is a privately funded school and no public funding will be used; however, State Law requires the School Committee to vote for approval.

**Roll Call:**

- Mr. Andrade: yes
- Mr. Costa: yes
- Mr. Hart: yes
- Mr. Martins: yes
- Mr. Maynard: yes
- Mr. Pavao: yes
- Mayor Flanagan: yes

**7 yays                      0 nays                      Motion passed**

*#2: Request to approve Spirit Wear for the Stone Therapeutic Day School.*

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve Spirit Wear for the Stone Therapeutic Day School.**

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

*#3: Request to approve B.M.C. Durfee High School’s Student Handbook as presented by Principal Marshall.*

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve B.M.C. Durfee High School’s Student Handbook as presented by Principal Marshall.**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked the Committee to turn to Page 10 and Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Marshall to come up to the podium.

Mr. Martins stated to Mr. Marshall, referring to Page 10, that he still has concerns with the lowest passing grade being a 60 and reading the definition of a D- being that the student doesn’t understand the material but getting the credit anyway. “Why do you feel that is necessary and should not be brought back to what it was a few years ago of a passing grade of a 65?”

Mr. Marshall asked for clarification of the question.

Mr. Martins: “Why is it necessary to keep the lowest passing grade as a 60 versus a 65 which it was 5 or 6 years ago?”

Mr. Marshall corrected saying it was 7 years ago.

Mr. Martins continued asking if they are moving toward raising the bar instead of just maintaining a low level when the definition for a 60 is that the student doesn’t really understand the material but gets the credit anyway.

Mr. Marshall responded that he didn’t understand and that he was referring to a definition that he was not familiar with. He did not see anything listed as a 60 equating to not understanding the material.

Mr. Martins said that he couldn’t find it either but in past booklets there was a written analysis of each letter grade and if Mr. Marshall would go back and look at that, a 60 doesn’t make any sense to him having that as the lowest passing grade. He noted that he understands that in order to get a diploma they have to pass the MCAS test but that is for ELA and math.

Mr. Marshall added that it was for science as well.

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Mr. Martins said he didn't realize science was a requirement as well; he thought it was a year or two away.

Mr. Marshall responded that it had been that way for the past couple of years.

Mr. Martins continued that they were maintaining a low standard when they are trying to increase the level of student learning. He said he would let that go and they could perhaps debate it privately.

He then asked to turn to Page 15 and referred to Tier 2 earn back. Mr. Martins felt that changing "perfect attendance" to "attendance" could be left up to interpretation and could cause some confusion or debate. He felt using the term "consecutive attendance" might be better.

Mr. Marshall explained that the intent was to get the students in the building and there 100% of the time but using the term perfect attendance was confusing the issue because they had students coming in a few minutes late and that was affecting their "perfect attendance." He further explained that when they were looking at perfect attendance, they were defining it as on time every single period. "So again, we have some students coming 7 miles to school in some cases and we want to try to account for that. I think our goal is to get them into the school as much as possible with our attendance rate hovering around 90%. We want to make sure the kids are getting what they need to get in the class. So that is why we took out the "perfect" to give us the ability to say okay the kids are in the building, let's work with them. We can add consecutive to address that, I would not be objected to that."

Mr. Martins: "I can understand your intent. I just don't think the wording supports that intent and is subject to interpretation."

Mr. Marshall agreed and said they would be willing to add "consecutive" and it would give them flexibility and make sure kids couldn't skip a day.

Mr. Martins then referred to Page 18/Tardiness to School: "Students who are chronically tardy to school. What is chronically? This is just something you can look at. If you are satisfied with that and don't see it as a student challenging it..."

Mr. Marshall: "...that is one of those things again, we look at attendance constantly and we want to have that flexibility to be working with the individual student rather than having a defined number. So chronic, I would define as 3 or more."

Mr. Martins: The next line down reads an F may be given for work missed during a cut class. It is not consistent if one teacher gives an F and the other teacher does not. "It's either shall be or will be, not may be." Mr. Martins moved on to Page 19, the age of majority, last sentence. A student with age majority must call him/herself in sick as early as possible on the day of

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absence. What time is as early as possible? If the student is getting up at 1PM, that is as early as possible for that student. Mr. Martins thought a stated time should be established.

Mr. Marshall agreed and thought it should reflect whatever the parent time is stated as.

Mr. Martins referred to Pages 26-29 regarding the dress code. "I am all for a dress code; however, is the school administration going to accept being a first line enforcement of the dress code or will I continue to receive phone calls from teachers complaining about administrators looking the other way but demanding that the faculty take action?"

Mr. Marshall: "So the question is, if I understand Mr. Martins, is that you are receiving phone calls from my teachers saying we are not enforcing the dress code, is that correct?"

Mr. Martins responded that the calls he receives are "I am standing along side of an administrator and a student violating the dress code walks by, we both see it and the administrator does nothing."

Mr. Marshall responded that his hope was that Mr. Martin's response would be to have that teacher address it to him which is protocol. His second response was that they do reinforce the dress code. "If you look at the tapes in the TV studio, I am on there talking about the dress code. Yes, everybody in that building is responsible for enforcing the dress code and if there is someone who is not following it, I would hope it would be addressed to me."

Mr. Martins closed with stating that those were his concerns. "You can put them in because you are the one who is going to be dealing with it or not; but when I do get the calls, I will give you a call."

Mr. Marshall responded that he would appreciate that.

Mr. Costa referred to attendance on Page 15 and asked how they are determining excused and unexcused absences? He asked Mr. Marshall to explain the criteria being used.

Mr. Marshall responded that the different things listed on Page 16 are considered.

Mr. Costa: "Who is looking at those? Is it the offices? "

Mr. Marshall: "Yes, the offices."

Mr. Costa: "Because I can tell you as a parent who received an automated phone call and I called back and left a message with the explanation. I am trying to get a sense of who gets that call and makes the determination as to whether or not to excuse that for any one of these issues."

Mr. Marshall explained that using Mr. Costa's scenario, the secretary for the grade office is responsible for going through the answering machine to pull those off. She then makes the documentation in X2 in relation to being excused or unexcused, making a notation if the parent calls back and what the message was. He added that all offices are required periodically to check to see what students are hitting the particular markers in a negative fashion and which students need to be brought down to the office. "If there is a pattern of behavior then it is the responsibility of the office to pick that up, contact the parent, bring that student down and at some point require documentation."

Mr. Costa hypothetically posed a situation where a student was out a couple of days with the flu, a case where you may not go to the doctor for a note, but they are at capacity for unexcused absences by this policy and asked if these scenarios were being considered?

Mr. Marshall responded they were and referred to the last paragraph, extenuating circumstances as approved by the grade level administrator. "If that is the case and it happened once or twice then we work with the students and parents on that; but if there is a pattern that's when we are looking for that documentation."

Mr. Costa responded that his hope is that the policy isn't so restrictive that it doesn't allow an opportunity for a parent to have a conversation with someone and that he was trying to look to see who has that final say as to whether or not it is excused or unexcused.

Mr. Marshall explained that that is one of the big reasons they like to have the team follow the students over the four years as opposed to getting to know the parents each year. They can get to know what is going on with the individual families and be a little bit more flexible and work individually with them.

Mr. Costa said his last question was regarding the electronics policy on Page 25. *The current guidelines for the use of cell phones and other electronic devices is being revised to align with the District's policy on the responsible use of such devices. An addendum will be made to the handbook to reflect the new school based guidelines.* "If I read your cover sheet, it says that with that particular issue a school based revision to the policy will be made to align with the District policy currently under revision. I guess the question is who is revising it and where is the addendum?"

Superintendent: She asked to provide a point of clarification but started by instructing Mr. Marshall that the policy they have that was approved previously should stay in the handbook and not wait. She continued by responding to Mr. Costa that Frank Farias, had pulled together a group of educators to review the movement around "bring your own devices to school" so they can use their own smart phone in class for a given purpose. "As we heard more about this, Mr. Farias asked if he could convene a group of educators to look at our current policy and to draft a policy for the School Committee's consideration around BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), so that they can be used for educational purposes. We have a number of teachers that allow or want to allow kids to use their phones in class (i.e. clickers)."

Mr. Costa said he didn't necessarily have an issue with that but that he did not feel comfortable supporting a policy he hadn't seen. "If it makes sense to the educational process to have electronic devices to enhance the education experience, I think I could live with that if it spells out what the expectations are and is something that is enforceable; however, without knowing what it is?"

Mr. Marshall agreed and explained that their intent was to be as clear as possible. "We felt that what we wanted to bring forward to this Committee a change in policy but we don't have it yet. When we refer to the addendum – and I agree with the Superintendent – we should have kept the policy as is and brought back a revision."

Mr. Hart asked to go back to the dress code. "When you are enforcing the dress code, the teacher will explain to the student that that is not the proper attire and then what happens?"

Mr. Marshall explained the student can correct it with (as an example) putting a sweater over a tank top. If the student doesn't have an appropriate alternative in the locker then they are instructed to go to their office and are given a t-shirt to put on. If for some reason we don't have a t-shirt available, it would be a phone call home and the student would stay in the office until someone could come in and provide the student with proper attire. He noted that generally working through those things, 95% of them are corrected at that point. He added that there are situations where students do not follow the policy and they are instructed that if they can't follow the school rules then they cannot be a member of the school community that day and are sent home to come back the following day with the expectation that the rules will be followed. A parent is contacted to pick up the students.

Mr. Hart asked if that would warrant a report.

Mr. Marshall responded that it does.

Mr. Hart asked if putting a t-shirt on warranted a report?

Mr. Marshall answered that it typically does not because the situation is resolved.

Mr. Hart requested a report of the number of instances where the student was sent home and/or the parent was contacted so that he could see how the dress code is being enforced. He added that he, too, had been receiving phone calls from parents but not teachers.

Mr. Marshall agreed.

Mayor Flanagan noted there was a motion on the table.

<b>All in favor</b>	<b>None opposed</b>	<b>Motion passed</b>
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#4: Request to approve the Contract for the Request for Proposal for food service, as presented by Chief Operational Officer, Thomas Coogan.

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To accept the contract for food services.**

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

#5: Request to accept the Vehicles for Nutrition and Facilities as presented by Chief Operating Officer, Tom Coogan.

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Pavao: To accept the vehicles for nutrition and facilities as presented by Chief Operating Officer Tom Coogan.**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked if any consideration had been given to leased vehicles.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Coogan if he looked up the cost analysis for buying vs. leasing.

Mr. Coogan: In the past they had broken up the payment over several years and never explored leasing as an option probably due the condition of most of the vehicles after they have been with them for a few years. In most cases they probably wouldn't want to with the mileage considerations of most leases of 12-15K miles and would probably incur mileage costs. He added that he could explore it further but it probably would not be a feasible option for them.

Mr. Martins: He thought that the mechanical portion of the vehicle would have a much lower cost of maintenance and every two years they would be getting an up-to-date vehicle. He added that he would support it because Mr. Coogan was requesting it but would suggest to him to look into leasing because the issue will come up again.

Mr. Maynard asked how many cylinders the vehicles were.

Mr. Coogan: He explained that the box type priced off the State contract comes in both 8 and 10 cylinders. It is a 16-foot box and would be used to move pallets and heavy load goods. The dump body truck will be an 8 cylinder because it would be used as a sander and snow removal truck for part of the year. The third vehicle they looked at would be a 6 cylinder because he felt they could get away with it with that vehicle.

Mr. Maynard asked if they could get away with a 4 cylinder with gas prices the way they are.

Mr. Coogan responded that they look for the best deal they can and it depends on the vehicle. If you go with a 4-wheel drive vehicle which is what was proposed for the third vehicle, you usually go with a 6 cylinder.

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

#6: Request to approve the monthly budget report.

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa: To approve the monthly budget report.**

Mr. Costa asked Mayor Flanagan if Mr. Saunders could come to the podium.

Mr. Costa explained he had sent an email to Mr. Saunders requesting a timeline for the end of year closure for FY13 and was given what he anticipated having as a final number in addition to closing out the books and finalizing the bill payment for this fiscal year. He asked Mr. Saunders when he anticipated having a final transfer request for the Committee's consideration.

Mr. Saunders explained they were in the midst of closing out the purchase orders to get all the expenses through. "Our final numbers for end of the year report are on August 15. So usually we have the final transfers done in the month of August but before that, usually the first part of July, we will have a whereabouts of what we are going to be at. Right now we are anticipating to have a balance around \$15K."

Mr. Costa asked if that was taking into account all lines in the budget and if he had consolidated his lines down to the final number yet.

Mr. Saunders responded that if he looked at their report right now they have about six major lines that have deficits so they are going to come back with transfers within those lines.

Mr. Costa: "But at the end of the day, once you have consolidated all those lines your feeling is that approximately – and I'm not going to hold you to it - \$15K." He asked if that included anticipated transfers to lines that are in deficit from ones that had a surplus.

Mr. Saunders said that was correct.

Mr. Costa said he asked because he heard some information in the Facilities & Operations sub-committee meeting regarding a surplus in one of the utility lines and it didn't jive with the number he was given and wanted to be sure he was taking into consideration that surplus. "But if you are going to consolidate all your lines, transfer the lines that are in a deficit and you are left with that then I can live with that at least until I see it."

Mr. Saunders responded that they were counting on some monies from the utilities to cover some of the deficit.

Mr. Martins: He noticed that the water and the sewage charge has been taken out of there and thanked Mr. Saunders but questioned why workers' compensation over expended by over \$74K.

Mr. Saunders explained that they had been active on closing out prior claims and this year they did a lot of them at the beginning of the year; actually doing settlements and those settlements are charged off to the workers' comp. He added that there were a number of them that were three or four years old that they removed and that it was still a problem but they are trying to get it under control.

Mr. Martins: "I see some hefty overages. I am sure you are going to be taking care of that from the conversation with Mr. Costa on transfers." He noted dues & memberships was over expended by \$1,100 which wasn't much but feels that membership should be cut down to avoid this.

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

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

**All in favor                      None opposed                      Motion passed**

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Martins questioned the resignations and asked about having exit reports.

Mayor Flanagan asked the Superintendent if she had the hire dates for the three listed.

Superintendent: She responded that one, the Vice-Principal at Kuss Middle School, was hired about 5 years ago and was retiring and believes it is listed as a resignation in error. She added that William Crocker (who was honored at tonight's meeting) was with Teach For America. He has been with the District for 2 years as the program goes. He is leaving to do something else. She was not sure of the third employees hire date or exit status.

Mayor Flanagan asked if she could get the information on the third individual and get that information to Mr. Martins.

The Superintendent agreed.

Mr. Martins explained that he could understand retirements but that he'd really like to know about the resignations because he hated to lose good people.

Mayor Flanagan requested that Madam Secretary send condolence letters to the families of the deceased.

Madam Secretary: So noted.

Mayor Flanagan: I have been told by Attorney Assad that there is reason for Executive Session.

Mr. Costa interjected that there was an addenda that evening.

Mayor Flanagan said that they took care of it in contracts.

Mr. Costa responded that in keeping with practice they usually accept the addendum first.

Mayor Flanagan: "The motion was to accept all contracts including the addendum. It was seconded and then we had discussion."

Mr. Costa: "I stand corrected. Thank you."

Mr. Martins asked to bring up an item under new business.

Mayor Flanagan allowed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Martins explained that recently at Kuss Middle School there was an after school function he felt the parents should have been notified about and they were not. The issue is dealing with Policy IHAMB (*Parental Notification In Relation To Sex Education*) and Policy IMB (*Teaching About Controversial Issues and Controversial Speakers*). "I would like an opinion from Atty. Assad rendering an opinion with regards to when are the policies are effective. My position is that they are always effective as long as it is in a school building and it has students whether it be in school as a classroom function or after school as an activity. I would like to have that as an opinion as to how those two items affect the policies of a course teacher vs. individuals coming from the outside for after school activities."

Mayor Flanagan noted that Attorney Assad could review the policies and apply the facts and will conclude and get a letter back to Mr. Martins.

Mr. Martins said that would be fine.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was other new business before going into executive session. Hearing none.

### **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Attorney Assad: "For the purposes of Mass General Law c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) for purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA and FRAA as the Chair has determined that an open session would have a detrimental affect on the bargaining position and also to conduct collective

bargaining and grievance matters. We will reconvene and there may not be a statement at that time.”

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To Convene in Executive Session.**

**All in favor                  None Opposed                  Motion Approved**

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**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To reconvene in open session.**

**All in favor                  None Opposed                  Motion approved**

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Open session resumed at 9:20 PM, with a roll call that showed all Members were present.

Mayor Flanagan noted that based on discussions in Executive Sessions there were two motions to be made and turned the floor over to Mr. Martins.

**MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Hart: To deny AFSCME Grievance 01-13, based on Executive Session discussion.**

No discussion

**4 in favor                  3 Opposed (Mr. Costa/Mr. Pavao/Mayor Flanagan)                  Motion Approved**

**MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Hart: To deny FREA Grievance 11-12 as being time barred based on Executive Session discussion. However, the teacher involved will be compensated for extra teaching duties. The amount of compensation is to be negotiated between Attorney Assad and the FREA/grievant.**

No discussion

**All in favor                  None Opposed                  Motion Approved**

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

**All in favor                  none opposed                  Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:22 PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Rebecca L. Caron*  
Interim Administrative Assistant for  
School Committee Services