

REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2013

6:30 PM

**Spencer Borden Elementary School
1400 President Avenue
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 and nonunion personnel including Dr. Fran Roy, Chief Academic Officer and Jocelyn LeMaire, Executive Director of Human Resources.
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

At 6:43 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, September 9, 2013.

A roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

A salute to the Flag followed.

CITIZENS INPUT

There was no citizen input this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent: Just wanted to inform the Committee that school got off to a great start last week. It seems as though there is a slight increase in enrollment and she will get the Committee those numbers once they have a firm account.

Another piece of good news is that Doran Elementary School has been designated as an exemplary 21st Century School and therefore will receive continued funding of \$75K for after school programs.

Her final update was that she had sent out to the Committee the day prior the Fall River District Systems of Support review which was conducted by an external review team from DESE. It was a very strong and positive review. The District is rated on six standards which they break out into ten areas. Of those ten areas they rate not present, developing or embedded. In seven of the ten areas they rated embedded practices and three areas are developing. That report is one of the three areas that the Commissioner considers as part of Level 4 exit criteria for schools. He looks at the district report, he looks at each school's report – which would be Kuss and Doran - and then the student performance data. He then makes a determination if a school should remain level four, come off the level four list, or be moved to level five. "As I have said on several occasions, both Kuss and Doran are poised to come off the list based on the reports that we have. Certainly it is a decision to be made by the Commissioner based on a number of factors but this report is key in one of those factors."

MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no subcommittee reports this evening.

DONATIONS

Superintendent Mayo-Brown, on behalf of Joyce Paulo, Drop out Prevention Specialist, requests acceptance of a check in the amount of \$500.00 as a donation from BayCoast for the purpose of supporting the Freshmen Orientation at B.M.C. Durfee High School.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown, on behalf of Brian Mikolazyk, School Information Coordinator, requests acceptance of a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 as a donation from Comcast for the purpose of sponsoring the teachers meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all donations as listed.
All in favor None opposed Motion passed

TRAVEL

B.M.C. Durfee H.S. Principal Marshall requests permission for travel:

Destination	Trinity Repertory Co: Providence, RI
Class or Club	AP Literature Classes
Objective	View and adapted stage version of The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Date	October 4, 2013
Means of Transportation	Bus
# of Adult Chaperones	3
# of Students	58
Time	8AM - 2:30PM
Cost Per Student	\$20
Funding Source	Self-pay/students

ELL Director Kelly Cooney requests permission for staff travel (2 people):

Destination	WIDA National Conference: Milwaukee, WI
Class or Club	ELL Director
Objective	Language Learner Success/Building on Strengths. WIDA is the consortium for ELL Education
Date	October 16-18, 2013
Means of Transportation	Air
Total Cost	\$2,000 maximum cost for 2 participants
Funding Source	Title III

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all travel requests as listed.
All in favor None opposed Motion passed

CONTRACTS

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	FUNDING SOURCE & AMOUNT
SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS:		
Futures HealthCore, LLC	Speech Therapy Services	Operating Budget-Special Education-\$350,000.00
Randstad North America , LP	Nursing Services	Operating Budget-Special Education-\$120,150.00
Southcoast Translating Service	Translation Services	Operating Budget-Special Education-\$175,000.00
Jeannine Verros	Speech Therapy Services	Operating Budget-Special Education-\$ 23,400.00
MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACTS:		
ACR Refrigeration	Refrigeration Services for School Lunch Program, three-year contract	School Lunch Budget, \$25,000.00/per year

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all contracts as listed.
All in favor None opposed Motion passed

GRANTS

Grant Name	Funding	Duration	Amount	Grant Director
Race to the Top	Federal	07/01/13- 06/30/14	\$ 839,810.00	Fran Roy
Pre-AP Special Support	Federal	08/13/13-08/31/13	\$ 23,000.00	Fran Roy
Wraparound Zone	Federal	08/19/13-06/30/14	\$ 96,000.00	Fran Roy
SPED 94-142	Federal	09/01/13-08/31/14	\$3,044,067.00	Ivone Medeiros
Title I	Federal	09/01/13-08/31/14	\$4,509,878.00	Siobhan Ryan
Title IIA	Federal	09/01/13-08/31/14	\$ 869,829.00	Siobhan Ryan
ARRA-School Improvement-Doran	Federal	09/01/13-08/31/14	\$ 510,288.00	Maria Pontes
McKinney-Vento	Federal	09/01/13-06/30/14	\$ 35,000.00	Barbara Allard
Early Childhood SPED Allocation	Federal	09/01/13- 08/31/14	\$ 74,415.00	Barbara Allard
Literacy Partnerships-GR2	State	08/08/13-06/30/14	\$ 24,553.00	Fran Roy
Coordinated Family & Community Engagement	State	07/01/13-06/30/14	\$ 460,025.00	Barbara Allard
Inclusive Pre-School Learning Environments	State	07/01/13-06/30/14	\$ 123,938.00	Barbara Allard
Implementation-Expanded Day	State	07/01/13-06/30/14	\$3,016,000.00	MProcaccini/ JFacchiano/MChrist
TOTAL			\$13,626,803.00	

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked if the Chair would consider it prudent to tell the public the total of all the grants.

Superintendent announce that the total amount was \$13.6M

Mr. Martins questioned if the grants were over and above the approved budget items.

Superintendent: The grants are supplemental to our operating budget and above and beyond net school pending.

Mr. Martins: The first grant he spoke about is Race To The Top for \$839,810. He noted that under project coordinator, it has an FTE of two and questioned why two people were needed to administer this grant?

Superintendent: The two positions that he is noting do not administer the grant. They are student support coordinators, one is budgeted for Fonseca and one is budgeted for Kuss.

Mr. Martins: “They do not administer the grant?”

Superintendent: She responded they do not and explained that this grant pays for their salaries.

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Mr. Martins asked what they do?

Superintendent: The student support coordinator position/job description was approved by the School Committee. They coordinate student services at the school level, work with community partners, and support the Committee's wrap-around initiative.

Mr. Martins questioned if they were responsible for implementation of the grant.

Superintendent: Clarified that they do not administer the grant but that they provide direct services to students.

Mr. Martins asked in what way they provide the direct services.

Superintendent: She responded that they are similar to school adjustment counselors. They provide counseling services among other things she had described.

Mr. Martins thought that was somewhat confusing and if the case, why wouldn't they be listed under instructional/professional staff?

Superintendent she explained that they filled out the grant application through a variety of technical assistance sessions with the Department and were probably instructed to complete it in that way.

Mr. Martins said that when he looks at this, he sees project coordinators, which leads him to believe they are administering the grants when these two positions are not.

Mr. Martins continued by questioning under contractual services what "other" for \$141K was.

Superintendent: She explained that some of the things that pays for is support and professional development for guided discipline, responsive classroom, pre-AP professional development for teachers, some mentoring professional development for teachers. It covers a variety of items and offered to provide a breakdown of all the contractual services that are but explained she didn't have them with her.

Mayor Flanagan asked for the viewing audience if the Superintendent could outline which schools would be receiving those services.

Superintendent: She said the wrap-around schools. The first year was started with Kuss, Viveiros and Doran and they expanded that to Talbot and Fonseca last year. She explained that when she talks about guided discipline, which is a model used within the middle schools, all middle schools are able to take advantage of that as well as the high school. This summer some teachers went to training for guided discipline, particularly those who are supporting the Freshman Academy at Durfee.

Mr. Martins questioned - still under contractual services – what the consultants listed for \$281K were going to do.

Superintendent: She responde that that is what she just described. Those are the organizations that provide the professional development in such areas as guided discipline, responsive classroom, agile

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mind, etc. but they deliver technical assistance and support to the areas within the wrap-around zone initiative.

Mr. Martins asked if the consultants were organizations/companies and not individual people.

Superintendent said that was correct.

Mr. Martins noted that in some of the other grants, the companies are identified and it gives at least a few words in what they are going to do. He would think when they are going to have consultants and there is no reference as to what they are going to do for \$281K and then another for \$141K, there should be something in there to indicate what they are going to do. He said when he sees blanks with that kind of money it raises questions in his mind and he needs answers for them.

Mr. Martins continued by questioning staff travel for \$34,625. He added that he doesn't mind having staff travel when it is in regards to what they are doing; however, he has asked for reports as to what is the return value of this travel expenditure and has not yet received a single report.

He then questioned the Pre-AP special support in August 2013 and said he assumed that had already been done and expended and the people involved are waiting to be paid.

Superintendent: The amount of that grant is \$23K. It provides training for teachers to deliver advanced placement coursework. It is the amount of money that is specifically paid to Mass Insight.

Mr. Martins responded that this is a case of the work has already been done and they are seeking approval after the fact.

Mr. Martins moved to the wrap-around zone noting that again, with the consultants, it does have a little bit of explanation as to what they are going to do but this is in guided discipline. "I read this quite carefully and said we are expending \$87K for the purpose of providing guided discipline and \$43K for responsive classroom training. What happens if after this training there is a student that still decides to act up. Is the teacher going to be held responsible for that student's behavior?" He added that one of the complaints he receives is that administrative support is the problem/don't send any kids to the office. "We are expending money for this purpose but what happens when kids still decide to act up?"

Superintendent: She asked if that is a question related to the grant.

Mr. Martins responded "Yes, the central administration and administration of each school because this is what it is going to end up being."

Mayor Flanagan asked if the Superintendent had a response.

Superintendent: "I really don't. I think it is unrelated to the specific grant item. It is a longer conversation about discipline in our schools. I would be happy to have that conversation with the Committee so we can talk about the systems that schools are employing for that."

Mayor Flanagan stated that he just wanted the conversation to be focused on grants and what they are related to. Nothing more and nothing less as it is the grant section of the agenda.

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Mr. Martins: "I certainly understand it is the grant part of the agenda but it is part of the grant. We have the conversation here or later. I think this type of a conversation should indeed be in public and not private. It is a problem whether people want to recognize it or not. I think for that kind of money we need to take a hard look at what some students are doing in some schools and the support faculty is getting."

Mr. Martins then questioned Title II and Title I stating that they add up to \$5,379,707. He asked for that amount of money, will the schools and the school that this applies to meet CPI targets.

Mayor Flanagan asked the Superintendent if that was the goal.

Superintendent responded that the goal is for schools to meet the targets of PPI (progress and performance) which is the target set by the State which includes CPI but also includes student growth percentile as well as increasing the number of students in advanced and decreasing the number of students in warning.

Mr. Martins: "And that all adds up to equaling the CPI because without all that being done your CPI will not be met. The school improvement for Doran - again, the consultants for \$61,500; who are the consultants? If I don't know who they are and I don't feel that I know what they are going to do I am going to question it."

Mayor Flanagan asked if the consultants have a mission statement.

Superintendent: She responded that this is the first step in the process. The second step is the contract that they have with the providers which details what the expectations are surrounding that. It is a second opportunity to review through the contract approval process.

Mr. Martins asked who the various consultants were.

Mayor Flanagan asked Dr. Roy to give a brief overview.

Dr. Roy explained that they are science consultants from Project Lead The Way (PLTW). As they roll out PLTW to the middle schools there is early literacy support with Dr. Terry Deeney. As they approve any of the travel requests to New York City, that is Mathematics in the City and they have come and done math professional development.

Mr. Martins responded that if that was stated he would have some indication as to where those stipends are going to go. "If that information was added in it would be very helpful. The idea of listing consultants and then finding them to plug in after the fact does not sit well with me."

Mr. Martins then questioned Literacy Partnership noting consultants for \$1,200 an hour. "Who are they and what is to be accomplished?"

Mayor Flanagan: "Madame Superintendent, it does seem like a lot of money. What is the purpose and goal of it?"

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Superintendent: "This is for Dr. Claire White and Dr. Roy can explain her work. Just to be clear, we don't plug in consultant money and then go looking for consultants. It is based on what is in the redesign plan. It is a strategic development in the use of consultants."

Dr. Roy explained that Dr. White works out of Harvard University and deals with increasing the academic language of all students given the need around college and career readiness and the common core. "We all understand whether you are an English Language Learner or coming from a house that is not necessarily literacy full, we need academic language. So she is specifically training our 4th and 5th grade teachers on something called Word Generation which is free. SERP is a non-profit so when she does that training she has actually embedded it during the school year and day. I have seen her at Fonseca delivering this training/taking a class full students and then debriefing with a group of teachers. We have piloted it in about four or five elementary schools last year and we want to continue that work this year."

Mr. Martins responded that he wish he knew what she just stated that way he could have an understanding of how the money is being used.

Superintendent clarified that the rate is \$1,200 for the day, not an hour.

Mr. Martins said he read the grant as 6 hours \$1,200/hour.

Mayor Flanagan asked for clarification, when they enter into contracts with consultants no matter what it may be, if they are negotiating these contracts to get an optimal price point?

Superintendent: She responded absolutely. She continued that it is calculated out at \$1,200 for a 6 hour day. "I have to say I appreciate your frustration because we are working off of grant pages that were designed by DESE. I understand that often the information that we put down here is not necessarily informative or helpful to the Committee so however we can make it more helpful to you but it would have to be supplemental to what we submit because we are submitting based on what they ask us to put in certain categories. We don't want it to be frustrating and want it to be transparent so however we can work with you to do that."

Mr. Martins moved to Coordinated Family and Community and the engagement listed for \$460K. "This is a rather voluminous grant and it basically states that the School Department will do a lot of things but where does it state what the expected outcome will be? I don't see that in here."

Superintendent asked through the chair that Barbara Allard, that grant's director, explain.

Ms. Allard explained that the objective of this grant is to support emergent literacy and family literacy development. They work in three communities, Fall River, Westport, and Somerset and provide free weekly play and learn programs for families with young children. Families that attend participate once a week for the entire year. They have a survey process and survey them at the beginning and at the end to see how their child's literacy development has improved as well as their entire family literacy development has improved.

Mr. Martins asked how they know that they were successful?

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Ms. Allard responded that they know through the survey process and evaluations. They use another assessment with the families called the ASQ – Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Families take part in the assessment process which assesses the whole child. They watch the development of children until they enter kindergarten and if children do have areas of weak development they support that with suggested activities and professional development for families. Through all of these assessments they can see the progress the children have made since they began. She added that they also look at their Brigance scores as they enter kindergarten.

Ms. Martins asked if the information they are collecting to indicate the results of the amount of money that is being expended will be made available.

Ms. Allard replied that it can be made available. They submit data to the State on a monthly basis on how many families are using, the results of the survey process, and have various ways of sharing that data with the State. They come to visit and come to observe the play and learns.

Mr. Martins said that is one of his concerns in that they are asking the Committee to approve some rather substantial amounts of money of which case he is perfectly willing to approve but he just wants to know the results of that expenditure and does not think that is an unfair request.

Mayor Flanagan asked Dr. Roy to clear up a couple of questions. He asked “the grants that are being received – federal grants, state grants – there are applications for these grants, correct?”

Dr. Roy responded there were.

Mayor Flanagan: “Now the majority of grants I have been involved with there are also reporting requirements, correct?”

Dr. Roy replied yes and it varies depending on the grant.

Mayor Flanagan: “So we apply for the grant. We fill out a grant application stating why we want the grant. What it is for. We receive the grant based on the strength of the application and then there is a reporting period typically of how successful the grant was and typically there is a follow-up to these grants, too. Maybe in 2013 we receive it and in 2014 we apply again and we change the mission statement and talk about the success of the grant, correct?”

Dr. Roy: “Yes, for continuation grants.”

Mayor Flanagan: “Why don’t we make some of that information available to Mr. Martins? We would have saved thirty minutes here this evening. So if we can make that information available to him, he can go through it and then maybe speak one-on-one with you about these grants and maybe even offer some advice on some ways we can strengthen them or maybe get more out of them.”

Mr. Martins: “With all do respect I don’t consider speed as a measure of efficiency for the operation of this Committee.”

Mayor Flanagan: “That is what I am trying to do here, make this more efficient. There are applications. There are reports and documentation. If we can make that available to you it may provide you with a lot of the information you were looking for and maybe also even give you the opportunity to work with

the Committee and grant writer's to strengthen the application as they re-apply for them. So I am not looking to speed up the meeting or take the microphone away from you, I am just offering a possible solution to help you with they questions regarding the grants."

Mr. Martins: "This is not my money I will ask the questions. If it is considered as hogging the microphone well so be it. I would suggest that the administration be a little more expressive in determining what is the use of this money and if I can understand it I won't be asking the questions."

Mr. Pavao: As he went through these grants he came up with approximately \$102K in student transportation in the various grants. He asked if that money is incorporated into the \$5.4M line item, or if it is designed to reimburse the \$5.4M, or is it used in a separate account for those specific grants and cannot be utilized for the general fund?

Mr. Coogan explained that those monies are for participation specifically in those grant related activities and they aren't coordinated with regular transportation in any way.

Mr. Pavao asked if there was any way to wiggle some money out of those particular items to help with the deficit.

Mr. Coogan responded that he didn't believe they could co-mingle funds.

All in favor None opposed Motion passed

DISCUSSION ITEMS

#1: Autism/Specialist Teacher

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the Autism/Specialist Teacher.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins noted that this was a vote to approve the conversion of two vacant special education positions and wanted to know what is going to happen to those two vacant positions?

Ms. Medeiros: One of them was a retirement for a substantially separate classroom at Morton and they didn't need that classroom and the other is an open position that is currently a District special needs position. The person moved to a classroom position.

Mr. Martins: "Are those two vacant positions going to remain or are they going to be considered as full and go away? I hope not."

Ms. Medeiros replied that they are being converted to an autism specialist position which is a teaching position.

Mr. Martins asked if they still need special education teachers?

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Ms. Medeiros explained at this time they do not need those two special education teaching positions so she is requesting to change them to autism specialist teachers because that is a definite need in the District.

Mr. Martins said he will approve this but his vote is contingent upon keeping the two vacant special education teaching positions so if needed in the future/FY14 the position is already there to fill. "Am I clear?"

Mr. Costa: "If I may, I would like to amend my motion to vote to approve the job description for the autism specialist teacher first."

Mayor Flanagan: "That is understandable."

Mr. Costa: "I think procedurally we need to approve the job description first."

AMMENDED MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the job description for the Autism Specialist Teacher.

All in favor

None opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve two vacant special education positions to two Autism Specialist positions.

Mr. Martins: "The question is that the two vacant special education positions remain vacant for the possibility of being needed during the course of FY14."

Mayor Flanagan asked Ms. Medeiros that if there is a need to add more special education teachers as they go through the 2013-2014 School Year, could she come back before the Committee to make a request and that request will be honored. He also commended her for really focusing in on students who have been diagnosed with autism. "It is something that I have been hearing a lot of in the community especially as of late. Making sure that we bring in as many resources as possible for those children is a need in the community so thank you for focusing in on that."

All in favor

None opposed

Motion passed

#2: Fall River Public Schools Technology Plan

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Costa: To accept the Fall River Public Schools Technology Plan as presented.

No Discussion

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.

No Discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Flanagan: In coming here this evening I have spoken to several members of our City Council including Councilman Dan Rego and President of the City Council, Linda Pereira last week our City received the news that somebody who had dedicated his life to our school system was taken from us and that was Jason Cummings. Jason was a dedicated public servant always there for the children. I know on several occasions he and I interacted and I know he made a difference in the lives of so many children especially at Durfee High School. A request has come in from his family as well as friends and several members of our Council if there is a possibility of naming something at Durfee High School in his honor. Possibly the weight room or something where he had a connection with the students that he watched over. I would ask from this Committee in order to facilitate the discussion if there is a motion to refer to buildings and grounds.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To refer.		
<u>No Discussion</u>		
All in favor	None opposed	Motion passed

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Attorney Assad: “With respect to 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 and nonunion personnel including Dr. Fran Roy, Chief Academic Officer and Jocelyn LeMaire, Executive Director of Human Resources as the Chair has determined that an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee’s position. We would reconvene and there may or may not be statements at that time.”

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To Convene in Executive Session.			
<u>No Discussion</u>			
A roll call showed:	All in favor	None Opposed	Motion Approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To reconvene in open session.		
All in favor	None Opposed	Motion approved

Open session resumed at 7:40PM, with a roll call that showed all Members were present.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was any other new business to come before the Committee.

Mr. Martins: Dr. Irving Fradkin which everyone knows has dedicated just about his entire adult life and he is 92 years old to advancing the education of students through scholarships. His work has resulted in something started many many years ago of Dollars for Scholars to now a national and international

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organization called Scholarship America. About two weeks ago or so a film crew from Katie Couric's show was in Fall River and interviewed Dr. Fradkin along with being escorted around the City where the film crew took various shots of Fall River. On September 17, he will be on the Katie Couric show for a taping for a national broadcast on a date yet to be determined. I think it is quite an honor for Dr. Fradkin. It is something recognizing his work over all of these years and it is an honor for the City of Fall River to have Dr. Fradkin be on the Katie Couric Show to be discussing scholarships for young people. I would like to recommend that an appropriate facility – a library or an auditorium at perhaps Kuss Middle School – be named in honor of Dr. Irving Fradkin.

Mayor Flanagan said he agreed that Dr. Fradkin has done some extraordinary things for education in the City and thought it would be a special way of saying thank you to him for his dedication to education.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Maynard: To refer to facilities and operations.

No Discussion

All in favor

None Opposed

Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Pavao: To approve the contract between the Fall River Public Schools and Jocelyn LeMaire, Director of Human Resources, as negotiated.

No Discussion

All in favor

None Opposed

Motion approved

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

All in favor

none opposed

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Interim Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services

Reviewed by:

Meg Mayo-Brown
Superintendent of Schools

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