

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 12, 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. Sub-Committee Reports
5. Recognition Awards
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Approval of Minutes
8. Committee of the Whole
9. Request for Executive Session
M.G.L. c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3)
 - *To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation or grievances, as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, FRAA, and non-union personnel, including Rene Kochman, Director of Operation and Director of Media for FRED TV; Melissa Pereira, Data Technician; Ryan Andrade, Administrative Intern; Rebecca Caron, Administrative Assistant; and Robert Hargraves, Administrative Intern.*
10. New Business: Topics for discussion that could not reasonably be anticipated by the Chairman forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting
11. Addendum

MINUTES

Mayor Sutter said before he called the meeting to order he wanted to say something brief but heartfelt. “It is a tremendous honor for me to be in this position. It is one of the main reasons why I ran for Mayor; my interest in making a contribution to public education in the City of Fall River. I, personally, am thrilled to be here and I want everyone to know that who is here tonight or who may be listening or watching.”

At 6:39 PM, Mayor Sutter called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, January 12, 2015, at the Kuss Middle School.

A roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

A salute to the Flag followed.

CITIZENS INPUT

Mayor Sutter said customarily there is a sign-up sheet at the front of the auditorium. Four citizens signed up to speak that evening.

Rochelle Pettenati, Teacher at Henry Lord Community School

Ms. Pettenati thanked the Committee for their support for the school. She noted the Superintendent had actually bused tables in their cafeteria and her team has been wonderful in supporting them. She thanked the Committee for giving the school the opportunity to add needed positions for their needy population. She concluded by saying she loves teaching at the school.

Lucille Rissler, CFC worker and volunteer

Ms. Rissler said she is at the school four to six hours a day. Four of the hours she is paid by CFC and two she volunteers because she likes being there. She loves the teachers, staff and children and thinks it is a great school. The teachers work really hard and not only have to teach but also have to be referees, behavior specialists, etc. She admitted there were children with behavior issues but it is being worked on and there has been a big improvement. She especially likes the way the children are spoken to by all adults in the building. She believed if you show the children respect, they will show it back. Also, keeping them safe – these two things are really big with her and she sees that in the school. She loves being there and with the children as well as seeing the little students with the older students. She thinks they are doing a great job.

Mayor Sutter thanked Ms. Rissler for her remarks and what she said about mutual respect. It is one of his central beliefs in life.

Lisa DaCosta, Teacher at Henry Lord Community School

Ms. DaCosta said she is there to speak up for all the teachers and staff at Henry Lord. Prior to Henry Lord, she was at Letourneau Elementary and put her heart and soul into the school. Now that she is at Henry Lord, she plans to do the same. She also sees it in the staff who work very hard. There are issues but they are dealing with them. Some are taking a little bit longer than they had hoped but they are standing up and trying to make a difference. Some people feel that is not happening and it is difficult for a parent who wants the best for their children and are scared which is understandable but they have to understand the teachers side and what they are doing and how much is involved. She just wanted to speak to support the staff at the school. As a parent, she has two children, one

in the ASD class and one in an integrated classroom and she has had her own issues as a parent with some of the situations but she is still there standing up for the staff because she has a lot of respect for them and everything that they are going through. She asked that whatever they hear, to remember what the teachers have to go through every day.

Debbie DeFalco-Furtado, Teacher at Henry Lord Community School

Ms. DeFalco-Furtado said she is a teacher in the ASD program and has been a teacher in the program for eight years now and has watched it grow and change tremendously. There have been things on Facebook, unfortunately, that have been very negative and she wanted a chance to tell the positives. They are a wonderfully cohesive program now all in one building. She can't tell them enough how wonderful it is to have them all working together as a team. They have two beautiful sensory rooms that they all use whenever it is needed. They collaborate as a team which they had not been able to do before. All the service providers are there for all the children together five days a week. There have been rumors that the children have been bullied by other kids and that is not true. The kinds of rumors that are going around are negative energy and she would love to see the people that feel that way go into the school and volunteer. They need to turn the negative energy into positive energy and help them with the programs they are implementing. They have children being integrated into regular classrooms. They have four regular ed teachers who have taught their kids all about autism and the interaction has been wonderful to see. There is none of the behavior that they hear about so to have some of those people come in to see that would be wonderful. They have reading buddies going into their classroom from the other classrooms. All good things are happening and they are growing in that area. She welcomed them to go see that.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they have four recognitions that evening.

Mayor Sutter asked that his colleagues join him on the floor for the presentation.

Mr. Martins spoke and asked Superintendent Mayo-Brown to present the first two awards. These awards – Certificates of Academic Excellence - were presented on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents to two Durfee High School students, Aiyana Porter and Aaron Hardy.

Mr. Martins asked that Mr. Tom Coogan present the next award to custodian, Paul Boucher for his work in the Special Education Department, Suite 291 at Durfee High School. Mr. Coogan read the letter that was submitted on his behalf and Mr. Boucher was presented with his award.

Mr. Martins then asked the coaches of the Fall River Falcons 11U football team come forward and then requested that the players come forward as well. The coaches spoke on the team's behalf and the School Committee presented them with their award for placing third nationally. School Committeeman, Paul Hart, then said some words about the Fall River Falcons team and program, congratulating them on their success. He also requested that "Bear" come down to be recognized as well who also said a few words and congratulated the team.

At 7:02 PM Mayor Sutter then called a two minute recess so that the recipients could leave if they wished.

At 7:04 PM Mayor Sutter called the meeting back to order and a roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she has three items to report:

- Schools continue to receive national and state attention for the work of the district’s teachers in various schools. Fall River has led a very quiet turnaround effort within in its schools and they want to continue to highlight the good work of their educators throughout the district. Often, Lawrence will be cited statewide because they are under receivership with their turnaround work yet Fall River has this very quiet effort going on. Be that as it may, the district’s work is often highlighted at the state level as well as the national level. School Committee members received a journal article that was published in a national publication. The title is *The Extra Time Pay Off* and it highlights the work of the educators at Silvia School and how they use extended learning time to promote student learning and excellent teaching. She congratulated Silvia’s educators.
- The second area they were highlighted for was for Morton’s blended learning. DESE, along with the National Center for Time and Learning has continued to highlight the use of expanded time in Fall River. The National Center for Time and Learning which guides policy work around using extended time within the school day produced a video of Morton students and faculty and the way in which they use blended learning. Blended learning is a way that they describe when teachers use computers and software programming to supplement the instruction that they are providing in the classroom. The emphasis is heavy on technology. The first few minutes of the 11 minute video were shown. The video is on the Morton Middle School website to be viewed in its entirety. The Superintendent congratulated Morton’s educators for leading the way through blended learning.
- The third report was that they had received information from the City regarding the financial audits. This is the first year that the Fall River School Department received no findings in the audit and she thought that spoke to the Committee’s work around implementing and ensuring effective financial practices.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mayor Sutter noted that there was an addendum for travel as well.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the addendum.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve all travel as requested.

Discussion:

Mr. Maynard asked if there was any cost to the city for the travel. Superintendent Mayo-Brown went over the travel items that would come out of the operating budget.

Mr. Maynard asked if there were ten employees going to Rhode Island.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that there would be ten employees attending the Aspen Institute. She informed the Committee that Aspen is the district's student information management system. The ten individuals would be receiving training on any new upgrades to the student information management software program that is used.

Mr. Martins asked the actual cost of the institute.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked that Mr. Coogan speak to the cost in its entirety.

Mr. Coogan said the cost is \$400 per person; \$200 per day with 10 people attending. It comes out of the MIS budget and has already been budgeted for. The X2 system is all the data management for both staff and students in the school system.

Mr. Martins said that would total \$4,000. He noted that in the write up there were two free.

Mr. Coogan said yes, so it would be \$3,200 plus a little bit of mileage because they travel in their own cars.

Mr. Martins said he understands but it is misleading. It does not reference travel costs. He is a stickler on accuracy of figures.

Mr. Coogan said he was a little confused himself but when he asked for clarification, it is ten going and eight are free.

Mr. Martins said he just wanted to be clear as to what was happening.

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

DONATIONS

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept the donations.

No discussion

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

CONTRACTS

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To accept all contracts.

Discussion

Mr. Maynard asked if there was an increase in the bus contract.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked that Mr. Coogan address the question.

Mr. Coogan said the contract was for an additional bus that was added. He believes they have consolidated a few buses in some places but this particular bus is assigned to the Henry Lord route because they had to add a bus there.

Mr. Maynard asked if there was an increase in their new contract.

Mr. Coogan answered that it was an increase in their contract but did not believe overall that the transportation budget had gone up.

Mr. Maynard asked if that applied to both of them.

Mr. Coogan said that the sped transportation contract is the addition of a van to an out-of-district placement.

Mr. Maynard asked if it was an increase.

Mr. Coogan said overall, not at this point.

Mr. Costa asked if he heard him correctly that this additional bus contract was not going to exceed what the Committee voted to approve for the transportation budget.

Mr. Coogan said not at this time. The majority of the movement is in September/October. Overall he believes they have decreased the number of buses.

Mr. Costa said that transportation is an ineligible item for net school spending (NSS) so he wants to make sure this does not exceed the budget. He hopes they have learned that timely notification when it comes to ineligibles for NSS is the best course and wanted to make sure they were not in a situation like that. If they were they could take action to make sure they are letting the administration and City Council know as well.

Mr. Hart said looking at the budget report from December 1st and then December 31st, there seems to have been an increase in student transportation. He asked if it had anything to do with Amaral Bus Company.

Mr. Coogan said that would be a question for Mr. Saunders.

Mr. Saunders explained that Amaral Bus is included. The encumbrances are in there and it is pending contracts so that they can issue a purchase order. He has looked at those accounts and they are analyzing them. He expects that there will be some liquidation of some of those existing contracts. Right now they are fully encumbered and they are going to have to do some liquidation. It is realignment; as Mr. Coogan said, Amaral is taking on some of another contract's responsibility and that portion will be reduced.

Mr. Hart asked when he is looking at available budget...

Mr. Saunders said he is seeing negative \$162,000.

Mr. Hart said yes.

Mr. Saunders said that is correct and how it stands right now. They are analyzing that account and will be making some adjustments to those encumbrances.

Mr. Hart asked when the adjustments will be done.

Mr. Saunders said he hoped before the next meeting. They will be having a subcommittee meeting and will look at that because they have to bring forward the second quarter budget transfers.

Mr. Martins asked regarding the Kennedy-Donovan Center if it was to transport students to go to the center.

Mr. Coogan said yes; it is for placements.

Mr. Martins said the motion was to accept all contracts and he finds it difficult because there are some contracts that he would like to approve and some he would not. When the motion is to accept all contracts he does not have a chance to say no to the one he wants so he is required to vote no for the entire motion. He suggested that the Chair consider for the future that the contracts or other multiple items; to seek if there is any item that any member requests to have put separate and those that are not removed for a separate vote can be considered as a group and then tackle the one that is of concern.

Mr. Costa said for a point of information; if Mr. Martins is interested in bifurcating the motion, he could second that.

Mr. Martins said there was only one he would like to separate from the rest (Brian Robert).

Mrs. Panchley asked that they remove School and Main as well because it is going to be discussed at a later point in the agenda and she felt it would be more appropriate to go back to that contract after the discussion.

AMMENDED MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To bifurcate two of the six contracts and take the remaining four as a whole; Amaral, Kennedy Donovan Center, Maguire Equipment Incorporated and the National Center on Time & Learning.

Discussion

Mr. Hart asked Mr. Coogan what happened to the compactors that were already at Doran, Tansey, and Watson.

Mr. Coogan said they are currently using a dumpster system. They are required by regulation to handle trash a little differently this year in terms of kitchen/food waste and the frequency of the dumpster service with the new rates; by using a compactor they are able to keep it in a sealed container and go longer between services and still follow regulation. The payback on the three investments is about 17-18 months and after that they should pay for themselves in savings going forward.

Mr. Hart asked about a maintenance agreement.

Mr. Coogan said there is a warranty of one year on the installation, electrical work, and the unit itself.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Sutter noted the next contract was for the School & Main Institute.

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley requested that this vote be done after discussion item three where the topic would be discussed first.

Mayor Sutter agreed to hold the vote. He then asked if they were ready to vote on the last contract for Brian Robert.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract for Brian Robert.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said while he understands the purpose, when he looks at the budget that particular line item is \$170,000 over budget. He fully understands that you cannot hold lines right down to the penny but when he sees a \$170,000 deficit he wonders why they establish a budget.

Mr. Costa said as a point of information for his colleague; he thought it was not coming out of the contracted services line, his understanding is that it is coming out of the administrative contracted services line which still has only been expended 86.8%. He thought the line he was referencing was not the line it was coming from and that it is coming from a line that has sufficient funding in it.

Mr. Martins said they need to have some determination on where the money is going to come from. He asked Madame Superintendent where the money would come from.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked that Mr. Saunders address the question.

Mr. Saunders said the money is going to come out of the contract line. They are in a deficit of \$170,000. They have second quarter transfers but have not had a Finance Subcommittee meeting. Similar to the previous years he has been here, they have budgeted positions extensively inside of special education and have not been able to fill those positions so they have had to transfer money out of the teachers' line item to contractual services. In that area, they will see a proposal for the second quarter transfers to transfer the money to the big areas that they are having issues with such as speech where they have not been able to fill those positions so they had to contract out. In the interpretation services they have had a contract issue there.

Mr. Saunders continued that for the Brian Roberts process, again, they are doing a contract where normally they would have done this inside of a professional services line item for salary. They are going to have to remove money out of the professional service line to cover the contractual and it would be a transfer they would take to the subcommittee which they do quarterly. They are approved by the subcommittee and go back to the Committee as a whole. The administrative contractual that they see inside of there is within their facilities area and are some contractual services that they do within facilities.

Mr. Martins asked if the \$15,000 comes out of line 530000.

Mr. Saunders said it will come out of there and there will be a transfer that they would recommend to take money out of professional services which is a salary account line and move it into contractual.

Mr. Martins said he is fully aware of the fact that they are one quarter of the way through the school year and he is fully aware that there are quite a few teaching positions that have gone unfilled. It has happened for quite a few years and has bothered him. He understands some of the reasons why that happens but if they budgeted for those positions then those positions will have an excess in that line because they are not expending from that line. He felt the budget needed to be set and stuck to.

Mr. Saunders said they produce the financial report to them and make recommendations to move monies around during the year with full disclosure on any monies they are taking to move around. They have areas where they have vacancies or recruiting issues that have been brought to the School Committee's attention. They have always come back and asked to move those monies from one area into contractual services. They are doing consistently the same process they have used at all times and are staying within School Committee policy which is to make recommendations quarterly to move forward. Special ed. is one of their biggest contractual areas and they have to provide those services. Even if the School Committee did not want to move that money, they would find themselves in the situation that they would have to move those monies so the services can be provided. It is not a thing they like to do but they have to. They always take it forward to the Committee and make those recommendations because the services are required.

Mr. Martins understood the special education piece.

Mr. Saunders said that is why they are negative \$170,000.

Mr. Costa asked if Mr. Saunders wanted the Committee to take action that evening to increase a line item that is already in a deficit and then they are going to bring back a request for a transfer at a later date.

Mr. Saunders said they will be making a recommendation to the Committee later in the month, before the February meeting, to move approximately \$300,000 into that line.

Mr. Costa said he is not going to support the contract not because he does not think it is a needed service but because he is not going to vote on a situation where they are going to increase a line item that is already in need of a transfer. If Mr. Saunders would like to bring it back next meeting with a transfer identifying where the funds were coming from that is fine. He has not heard where the funds are going to come from to cover the line item for contractual services that is \$170,000 in the red. He said it may be semantics but he is not comfortable until the line is made whole. He said he is only one vote and it may pass but he wanted to go on record as not supporting it.

Mr. Saunders said the \$170,000 deficit inside of contractual services is definitely supported by the contracts that had to be let out on speech services. If those contracts were not let out they would not be in the deficit.

Mr. Costa said he has no doubt that he has a plan to bring back to them but timing is the issue for him. He noted it is not a true deficit because they are still within the bottom line and a reason why they have quarterly transfers but he is not comfortable with it at this point.

Mr. Hart said he feels the same as Mr. Costa and if it was appropriate, suggested a motion to table it for the proper funding at the next meeting.

Mrs. Panchley said she thought it was a short term position and was concerned with the timing. It is filling a gap for 4-6 weeks and if they wait until February, wondered if the time will have passed for the position.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that the position is to fill an absence they have coming up at the high school for a key position. That absence will begin in eight days. She wondered if the Committee was comfortable with the recommendation for Mr. Saunders to recommend it being paid out of a different line item for salaries versus contractual. She asked if there was any reason not to pay it out of a salary line item since the individual would be an interim employee.

Mr. Saunders said it would be a reclassification of the expense at the end and they would come back and redo that. There are available funds inside that line item and the dollars could be spent that way as a salaried employee.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked if he could make the recommendation to the Committee that this particular contract for the Interim Associate Principal at Durfee High School could be supported out of the professional salaries line item.

Mr. Saunders responded yes.

Mayor Sutter asked if they wanted to revisit the idea of tabling.

There was some discussion as to there being two motions on the table and what motion should be disposed of first.

Attorney Assad said the motion to table would control.

Mayor Sutter agreed and said there was a motion to table and asked if there was a second and there was none.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – : To table the contract for Brian Robert until February.
There was no second on the motion – motion failed.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley - Mr. Hart: To approve the contract for Brian Robert.

A roll call showed:

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

4 were in favor 3 were opposed (Mr. Costa/Mr. Hart/Mr. Martins) Motion passed

GRANTS

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve all grants as listed.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Plans for Expansion of the Community Center model in Fall River Schools – Letourneau and Fonseca (2014-2015) and SMILES Superintendent’s Report for 2013-2014 School Year.

Discussion

Mr. Bill Perkins, Chief operating officer, People Incorporated, said their Board of Directors and Administrators are completely committed in partnering with the school department to improve educational services in the city and they are very proud of their programs. He explained that they provided a summary of the activities in their packet and he had with him Ms. Marilyn Grubb who is the Director of their Community Centers and Mr. Aaron Hubley who is the Director of their SMILES program. The programs are a true partnership between the school department, People Inc., Bristol Community College and Bay Coast Bank. In the case of SMILES other financial donors that they have been able to leverage were listed in the packets. The programs have had a significant impact. With regards to the Community Center the Letourneau School Community Center was started two years ago, a model was developed in support of students and families. They are very proud of the workforce development efforts that have opened at that center in partnership with Bristol Community College. Most importantly with the Letourneau Center and centers going forward, parent engagement is at the core of what it is they are bringing to the schools with their community centers in partnership with all of their partners. At the end of last school year the Superintendent asked if they could replicate a model at the Fonseca Elementary School and he is happy to say that that program is currently under way. All of the centers are in cooperation and partnership with the school personnel, principal, and other administrators at the school and with their help they have been able to be more individualized with the plans for the Fonseca Center knowing that English as a second language is a needed area of improvement there and they are working with BCC to bring that training for families and parents to that Fonseca Center.

With regard to their SMILES program, People Inc. took on the program as an affiliate in 2006. The program was initiated in New Bedford and with cooperation and support of the Superintendent and School Committee they have been able to bring SMILES across the school district. In their packet the Committee can see the number of people involved in the program. It is a mentoring program where People Inc.’s role is to garner the support of businesses and people in the community to act as mentors. They do a literacy based program in the elementary schools and a more traditional mentoring model in the middle schools. The hope is that their mentors will follow students from their early grades right through their careers in the public schools and since SMILES has been in operation for a while they have seen that come to fruition in many cases and are very proud of those examples.

Mr. Perkins thanked Mayor Sutter specifically for his support of the SMILES program over the years. They are once again asking for that support for this school year and the school year to come. He asked if there were any specific questions about the programs.

Mr. Hart asked referencing the information packet what type of case management they offer.

Mr. Perkins asked Ms. Grubb to address that question.

Ms. Grubb said they work with the School Adjustment Counselors to identify families who might need assistance with housing. Their family advocate will work with them to identify other sources of funding that might help them or somewhere they can look for housing and sign up for what they

need to be signed up for. They also have had families who need assistance in signing up for medical insurance. Whatever the family is in need of at that point the family advocate will work with them around finding resources in the community.

Mr. Hart asked how often they will be in the school.

Ms. Grubb said there are posted hours for both schools. Both of the positions are full-time but there may be times when they go out and visit families in their homes as well as providing the programming and supervising different activities for the children. There are quite a few things besides the case management that they will be doing.

Mr. Hart noted the packet says they will be assisting with planning and implementing monthly parent information activities on curriculum, math literacy, science and have spaghetti dinners, pancake breakfasts, etc. He thinks parent involvement at the schools is absolutely key to a child's success in education. He asked if they will be partnering with the schools to increase the potential to have more parents involved in their child's education.

Ms. Grubb said absolutely. She explained that at the end of November they had an activity that started with a need the School Adjustment Counselor identified to talk about routines for families and learning about the importance of nighttime routines so they added a program called *Bedtime Math* and they had 80 parents and children attend. It was not only a fun family activity but there was learning involved. That is the type of thing they will plan around needs identified by the schools and by the parents. They have a survey that is going out to the parents right now to see what types of things they would like to come out and participate in.

Mr. Hart asked how successful the partnership with BCC to provide workforce development has been.

Ms. Grubb said last year they had thirteen parents sign up. They were not all from Letourneau School and were a few other low income Fall River residents who signed up for it. She believed six of the parents were from Letourneau and they all graduated from the program.

Mr. Hart said that was great and he is absolutely in favor of it and thought they did a great job in the community. He asked that they come back and let them know how everything is going.

Ms. Grubb said absolutely and noted that the Committee could also go out and join them.

Mrs. Panchley noted that even though the school department is giving \$50,000 towards the endeavor, People Inc. is putting up more than that as well as BCC putting up a great deal of money and the business community matching what the school department gives. It is a community effort and sadly one that is needed. There are a lot of people needed to get students ready to learn every day and she wanted to thank them and acknowledge the other groups that are contributing to make this happen.

Mr. Perkins said in saying that they will notice in their packet there is information about their SMILES fundraising event which is an important part of SMILES. He noted Miles for SMILES was taking place March 22nd. One of the things about SMILES that is very important is that their civic leaders are behind them and he thanked them.

Mr. Martins said he has witnessed the operation of the SMILES program and thinks it is excellent seeing the volunteers coming in working with the children. However, he questioned that he had never seen a report regarding the results of the activities of the center at the Letourneau and thought it would be helpful. He was going to support it and thought it was a great idea but suggested it would be helpful if they knew how many parents actually participated in the services provided. He recommended that a report be provided to them on a semi-annual basis.

Mr. Perkins said some of the information is in their packet but he thought that is a relevant piece and their support deserves them to come back to them with regular reporting and they will be sure to provide that going forward.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve.

No Discussion

6 were in favor

None were opposed

1 was absent (Mrs. Panchley)

Motion passed

Clarification of the motion: Superintendent asked for clarification for Madame Secretary if the School Committee in its motion is approving the expenditure of \$50,000 for the community center and \$50,000 to sustain SMILES.

The Committee agreed.

2. Katie Brown Educational Program impact and partnership with FRPS

Discussion

Dr. Larry Brown began his (slideshow) presentation stating that the Katie Brown Education Program is very appreciative of all of the support it has gotten through the years from the school district and they were delighted to be able to perform an evaluation at Durfee High School last year. For his research group and himself since they spend most of their time developing and evaluating prevention programs this was really right up their alley. He asked rhetorically what was special about this dating violence prevention program and outlined that it is much briefer than all of the other evidence based ones which are long, lengthy, and difficult to integrate.

Mayor Sutter said that this was something that he had a lot to do with when he was District Attorney so he will have some questions as Dr. Brown goes on with his presentation. He asked how many other programs there were like this either in Massachusetts, throughout New England, or throughout the United States.

Dr. Brown pointed out that the three evidence based programs in the entire nation (Safe Dates, The Fourth R, Expect Respect) were listed on the slide.

Mayor Sutter asked where Safe Dates was being done.

Dr. Brown said he was not sure if it was being done in Massachusetts or not.

Mayor Sutter asked about The Fourth R.

Dr. Brown did not think that was done in New England and Expect Respect he thought was done in Maine.

Mayor Sutter said that these would then be very limited programs.

Dr. Brown said yes; lots of places have used shorter versions of this and have called it evidence based but that is not really where the evidence based comes from. They take a shortened version of it and say what they are doing is based on an evidence based program.

Mayor Sutter asked if their assessment looked at these other programs as well.

Dr. Brown responded no, just Katie Brown. All that had happened in Katie Brown up until this point was that it is feasible, students like it, and that their attitudes and knowledge changed but it had not been compared to a comparison group that was not getting the Katie Brown Program and there had never been a self-reported behavior. The goal of what they did at Durfee last year was to take kids who got the Katie Brown Program and compare them to similar classes that did not get it.

Mr. Costa said he saw the president, Dr. Schachne, of the Katie Brown Educational Program was there as well as their executive director, Claire Spaulding McVicker. He thought in conjunction with Dr. Brown's presentation they could also shed some light for the Committee.

Dr. Schachne explained they have had the program since 2001. It is a five-session, age-appropriate, interactive program from fifth grade through high school and has been given to well over 70,000 children throughout Southeastern Mass and Rhode Island. More than half of those 70,000 have been Fall River students. Intuitively they knew students were getting the information and their attitudes were changing but because of funding and because they really wanted to know they needed to do a study to see if they were indeed evidence based; were they not only informing the kids but were they changing their attitudes and behaviors. Through Dr. Brown and his group they performed this study which looked at an experimental group and a control group to really see if it works. They will see that it works and know where their money is going.

Dr. Brown asked if there were any other questions at this point and there were not. He continued with his presentation explaining that they sent consents to parents and received about 75% back which was remarkable. They were able to follow up with about 85% of the students three months later. They completed surveys before they started Katie Brown, as soon as they finished, and then three months later which was the assessment period. They looked to make sure that Katie Brown was delivered the way they thought it should be so about 40% of the sessions were observed by one of the people from his research staff and amazingly out of the five sessions on average kids came to over four of them. They then looked at attitudes and behavior. The primary behavioral thing that they were looking at was what happens in dating relationships because they are preventing dating violence. The survey looked at emotional abuse, threatening behaviors, relational abuse, physical abuse, and looked at perpetration (are you doing it or is it being done to you). What they looked at and thought they could find an effect in were the students that had a dating history and were actually dating because if they are not dating it is more hypothetical. Just from a scientific standpoint they had to account for the fact that those kids were in a classroom. They did not randomize kids and separated the classrooms.

Dr. Brown went over the baseline demographics calling their attention that this was before the intervention; emotional/verbal abuse (are you being emotionally abusive to somebody). At baseline about 90% of kids have said yes in the past three months that is the way they have been with another partner. About a third of students said they were threatening their partners. 30% of

kids at baseline say yes they have been a victim of dating violence in the past three months. Dr. Brown stated that this is why these programs need to be done.

What they found was that the Katie Brown Program showed improvement in dating violence related knowledge and attitudes and they were sustained for three months. He went over the dating violence attitudes slides.

Mayor Sutter asked why they chose three months as the demarcation line as opposed to six.

Dr. Brown responded part of it has to do with the school year program because they wanted to make sure that the kids who did not get the Katie Brown would get it in the next semester and part was that a lot of their research has shown that adolescents and adults do much better at remembering things in the past three months than over six months or a year.

Mayor Sutter said he greatly endorsed the program but wondered if there would have been greater value to the study if they had gone back six months or a year later to see if the impact was lasting.

Dr. Brown said absolutely and he thought the other reason was in part the resources they had to do it and getting back and seeing people six months or a year later they would get a smaller number of them. With more intensive resources they could do it. He also said that three months is the standard in the field and is felt to be reliable and sufficient.

Dr. Brown continued with the *Perpetration* slide noting that he highlighted in yellow and bolded the things that were statistically significant in change. Kids in the Katie Brown Program were significantly less likely to say they were emotionally abusing people in the past three months and that they were not threatening (16% compared to 31%). The rate of threatening behavior goes down in half which is a huge change in three months. Also, although not statistically significant, the physical perpetration changes by about 50%. If they had had a bigger sample/more kids in the program it would have been significantly significant. It was a meaningful result even though it was not statistically significant.

Dr. Brown continued with the *Victimization* slide and noted it was similarly true. Not only was it changing in what kids said they were doing themselves but had they experienced things. They were less likely to have experienced emotional abuse, been threatened or had physical dating violence. The last two were again not statistically significant but meaningfully different. He said that it was more than he hoped they would see and kind of what he expected. In the short amount of time with a small group they were delighted to see the results.

Dr. Brown went over the *Conclusions* slide noting knowledge and attitudes were sustained for three months and less violence in relationships. He noted that the limitations was that the data was only from one school and were self-reports; they may need longer follow-up and a larger sample to detect more of the effects. Also, they only studied the impact of one week of intervention. KBEP impact over time may be greater. The program can be delivered over multiple years.

He concluded by going over the *Strengths* slide. He noted it was a well-done study because of the support of the staff, parents, and all the support that they had. They had a great retention rate and he thought it was convincing that there are changes in attitudes and behavior. As this gets accepted by a journal, they are going to be able to say that Katie Brown is evidence based and this will be the first evidence for it.

Mr. Martins said there were two documents in their material; one being the Katie Brown Educational Program and the other from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding updated guidance in school districts addressing teen dating violence. When reading through the material they reference teen dating and he asked what the relationship was. He also stated that they had received a letter from the School Committee Association indicating the statute and their opinion. He asked the relationship.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that in the School Committee briefing memo she had explained the state law was amended in 2010 requiring public schools to include in their health education the topic of safe and healthy relationships with a focus on preventing sexual and domestic violence. That is the guidance that they have. The Katie Brown Educational Program is a curriculum that provides students and assists the district with providing resources to their students through its programming to address that area. The e-mail that he referenced is from MASC; because the state law was amended, it does suggest that school districts develop policy to comply with the law. They questioned MASC on behalf of the Committee to determine whether the Committee needed to engage in any additional policy work. They have the answer from MASC indicating that they would not advise that the Committee do anything additional beyond the policies that they already have in an effort to comply with the law.

Mr. Martins questioned the response saying they were not obligated to do anything unless or until the legislature appropriates funds. It is an unfunded mandate.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is an unfunded mandate but pointed out that the School Committee in its ongoing support of the Katie Brown Education Program over the past number of years and the statistics in their packet are something in terms of the schools and the number of students served in each school. The Fall River School Committee is way ahead of the state in terms of providing resources to students around the topic of safe and healthy relationships.

Mr. Martins did not fully understand – he wanted to say no to the issue of the updated guidance on school and district addressing teen dating violence but asked if it was included in the Katie Brown material.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown clarified that it was just for their information to alert the Committee that there was new guidance on it. She is not recommending that they take any action on the guidance from DESE. The only recommendation she had for the Committee was to continue to support the excellent programming they have from the KBEP.

Mr. Martins said if that was the case, he yielded.

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

A roll call showed:

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

6 were in favor

None were opposed

1 abstained

Motion passed

Dr. Schachne personally thanked the Committee and explained that they really do need the money and he would not have come to them they did not. They were promised a lot of money from the state and it was taken away at the last minute. The people involved give a lot of money to the program and believe in it. They have his commitment that it is going to continue. For the last 12 years they have tried to change the culture and make children safer and healthier. There is an epidemic of domestic violence. He thanked the Committee again and promised that every cent will be put to good use.

Mayor Sutter said when they think about all the publicity that domestic violence gets and the amount of money being spent recently (NFL) in public service announcements and how cost effective their program is, he thought he spoke for the Committee when he said they applauded what they are doing and encouraged them to keep up with even more vigor.

Mr. Costa said for public disclosure he abstained from the vote because he is and has been a board member for a number of years so his vote to abstain should not send any signal that he is not in support of the work that is being done. He wholeheartedly supports the work being done and has seen it first hand and know that it works. Now they have the great results from Dr. Brown to prove that. His hope is that it will get published in the Journal of School Health and they will be able to go on and show that it has changed behavior and attitude which is what they are looking to do.

Dr. Schachne said the program is good but they are committed to making it better and are constantly refining it to meet the new day.

3. **Vote to Approve:** School and Main Institute proposal for FRPS Parent Academy Development, *as recommended by Superintendent Mayo-Brown.*

MOTION: Mr. Hart– Mr. Maynard: To approve the School and Main Institute proposal for FRPS Parent Academy Development.

Discussion:

Mrs. Panchley said she was excited to see this on the agenda because she is always pushing for increasing parent involvement. She thinks this is a step in the right direction to encourage meaningful parent involvement where parents can truly be involved in their children's education. She hopes this is a first step to get Fall River on the same track as Springfield to meaningful parent involvement.

Mr. Martins said the cost is \$40,692 and asked where the money was going to come from.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked that Mr. Saunders verify that through the Chair.

Mr. Saunders said it is coming out of the operating budget under contractual services.

Mr. Martins noted that that line was over expended. He asked what the program would do for them. He also noted that the film they viewed earlier from Morton where they had one teacher talking to a small group of students while there were other groups of students that were doing something else. He wondered if there would be greater results if there were two teachers in that classroom so that there are two people attending to the students.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that it was a great research question.

Mr. Martins continued that \$40,692 could fund one entering teacher and two to three paraprofessionals. He asked again what the program was going to do for them in regards to the involvement of parents that they have and translated to the students that are in the classroom and how it would increase the learning of those students.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked Mr. Martins if he believed that parents can and should support their child's learning.

Mr. Martins responded "absolutely."

Superintendent Mayo-Brown thought that underscored the significance of the proposal because it is helping parents through parent academies develop those kinds of skills and opportunities to support student learning at home but also to be engaged with schools. It is increasing parent engagement. She added that based on what Mrs. Panchley said in terms of hearing from Springfield last year and what they were doing; the organization that she is recommending that they contract with is the premier organization for assisting districts with increasing parent engagement in the spirit of supporting student learning. They are fortunate to have with them the Executive Director, Andrew Beck. She asked through the Chair if she could invite Mr. Beck to the podium to help them understand more specifically around the comprehensive planning and development delivery model to do what they are talking about.

Mr. Beck said he was happy to answer any questions and explained that they have worked with a number of districts and communities around the country around the notion if they want their young people to achieve at the highest levels then they need to engage their parents so that they are a part of the partnership around education. Parents and families struggle with a lot of challenges that exist today in the community. The notion of a parent academy in Springfield which they helped build is a city-wide approach and not a school by school approach to engage parents and build capacity both around how they help their children in their education but also how they help their families be successful. He went over some of the courses they might offer. He noted Springfield was in its fourth year. They are taught by partners of the district at no cost to the district or parents. They were able to offer 50 classes in the first semester of their first year in Springfield. They were able to reach 1,500 parents the first year and are at about 6,000 parents in their fourth year. Parents graduate and get a diploma and walk down the aisle with their children so that they model behavior that they want kids to see and get to see education being meaningful.

Mayor Sutter asked if it was an original idea developed by the Springfield School Committee.

Mr. Beck said it was developed out of a need and explained that Springfield had struggled and found that when they had open houses and curriculum nights the same parents would come every time. The parents that they were trying to reach were not coming. They decided with School and Main's help that they were looking for a way to go out and not just expect parents to come to them. They needed a new strategy and a new way to mobilize the community around parent and family engagement. Courses are now offered at church, community centers, schools, large employers, etc.

Mayor Sutter asked if he had any data to quantify the results.

Mr. Beck thought it had redefined the relationship that they have with parents. They do surveys and the surveys come back much more connected to school and much more connected to the community. The parents self-report high percentage rates on the courses that are offered and on

their curriculum and open house nights they would get 20-30 parents and now they just had five courses offered where they got 500 parents. There is day care and transportation provided. They would self-report re-defined relationships and parents are more engaged. They do not have the money to track the impact on individual students of the parents who attend but what parents self-report is that they have greater skills and understand the school system more. They are able to navigate the issues that they have had with the school system. They report through surveys and other types of feedback mechanisms that they have better relationships with the schools; they are better able to help their kids at home; better able to help their families.

Mayor Sutter did not understand why they were not able to track that.

Mr. Beck said they are able to track it if they have the resources to pay for an evaluation and they have not been able to discover those resources.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was any anecdotal evidence for at-risk kids whose parents participated in this program.

Mr. Beck described that there were a number of parents who lived in the public housing apartments in Springfield who were struggling with special education needs of their kids and they couldn't get to school because they were working 2-3 jobs. The special ed. department was frustrated because they had all types of meetings and evaluations set-up and parents could not show. The parent academy, working with the school system, offered a special education primer for that public housing project and parents came down to learn about what they needed to know to help their kids. The "courses on wheels" have gotten lots of positive feedback and engagement from parents that ordinarily would not be able to go to the schools.

Mr. Martins asked if Springfield has dealt with families that are non-English speaking.

Mr. Beck responded absolutely.

Mr. Martins asked how they communicated with them.

Mr. Beck explained that half the courses were taught in Spanish and English. They are limited to the resources of the school system but when they engage the entire community they have people who do translation and as part of their mission they were willing to engage with the school district in being able to stand up with a teacher and translate to Spanish which was the second largest language in Springfield. A lot of the materials and billboards were translated as well.

Mr. Martins noted that in Fall River it would be Spanish and Portuguese and asked if they could handle that.

Mr. Beck responded that it depended on the community which is where they would find the resources.

Mr. Martins said he would like to revisit what the Mayor brought up which was that they do not know how many students are actually helped in the classroom.

Mr. Beck said what they do know is how many parents are engaged in the capacity building effort and how many children those parents have. What the schools report is that they have new kinds of

relationships and the ability to go out and work with parents in a different kind of setting which is an adult learning setting where parents want to be there and are engaged. It opens up dialogues that were not happening across the city.

Mr. Martins said they have spent a considerable amount of money regarding wrap-around services and other programs such as parental outreach and he has yet to see any documentation that it relates to. Parental involvement is important but all of the programs they have instituted thus far and the amounts of money they have expended in hiring people to go out into the community; he has yet to see a report that says this has helped “x” number of students.

Mr. Beck said he is really happy that he mentioned that because his organization is a technical assistance provider for the state on wrap-around zones. Fall River is one of the districts they have worked to support and is a model for other districts in the state for this work. If they look at the Doran and the movement from level 4 to level 1, the big change in the school was focusing on climate, culture, and relationships with kids and families. They were able to move from level 4 to level 1 and would self-report it was based a lot on those kinds of efforts. He added that there would also be a report coming out in the next month done by an evaluator that the state hired (The American Institute for Research) which shows that there was a statistically significant impact on MCAS scores for the schools that participated in the wrap-around zone initiative. For the first time they will see in hard copy statistically significant evidence that paying attention to climate, culture, relationships and supporting the students’ needs that are non-academic and developing relationships with parents and families really does impact academic achievement.

Mayor Sutter asked where the report was.

Mr. Beck said it would be coming out of the Department of Education and they will be able to see it within the next month. The Commissioner will be sharing it.

Mr. Martins said the Superintendent is recommending it and he is going to support it; however, he will wait and see one year from now where it is at. He mentioned Doran and agreed it was fantastic but noted it also cost \$3M as well and questioned where they would get that kind of money.

Mr. Beck agreed and said the wrap-around zone money came through the federal government through the Race To The Top (RTTT) initiative through the state to the districts so that money he can talk about but he did not know locally what they are doing around those types of things. He thought it is a fair price to pay to be able to move a level 4 school to level 1 or to impact MCAS scores to the degree that it has.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown added that they have two wrap-around zone schools in Fall River that were supported by federal money and then the School Committee took much of that on to incorporate it when RTTT funds ended. She asked them to look at where those schools were and where they are now by the sustaining of those resources by the School Committee for both schools (Kuss and Doran). It was a comprehensive approach to students both academically, social-emotionally, and behaviorally that led those schools from a four to a one. They want to continue the good work and emphasized that School and Main is not delivering specific services but they are assisting them to mobilize the community around pulling together resources to be able to deliver classes through a parent academy model.

Mr. Beck said that was correct; they are going to build an academy that can stand on its own that won't cost very much money and is shared by community partners who are eager to work with them and have something that is owned by not just the schools but by people across the city.

Mr. Hart said he was in favor of the program but asked Mr. Saunders about fund code 53000 and that money coming out of that account when the account was 105% over budgeted. He asked how they were going to get the money to pay over \$40,000 and wondered if it should come out of another account. He did not want to vote no on it.

Mr. Saunders explained again that the reason that the contracted service line item is in a deficit is because they have let out contracts for special education services that they are going to have to transfer money in for. After that is done, that account will be in a positive position but will not happen until the second quarter transfers are done.

Mr. Hart asked Madame Superintendent when those positions were going to be filled that they have allocated the money for. He remembers the discussion they had about it and wondered what the status was on that.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown restated that when they use the word deficit it is in a specific line item for contractual services and that has occurred because they have not been able to recruit employees in the area of speech and occupational therapy so they have to go out and contract with third party organizations so students can receive those services. Even when they do that there is a lapse of time when a student is missing a service. That is why that line item is running in a deficit. The School Committee's policy is that they make transfers to line items on a quarterly basis. Mr. Saunders expressed that they are in the process of trying to establish a finance subcommittee meeting this month so that he can recommend those transfers which will come out of teacher salaries because when they are not able to recruit and employ a therapist the recommendation is that the School Committee take that salary out of teacher salaries and put it into contractual services. Until that is recommended through finance they are going to see that line in the negative until those quarterly transfers take place.

Mr. Hart asked how many positions have been committed.

Superintendent asked Mr. Saunders if he knew how many positions they have moved from employees to contractual.

Mr. Saunders said it was about six positions.

Mr. Costa asked Mr. Saunders through the Chair when the district knew they were not going to be able to fill the positions and needed to go out for contracted services.

Mr. Saunders said they knew they didn't have those positions filled in September. They reposted the positions in October and still have not filled them.

Mr. Costa said they made the decision to use contracted services to cover a needed service.

Mr. Saunders said yes and explained that the contracted services are set up for the year. If the positions came back they would reduce the contracts.

Mr. Costa understood but said he was curious about the district making a decision to move to contracted services because they could not find someone to fill the positions after posting them and wanted to know when the decision was made. He understands the School Committee policy is quarterly transfers but if they know in advance that the services are needed there is nothing that prohibits the administration from coming to the Committee sooner. He is bothered when they continue to expend money from a line item that does not have sufficient funding in it. He understands it is the matter of a transfer but if they have known for a number of months that they were not going to be able to fill the positions and were going to have use contracted services then wondered why it was not made known to the Committee.

Mr. Saunders believed their intent has always been to fill the positions. He brought back an amendment sometime around November to increase the contract for the speech therapy at the same time they were trying to advertise for the positions. If the position got filled, they would have reduced the contracts.

Mr. Costa said it was a program that he supports and is needed but he is having a difficult time okaying funding that would put the line further in the negative. He is sure when they make the transfer from professional salaries it will cover it but he is also hearing that it may come out of sped services and he is not convinced that they do enough in the area of sped services and will be tasked with supporting a transfer out of a line that he thought they needed to do more in to cover a line that is in a deficit for another needed service. He is asking that they do it all upfront and not in individual meetings and take money from lines to cover deficits.

Mr. Saunders said procedurally there is no reason why they cannot at the same time they do the contract, have the recommendation for a transfer at that time.

Mr. Costa said the reason they have quarterly transfers was because the Committee at one point was tasked with making transfers at the end of the fiscal year and it was a mess. They put policy in place so that now it's done on a quarterly basis so that the Committee can see on a quarterly basis where the money is being spent or what needs to be transferred from one line to another. He was supportive of those quarterly transfers and is now being asked to support contracts that are actually going against that.

Mr. Costa said that he saw in the payment schedule in the MOA that two payments are going to go out, one in April and another one in June. He wondered in terms of funding if the Committee chose to take no action that evening on funding the program and did it in February once the transfers were complete if it would hold the project up.

Mr. Saunders responded that it is a matter of how the contract is structured and how much work is being done.

Mr. Costa said it stated that the consultant will invoice the schools twice during the duration of the MOA and he asked if it gave ample time to get it off the ground if the Committee chose to take action on this in February.

Mr. Saunders said he could not answer that

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained to Mr. Costa that the work scope is from February 1 to June 30 and she did not think it would derail the project if the Committee was more comfortable with

that. When they look at the scope of the work, the early emerging work is to begin designing the development process so she thought they would be asking them to wait just another two weeks to really launch that.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she wanted to go on the record that they are not going to bring contracts forward anymore for lines that have a deficit in them. She understands that the Committee is concerned about that and they will make a change in their practice that either they make the transfers well enough in advance or they hold off on the recommendation. She does not want to put the Committee in a position where they are having to say yes to a contract because it is a good program but that particular line item is in the red until the forthcoming transfer.

Mr. Costa appreciate that and said that the funds have to come from somewhere and he thinks to have that discussion right up front when they are making the decisions is more appropriate rather than down the road. He stated again that he is in favor of the program but thought the timing of the funding mechanism did not line up. He was not sure what the will of the Committee would be but his vote would be not to support it at this point and if it came back in February with a transfer he would gladly support it.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Costa: To table the School and Main proposal to the February meeting.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

4. Vote to Approve: Early graduation request

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the early graduation request.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

5. Vote to Approve: The recommendation of the CVTE program selected for the Chapter 74 application

Mr. Robert Gadbois, Dr. Michelle Sylvaria, and Mr. Paul Marshall were invited to the podium for discussion.

Mr. Martins said he supports the issue of Environmental Science and Technology as a CVTE program; however, he thought that they were going to have another meeting in January prior to it being brought to the School Committee. There were things that did not seem to follow the outline for the approval of a CVTE program. He asked what the courses would be for the first and second year. He wanted to vote in favor of this because they receive a lot more money if the student is classified as a CVTE student versus a regular education student. He thought there were programs at Durfee currently that if the classes were combined could bring in quite a bit of additional Chapter 70 funds and the curriculum is already written. One of the objections that he hears regarding FRED-TV is that it does not become an elective and he did not believe that was true. He wants to approve the Environmental Science and Technology program but he wants to do it in a manner of which he understands it and asked again about the progression of courses which he did not see listed.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – : That this item be tabled until they have another curriculum meeting where these issues can be addressed.

Discussion:

Mrs. Panchley said that she is on the Curriculum Subcommittee with Mr. Martins and her understanding was that the application is due in April and they were agreeing to the concept of going forward with Environmental Science. She was not expecting that they would have a full plan before them that evening that they were going to submit. She thought they were looking the Committee's support to go ahead with it. They agreed that there would be one application that they would go forward with this year. Durfee came forward with Environmental Science and she felt that they were looking for the Committee's support to give them the go-ahead to move forward with that application for April.

Mr. Martins interrupted and Mrs. Panchley said that she still had the floor.

Mrs. Panchley continued that she felt she was asking the Committee to support that they go ahead with the Environmental Science application and if they can continue to look at other areas down the road come September or October they could meet and discuss what the next steps will be and what other areas they will be looking to go into. For this year they agreed to one program and she will be supporting their continued efforts to put an Environmental Science program together with the hopes that it will be a good application that will be accepted and that their students can enroll in that in September. She is in favor of this and feels like they have discussed everything that they can discuss and if they hold off on it they are not going to give Durfee the time to plan a good application for their high school.

Mr. Andrade said that he was happy that Durfee was coming in with the proposal for one program and he recalled at a previous Instructional Subcommittee meeting in May there was no assurance at all that they would have any for this year so having one program proposed he felt was a positive and agreed with Mrs. Panchley that Durfee needs the time to start working on it if they are going to get an application in for April. Moving forward he asked that they consider providing a program where there are employment opportunities for more marginal students who have attendance or other issues in school. They are looking to try to engage those types of students with meaningful programs that provide them a satisfied interest in providing opportunities in the future. He congratulated Durfee on moving ahead on this and wished them well.

Mayor Sutter asked if there was further discussion.

Mr. Martins said he certainly wanted the Environmental Engineering program but he was under the impression that what was going to be presented was a layout of all of the items where the progressive discussion was to be showed and documented. If that is going to be done then he likes that but he did not see it in his materials. He thought there was more work to be done in order to get it approved but as long as everyone understood that he did not have a problem. They will work to get this completed so that they will have another CVTE program available. He asked what the time factor was noting that he sees a lot of gaps and they will discuss it at an upcoming subcommittee meeting. He questioned the scheduling and time requirement for the program which was not described in the materials he was given. He thought it needed to be included in order to have it as an approved program.

Mr. Martins said he would like to change his motion.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Andrade: To accept the formation of environmental engineering as a CVTE program and that the Durfee Administration do more work to make it happen.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

6. Update on the progress of the Committee and Superintendent’s goals

Mr. Andrade said there were three items that were on the agenda for the subcommittee meeting. One was the Superintendent’s goals which she has to present to the Committee as part of what she will be evaluated on. The second was the goals and vision that the School Committee was to be establishing with the collaboration of the Superintendent. The third, the survey that they had authorized UMass Dartmouth to do regarding two items of the School Committee’s self-evaluation which revolved around a respect and trust issue.

He continued that regarding the survey, that will be done by UMass Dartmouth and he spoke to the director of the Public Policy Center, Mike Goodman, and he is beginning work on that. He will remain in contact and update the Committee as to what is happening with that.

In terms of the Superintendent’s goals, she is working on those and is almost done. She felt they would be ready by the end of the week and they would be ready to be presented to the School Committee for discussion and approval.

Regarding the School Committee goals, they had surveyed the members of the School Committee in terms of what they felt their priorities were in terms of goals or vision for the district. They will be drafting a vision statement for the next regular meeting. In the meantime, they did receive a number of goals from the members of the Committee. They were scattered and there wasn’t consensus on every single goal. He went over the top four that received the most consensuses. He would clean it up and submit it to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To accept Mr. Andrade’s update to the Committee.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

7. Vote to Approve: Henry Lord utility easement, *as approved and referred by the Fall River City Council.*

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the Henry Lord utility easement.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

8. Vote to Approve: December’s monthly expenditure report, *as presented by Mr. Michael Saunders, Chief Financial Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve December’s monthly expenditure report.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

9. Vote to Approve: The tentative FY 2016 budget calendar, *as referred from Finance Subcommittee and presented by Mr. Michael Saunders, Chief Financial Officer.*

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the tentative FY16 budget calendar.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To accept the FYI portion of the agenda and place on file.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Sutter asked Madame Secretary to send bereavements to the families of those listed under the notices of death.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this evening.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Sutter asked if there was reason for Executive Session.

Attorney Assad said there was.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: For executive session.

Attorney Assad: “The purpose of executive session would be Chapter 30A of Mass General Laws, 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, as the Chair has determined that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position. Also, to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel, including Rene Kochman, Director of Operation and Director of Media for FRED TV; Melissa Pereira, Data Technician; Ryan Andrade, Administrative Intern; Rebecca Caron, Administrative Assistant; and Robert Hargraves, Administrative Intern.

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 Opposed

Motion passed (9:15 PM)

At 10:49 PM a roll call was requested by Mayor Sutter to reconvene:

Mr. Andrade: Present

Mr. Maynard: Present

Mr. Costa: Present

Mrs. Panchley: Present

Mr. Hart: Present

Mayor Sutter: Present

Mr. Martins: Present

Mayor Sutter asked if there were any motions to be made.

Mr. Costa said there were.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract for employment between Ryan Andrade and the City of Fall River School Department as negotiated.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract for employment between Robert Hargraves, Jr. and the City of Fall River School Department as negotiated.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To adopt the contract of employment between Rebecca Caron and the City of Fall River School Department for the position of administrative assistant, as negotiated.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes

Mr. Maynard: Yes

Mr. Costa: Yes

Mrs. Panchley: Abstained

Mr. Hart: Yes

Mayor Sutter: Yes

Mr. Martins: Yes

6 were in favor

None were opposed

1 was abstained (Mrs. Panchley)

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract for employment between Melissa Pereira and the Superintendent of Schools for the position of data technician, as negotiated.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

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

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion approved (10:50 PM)

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services