

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, November 17, 2014**

**6:30 PM**

**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 Helen Sowinski, National Navy Defense Cadet Corp Non Commissioned Officer; Maelynn Clarke, Behaviorist; Timothy McCloskey, Director of Engineering Services; and James Medeiros, Assistant Director of Environmental Services.*
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**

At 6:39 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, November 17, 2014.

A roll call for attendance showed Mayor Flanagan, Mr. Costa, Mr. Andrade, Mr. Hart, Mr. Martins, and Mrs. Panchley were present. Mr. Maynard was absent.

A salute to the Flag followed.

## **CITIZENS INPUT**

There were no citizens signed up to speak this evening.

## **RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Mr. Martins said it is always nice to recognize those who help the school department and students and explained that the individual being recognized went above and beyond expectations. He asked that Watson Principal, Cathy Carvalho, present the award to Ms. Christine Saurette for performing the Heimlich Maneuver on a fifth grade student as he began to choke during lunch saving the student.

Principal Carvalho said the Watson School wanted to acknowledge Ms. Saurette for her bravery that afternoon. She thanked her and told her how proud they are that she is a member of the Watson School Community.

Mayor Flanagan also acknowledged and thanked Ms. Saurette for her heroic actions on behalf of the entire city.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Mayo-Brown announced that this week the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education would be on site for the Coordinated Program Review. It is considered a compliance review around the district's compliance with English Language Learners, Civil Rights, Special Education, and Career Vocational Technical Education. The public or any employee is invited to speak to the review team. The information was published in the Herald News and they can access the review team by contacting the school department.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the minutes as listed.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor**

**0 were opposed**

**1 was absent** (Mr. Maynard)

**Motion passed**

## **TRAVEL REQUESTS**

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

No Discussion

**6 were in favor**

**0 were opposed**

**1 was absent** (Mr. Maynard)

**Motion passed**

## DONATIONS

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

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

## CONTRACTS

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To accept all contracts as listed except St. Vincent’s Home.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the contract for St. Vincent’s Home.**

No Discussion

**A roll call showed:**

Mr. Andrade: Yes

Mr. Maynard: Absent

Mr. Costa: Yes

Mrs. Panchley: Yes

Mr. Hart: Abstained

Mayor Flanagan: Yes

Mr. Martins: Yes

**5 were in favor      0 were oppose      1 abstained (Mr. Hart)      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

## GRANTS

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

Discussion

Mr. Hart explained that he had contacted the two grant directors for Essential School Health Services and Coordinated Family & Community Engagement and was satisfied with the explanation they gave him on the grants.

Mrs. Panchley noted that the Essential School Health Services was funded at less than what they had originally applied for and what they had last year. She questioned what was cut to fit the amount of money that was granted.

Ms. Karen Long explained that the difference in the funding was that the past two years they were funded an amount of money to do a pilot diabetes project so there was a temporary increase.

Mrs. Panchley was satisfied with the response.

Mr. Martins asked if someone could discuss what the almost half million dollars for the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement would be used for.

Ms. Allard had an information packet for the Committee which was distributed. It included a list of all the activities that are done throughout the three communities divided into months. Some is repetitive and some is individualized to the month such as food drives in November and toy drives in December. There was also information on their play and learn groups. She noted they do eighteen per week and they are a large part of their grant program.

Mr. Martins asked how many people would be receiving pay from the grant.

Ms. Allard said they have three early childhood certified teachers that provide the play and learn groups, two outreach workers (one who is Spanish speaking), a family support specialist that works part-time, a bookkeeper, and herself. She described what each person's duties were.

Mr. Martins noted that salaries were listed at \$214,000 and asked how many people that was for.

Ms. Allard responded that there were about 4.5 FTEs but 5 people because one is not full-time.

Mr. Martins asked how many students were benefiting from the activities.

Ms. Allard explained that it depends on the activity and noted that they have about 175 families that attend the play and learn groups weekly throughout the entire school year but they service more like 200 because not all families come regularly. Families being serviced with referrals and information is closer to 2,000 families per year. She added that they have to keep that data for the state and report it on a monthly basis.

Mr. Martins asked if there were any other uses that are allocated for the grant.

Ms. Allard said the top page of the packet lists the priorities and anything that falls under it. There are actual activities that they must provide and the list is four pages long. In short, the ones listed are the main categories of where the money can be used.

Mr. Martins asked if there were any other uses that were allowable under the grant.

Ms. Allard asked him what he meant specifically.

Mr. Martins asked if they could hire a teacher.

Ms. Allard said three of her staff are early childhood teachers and they can provide the play and learn groups but they cannot hire staff to provide anything that is a direct service. She added that years ago the grant used to allow them to hire OTs and teachers and provide direct services to at-risk children that they would identify in the programs but that has been changed. The closest thing to a direct service are the play and learn groups that they provide.

Mr. Martins said he did not think there was enough money available for communities like Fall River to solve social problems. It is of concern to him if the money could be better used elsewhere with more direct services to a smaller group of students. He would vote in favor of the grant but he felt other agencies should be pushing to increase their budgets to be able to solve those social problems.

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

## **DISCUSSIONS**

Mayor Flanagan said he saw uAspire present and that he would move them to the first discussion item.

### **4. uAspire Programmatic Update**

Ms. Gabrielle King Morse introduced herself as the Executive Director for uAspire in Massachusetts. She thanked the Superintendent and Committee for voting a year ago to launch uAspire in Fall River. With their investment, they did get matching funds from the business community such as BayCoast Bank, Fall River Development Corporation, Bank Five, and UMass Dartmouth. She also wanted to thank Bob Karam who identified uAspire as a resource that he wanted to bring to Fall River and the Superintendent who stepped up to serve on their board. She then introduced Mr. Bobby Bailey and Mr. Pete Shungu who has been with uAspire for a number of years and oversees and partners with Mr. Bailey to make sure their work is implemented at the highest level.

Mr. Shungu introduced himself as the Assistant Program Director of Eastern Massachusetts. He shared statistics of what uAspire has accomplished since starting at Durfee High School. In their first year, Mr. Bailey started in December and reached over 300 seniors and served them with financial aid advising. They were able to leverage over \$3M in financial aid for those students to go to college. That number is calculated based on the financial aid awards that students are receiving.

This current year is Mr. Bailey's first full year in the school and he has already met with 150 seniors and is looking forward to increasing the numbers from last year. They are also thinking forward to see what they might be able to do to bring on another person to do additional work. Mr. Shungu noted that the tagline for uAspire is *Prepare Afford Succeed* and they realize it takes more than just that effort during senior year to really make sure that seniors can go to and through college.

Mr. Shungu explained that *Prepare* involves working with eleventh graders and engaging them in workshops and one-on-one advising to make sure they are prepared for senior year. *Succeed* is a program where they continue to see those students through college. They have started to involve Mr. Bailey in *Succeed* programming where they are actually supporting students (Class of 2014 graduates) as they are in college. In addition, they will be able to provide data from the National Student Clearinghouse on students from that class versus previous classes and how they are persisting in college. They look forward to providing that information as well. Mr. Shungu said he would pass it over to Mr. Bailey to explain further.

Mr. Bailey said in the short amount of time this year he has already gotten to work with 150 students and build relationships with administration. Last year, he worked with over 250 students and some students still come back and call him for advice. They do a lot in the summer where they reach out to students and make sure everything is all set in terms of going to college and follow-up. Mr. Bailey started doing the *Succeed* program this year working with kids who have graduated who are not in school right now or those that are enrolled and just need additional help with financial aid, budgeting, etc.

Ms. King Morse said they had a folder to pass out to the Committee and she also mentioned that she wanted to acknowledge Kim Napolitano, Principal Marshall, and Dr. Fran Roy because their success with their ability to work with students is really about the partnership within the schools and they make it so they can do what they need to do.

Mr. Costa asked what uAspire's max was in terms of how many students they could reach. He understands they only have so much time to reach out to students and he picked up on a comment that was made about the possibility of bringing on another individual to take on that work. He wanted to know if Mr. Bailey was at his max with 300 and if not, what the goal was for the upcoming year. If he is at his max, what financial assistance would be needed in order to bring on an additional person? He does not want to see that they are leaving financial aid money on the table

that students may be able to access but cannot because Mr. Bailey is maxed out with the amount of seniors he is helping already.

Mr. Shungu explained that 300 seniors represented about 60% of the Durfee Senior Class. This year their goal is to reach 80%. They feel it is a very realistic goal based on Mr. Bailey's time in the school and his expertise. It would be difficult with one person to serve every student which is why they are considering bringing in extra staff but they do feel that 80% is a realistic number.

Mr. Costa said it is fantastic if 80% are interested but worried that if 100% were interested then they are leaving 20% of the students behind and leaving valuable financial aid dollars on the table. He applauded their efforts and goals but asked them to keep them in the loop in terms of what the actuals are for the year and if they are leaving students behind. He also asked that they keep the Committee aware about what additional resources are needed.

Mr. Costa continued by noting that the program pays for itself in the amount of financial aid dollars that they can access for the students who are going through Durfee. He thinks it is a wise investment and appreciates the work being done but does not want to see them leaving financial aid money on the table for students who are not getting to see Mr. Bailey. He thinks it is terrific particularly for a district like Fall River where financial aid is much needed for not just low income families but for the working middle class families as well.

Ms. King Morse added that if and when the Committee decided to add a person they could have further discussion on how those resources could be used in addition to topping off the other 20%.

Mr. Andrade said he was very happy to see a familiar face back at Durfee and explained that Mr. Bailey was a Durfee graduate and his resume after high school is a very good one. He will be a tremendous role model for the students at Durfee given his background. He welcomed him back.

Mr. Martins asked Mr. Bailey if he said they had been at Durfee for a year.

Mr. Shungu said they started in December so it is almost one year.

Mr. Martins asked if they worked with 300 students.

Mr. Shungu said between December and June they worked with 300 of last year's graduating class. Between September and now they have worked with 150.

Mr. Martins asked if those 300 students were seniors.

Mr. Shungu replied yes.

Mr. Martins asked how many of them are currently in college.

Mr. Shungu said it was a great question and explained that in December they will be able to pull the National Student Clearinghouse data where they have the information on those students and can look them up in the national database to find out how many of those students are currently in college. They can provide that when it is available and it can be compared to the previous year's class as well to see what impact they are having.

Mr. Martins said they do not really know how many are in college.

Mr. Shungu said they cannot speak to that exactly but will be able to provide that information when it is available.

Mr. Martins asked if this was for the graduating class of 2014.

Mr. Shungu said that was correct.

Mr. Martins said one year after that would be June 2015. He would be interested to know how many students they have helped that remain in college for a second year. He suggested that it could be included in the one-year follow-up study if they provide that information to the Superintendent.

Mr. Martins asked if the financial aid they seek for students was free money or a loan.

Mr. Shungu responded that he wanted to be clear that their services are entirely free to the students and families. He further explained that they strive to get every student as much free money as possible but there are situations where loans can bridge the gap to help make a college education affordable for students. They also educate and empower students and families around making smart decisions. It does include loans from the government that students are already approved for but does not include private loans.

Mr. Martins asked if the acceptance of the money/financial aid obligated the student to complete the program.

Mr. Shungu said it does not obligate them but if they do not get their degree they still owe any money that they have borrowed. He noted that Mr. Bailey does a great job of educating students around that.

Mayor Flanagan asked for a point of clarification that they owe the money only if they get a loan.

Mr. Shungu said that was correct and clarified that if a student takes out a loan and does not complete their education, they still owe that loan. If the student receives a Pell Grant regardless of whether they complete their education or not, they do not owe anything if it is a grant or scholarship. That is money that never has to be paid back. If the student is informed that they do have to pay it back then they were deceived and it really was not a grant or scholarship.

Mr. Martins asked if they complete the program and get a degree that is when it becomes free.

Mr. Shungu responded no and that it depends on the type of money from the outset. He explained students will see a financial aid award letter that may have a grant and a loan on it. The grant will always be free whether they complete the program or not and the loan will always have to be paid back whether they complete the degree program or not.

Mr. Martins said he understands they have to pay the Pell Grant back.

Mr. Shungu interjected that they do not have to pay the Pell Grant back.

Mr. Martins asked if that was the case even if they did not complete the program.

Mr. Shungu said even if they do not complete they do not owe anything on the Pell Grant. It is only loans that need to be paid back.

Mr. Martins asked if he was telling him is that if the student drops out that student does not have any financial responsibility to pay any of that money back.

Mr. Shungu said as long as it is in the form of grants and scholarships.

Mr. Martins asked if that was part of their program.

Mr. Shungu responded absolutely. As long as students received money in the form of grants and scholarships then they do not owe anything back. Many of their students do go to school with everything covered by grants and scholarships or in some cases by the Pell Grant which means if that student does not persist at the very least they do not owe money back.

Mr. Martins asked if all the students they deal with are made aware of that.

Mr. Shungu said yes.

Mr. Martins explained a situation he was aware of where a child who decided they did not want to continue their education anymore owed \$22,000 that had to be paid back. If the child graduated it would be wiped out; but because the child did not complete the program and graduate, the money has to be paid back.

Mayor Flanagan said for another point of clarification the story may be specific or they may not have all the facts. He cannot see any circumstance where someone would get a student loan and graduate and the loan is forgiven. Once they enter into that contractual document with the lender, the money has to be paid back. There are some government forgiveness programs as some enter into the public service sector but they only forgive a small portion of what they are able to be lent. Once they sign a document for financial aid, if it is a loan, there is usually a small interest rate and has to be paid back whether or not the student graduates.

Mr. Martins said it was not supposed to be a loan and once they graduated no money would have to be paid back.

Mayor Flanagan asked the uAspire representatives if they were aware of such a program.

Mr. Shungu said he was not aware of that program.

Mr. Martins said as long as that does not happen with their program that is fine or if that is a condition, that the students know of the condition.

Mayor Flanagan said he has shared his own personal story with uAspire in the past. He had no intentions of going to college and a guidance counselor sat down with him and went over a FAFSA and he was eligible for a Pell Grant which allowed him go to a four-year university and have all of it covered by grants and scholarships and was able to graduate. If it was not for that advice that he received from that guidance counselor he would have never went to college. The city is gifted to have Dr. Fradkin in Fall River who has had the Dollars for Scholars program to help with scholarships

but without good advice, good advisors, and good programs they get the stories that Mr. Martins spoke about. He encouraged a program like uAspire.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there were any further questions.

Mrs. Panchley said that she just wanted to say that she is a big fan of uAspire and being on the Committee she would be supportive of whatever the needs are. She never wanted to hear that a student could not go to college because of finances. She sometimes worries that they are not always getting the right advice and information and feel they are being limited because of money. She is very glad that they are involved and she has been a fan of Bobby Bailey since he was young and is very glad that he is leading the way.

Mr. Hart said he was a fan of the program as well. He thought Mr. Bailey was a good fit for Durfee and he was all for the program. He asked if bringing another person on board was something they saw happening in the near future or something that would be a wait-and-see situation.

Ms. King Morris said they were going to work with the community for funding because she thought there was an investment in Fall River with the business community.

Mayor Flanagan asked if they do any advocacy at the federal level because a lot of the programs are under attack especially the Pell Grant. They are seeing a lot of the financial aid being cut so students have to rely more upon loans and interest rates keep rising. He asked what they were doing for advocacy at the federal level and what they could do to help them at the local level.

Ms. King Morris responded they have a whole group that is working nationally. Because they have been doing this work for so long they do have a voice in that conversation. They have just begun to really start thinking about not just advocacy federally but also across the state. She will be talking more with the Superintendent about it. There are some things they can do statewide such as communication with the higher ed. institutions to make sure kids are heading towards better programs.

Mayor Flanagan thanked them and said he enjoyed the discussion and presentation and asked them to keep up the good work.

**1. Discussion:** Extended Day at Fonseca Elementary School, *as presented by Fonseca Faculty.*

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked through the Chair to invite to the podium Principal Mike Ward along with a representative group of Fonseca teachers.

Mayor Flanagan asked that all the teachers identify themselves. The teacher representative group introduced themselves as Jeanne Silva, Grade one; Joanne Arruda, Grade five; Elena Crosson, Grade Five; Tyla Martin, Grade three, special ed.; Brenda Boudreau, Grade four; and Gretchen Baptiste, Interventionist.

Mr. Ward thanked the Committee for the opportunity to allow them to speak about extended day at Fonseca. He said he would begin with the plan and then would hand it over to Mrs. Boudreau to share the schedule and how they came up with consensus in the school.

The plan consisted of adding an additional 30 minutes to the school day to allow them to fully embed the responsive classroom that they have heard about at other elementary schools and would like to do at Fonseca as well. The first piece is to build a positive school community not just in the school but also in the classroom. If students feel safe and comfortable then they are going to take academic risks. He shared a story with the Committee as an example.

Mr. Ward continued that the next piece was effective classroom management which would allow teachers to teach. It is the teachers getting to know the students and if they can get those two pieces embedded it will allow them to deepen their academic engagement of students. If they can merge the social-emotional to work hand-in-hand with the academic piece then they are going to continue on with the traction that has happened over the last year at Fonseca. He added that they want to use the thirty minutes to ensure that they fully embed the responsive classroom initiative that is throughout many of their schools in Fall River.

Mr. Ward then handed the floor over to Ms. Boudreau to share where the thirty minutes would be.

Ms. Boudreau explained that the Fonseca staff had started talking about this last year and were trying to figure out how they could go about implementing it. Towards the end of last school year they had a meeting of the staff and pretty much everyone was on board. This year they discussed where they would add the thirty minutes and decided they would like to do that in the morning and make sure that all the pieces that Mr. Ward described get in place. They have implemented them but feel if they could get it so everyone has the same time it would open more time for academics.

Mayor Flanagan asked what the new start and end time would be.

Ms. Boudreau responded that students now start at 8:35 AM with the teachers there at 8:25 AM to greet them. They would go to an 8:05 AM start time with teachers being there for 7:55 AM.

Mayor Flanagan asked if the end time would change.

Ms. Boudreau said the end time would stay the same and that they put the full thirty minutes at the beginning of the day which was a staff decision/vote. They had three options which were all in the morning, all in the afternoon, or split it. The majority went with the morning.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Ward if he spoke about transportation with Mr. Coogan and if it needed to be altered at all.

Mr. Ward said he had not spoken to him but saw that Madame Superintendent was raising her hand.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that there were estimates for both extending the day as well as transportation which was part of agenda item three as part of the \$911,000. They could see the cost breakdown there for both of those items.

Mayor Flanagan asked if they took a vote on it if it would be dependent on what they do with item number three.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct.

Mayor Flanagan understood and said it looked like the teachers were in support. He asked if the parents were also in support and if they had been surveyed as well.

Mr. Ward said they had not. It was a school-based decision at that time.

Mayor Flanagan said he supported more time in the classroom so he would be interested in seeing it move forward and was glad to have the teacher representation there. He thought they sounded like they had a nice plan to focus more on learning. He opened up the floor to the other Committee members.

Mr. Costa congratulated the Fonseca staff and said that this type of teacher-led initiative is exactly what he has been preaching and his colleagues have been supportive of because it speaks to what the needs are in each of their schools. The fact that they all got together and identified an area of need within their school and came up with a proposal to address it is exciting because it is exactly where some of the proposals should be coming from – directly from those in the classroom and those that know what the needs of the students are. He is also excited that it has moved as quickly as it has.

Mr. Costa continued that they had discussed the funding in Finance Subcommittee and got a favorable recommendation. They will be taking that up in item three and he would be supportive of it. He noted that all level one schools in their district are extended learning time schools. History tells them that in extending their day they have made good use of the time and he does not think it will be any different for Fonseca. He was excited to support it and thanked them for the work they have done and he hoped they felt empowered by this. He added that when things are needed in the schools it is okay to speak amongst themselves and create a solution to it and then bring it to the attention of the school Principal and eventually to the Committee. They may not be able to support all of the initiatives but this is one that was done with a lot of thought. He congratulated them again for their efforts.

Mr. Martins asked how many faculty were at the school.

Mr. Ward responded 31 classrooms not including interventionists so over 36 teachers and 70 with paraprofessionals, etc.

Mr. Martins asked if the paraprofessionals and counselors were all involved in coming to this conclusion.

Mr. Ward said it was a teacher vote with the school adjustment counselors.

Mr. Martins said there might be some questions amongst the faculty but asked if a good percentage were supportive of this.

Mr. Ward responded yes.

Mr. Martins asked their normal start time.

Mr. Ward responded 8:35 AM for students.

Mr. Martins asked if they were expecting them to now start at 8:00 AM.

Mr. Ward responded 8:05 AM for students.

Mr. Martins asked their ending time.

Mr. Ward responded 2:52 PM.

Mr. Martins asks about the extended stop time.

Mr. Ward said it would be the same at 2:52 PM and that all thirty minutes would be added to the morning.

Mr. Martins asked if they have a breakfast program.

Mr. Ward said they do.

Mr. Martins asked what time the students could go into the school to have breakfast.

Mr. Ward said currently it is 8:25 AM; however, they do allow the students into the building at 8:15 AM. They have coverage in the school so that children are not outside in the cold.

Mr. Martins asked if breakfast is in the cafeteria.

Mr. Ward responded that certain grade levels – K and a couple of 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes – are in the cafeteria and the rest takes place in the classroom.

Mr. Martins asked if there will be more classes having breakfast in class once they start with the early start time.

Mr. Ward said no; it would be the same routine.

Mr. Martins explained some of the problems that he received calls on is during that in class breakfast instruction is expected to be going on and asked if it was the same at Fonseca.

Mr. Ward responded that some students are eating breakfast while teachers are taking attendance, getting homework collected, and getting ready for the day.

Mr. Martins asked if he found that to be effective.

Mr. Ward asked his teachers.

Ms. Boudreau responded that they have been doing breakfast in the classroom for a while and they have met and spoke with Mr. Coogan about it. Teachers are aware how important it is for the children to have breakfast. There is ten minutes that is scheduled for them to be there early. They pick the children up from the gym and bring them to the class where they start breakfast. Any students that come in late go through the community room to be marked tardy and have breakfast there before going to class. Usually by 8:40/8:45 AM breakfast is cleaned up and they are starting their morning meeting. In the meantime they are just collecting homework or doing attendance and checking in with some of their students. It is not direct instruction until 8:45 AM when they are done with their breakfast and everything is cleared and they are ready to go.

Mr. Martins asked if she was saying that the instruction starts after the breakfast is completed or if it is it going on during.

Ms. Boudreau said some kids aren't eating breakfast but while breakfast is going on they are trying to get their day started. It is not usually direct instruction at that time.

Mr. Martins said that the complaints he received is that "so and so split his milk and student number two has difficulty opening the orange juice container and I have to stop what I am doing and go help and clean up". He wondered how much value there was to it.

Ms. Boudreau said that is a whole other issue no matter what time they start. The breakfast is a district-wide initiative and nothing they can change. Their discussion with Mr. Coogan was that they would just try to curb it by setting a ten minute limit and then move on with their day. That is something they have learned to live with and they do have spills and call the custodians to help with cleanup.

Mr. Martins said he was more in favor of having an extended day in the afternoon than the morning.

Ms. Boudreau said when they voted they did not have one vote for the thirty minutes to be all added on to the afternoon. They see more of the students' enthusiasm earlier in the day.

Mr. Martins said he is sure that is the case. He has looked at their composite score on MCAS and if they think this is going to help he will support it.

Ms. Boudreau said they are hoping.

Mr. Martins said if it does not improve then he is going to let them know about it.

**MOTION: Mr. Costa– Mr. Andrade: To approve the Extended Day at Fonseca pending approval of item number three.**

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley thanked them for coming forward and agreed with Mr. Costa that it was exciting to have teachers coming to them. They have seen how well extended learning time schools have done over the last few years. They have gotten into the habit of seeing schools go to level four status and jumping in to help bring them back up. She thought it was wonderful that they have come together to turn the boat and she thought this would turn it even faster. She loved that the teachers were pushing it and thanked them. She hoped to keep seeing improvement.

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

2. **Discussion:** Recommendations for the supplemental appropriation of \$140,000 for charter school transportation, *as discussed and referred by the Finance Subcommittee.*

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the recommendations for the supplemental appropriation of \$140,000 for charter school transportation.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

3. **Discussion:** Recommendations for the supplemental appropriation of \$911,000 for education, *as discussed and referred by the Finance Subcommittee.*

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the recommendations for the supplemental appropriation of \$911,000 for education.**

Discussion

Mrs. Panchley drew their attention to the fact that the top three items were related to the Fonseca extended learning time.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mrs. Panchley to review the items and she reviewed the list for the Committee.

Mrs. Panchley noted that the main things she wanted to discuss were the paraprofessionals and where she thought they were needed; and she wanted to draw everyone's attention to the fact that some of those items at the top were for the half year and would need to be doubled. There were eleven paraprofessionals identified. She had looked at where they had 30+ students in grades K-2 and identified 14 classrooms. She felt passionately that there be a half-time para in each one of those classrooms. Where they were being assigned had not been determined but that was her thoughts on how they should be used.

Mr. Martins thought the Systems Administrator was already covered in the budget.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said no and that it was specific to them having a contract with Baseline Edge which is the electronic platform for educator evaluation. The \$40,000 – which may end up being less – is to provide assistance to educators who are implementing the software program this year in terms of helping them through that process.

Mr. Martins asked if it was a new position.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that it was not a position but a contractual service directly with Baseline Edge.

Mr. Martins asked if they have ever had it in the past.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they have not.

Mr. Martins asked how the person would help.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that it may not be a single person but more of a help desk that any educator could call at any time of day for assistance.

Mr. Martins asked if it was support services.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct.

Mr. Martins asked if the eleven paraprofessionals were new.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they were.

Mr. Martins asked where they were going to go.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked through the Chair to have Ms. Jocelyn LeMaire, Human Resources Director, come up to describe. Based on her preliminary analysis, she thought it was in line with what Mrs. Panchley requested.

Ms. LeMaire said they took a look at all of the class sizes as of 10/31/14 and any class size that had 30 or more students would be assigned a half-time paraprofessional. If they had any other spaces they would look at the K classrooms.

Mr. Martins asked if any of the paras were earmarked for special education and if they would be qualified.

Ms. LeMaire said they would only hire qualified people and when she looked at the classrooms quickly that morning she did not look to see if they were special education. She only looked at the number of students in the classrooms. She can do a greater review of that.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that they are not special education paraprofessionals but to assist in regular education classrooms. She pulled up the spreadsheet that they generated that morning based on the review that Ms. LeMaire did and what they are looking at is paraprofessionals for Doran, Fonseca, Greene, Henry Lord, Silvia, and Spencer Borden which is consistent with what Mrs. Panchley had noted at Finance Subcommittee. These are classrooms with students of thirty or more. The special education paraprofessional process is slightly different. As they need paraprofessionals for special education students they come before the Committee and request those as needed.

Mr. Martins agreed with paras to assist in classrooms that have high student enrollment and wholeheartedly supported that; however, he felt the autistic children and other special needs classrooms needed attention as well.

|                        |                       |                                   |                      |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>6 were in favor</b> | <b>0 were opposed</b> | <b>1 was absent</b> (Mr. Maynard) | <b>Motion passed</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|

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

Mr. Andrade notified the Committee that the Evaluation Subcommittee had met briefly before the regular meeting to try to get a handle on how they were going to get started on the task of completing the work for the School Committee goals. They are required to do a survey in order to be able to do this. One of the items they have to do is develop a vision for the school district in collaboration with the Superintendent. Some of the survey items will relate to that. There are also two other goals that they have to meet. The Superintendent suggested that they could use the services of the Policy Center at UMass Dartmouth to help them design a survey. They had also discussed a number of different ways they could try to gather information from the public and realize that is not going to be easy. They will be looking at community agencies and businesses as well as all public school staff. They are also looking at the possibility of a few community forums and doing the survey not only online but also on paper. They will have to publicize it in order to try

to get some kind of a turn out for it. Finally, when they receive the information the subcommittee along with a few community members will meet to put it together for the full Committee.

6. **Vote to Approve:** First quarter revolving funds, *as referred by the Finance Subcommittee and presented by Mr. Michael Saunders, Chief Financial Officer.*

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To approve the first quarter revolving funds.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor                      0 were opposed                      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)                      Motion passed**

7. **Vote to Approve:** First quarter budget transfers, *as referred by the Finance Subcommittee and presented by Mr. Michael Saunders, Chief Financial Officer.*

**MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Costa: To approve the first quarter budget transfers.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor                      0 were opposed                      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)                      Motion passed**

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

**MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: To approve October’s monthly expenditures.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor                      0 were opposed                      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)                      Motion passed**

9. **Vote to Approve:** Job Description for Mental Health/Behavior Specialist at Fonseca Elementary School, *as presented by Superintendent Mayo-Brown.*

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she is requesting that this item be withdrawn. They have a School Committee approved job description for a Behavior Specialist so there is no need to present something new to the Committee. With the Committee’s action in approving the specialist as part of the \$911,000 expenditure, those funds were designated for a Behavior Specialist so they will use that job description. It is an individual contract position so she would bring the contract forward to the Committee for approval upon appointment.

10. **Vote to Approve:** Appointment of a nurse for the district, *as recommended by Ms. Karen Long, Director of Nursing.*

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To approve appointment of a nurse for the district as recommended by Ms. Karen Long.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor                      0 were opposed                      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)                      Motion passed**

**Revisit of item #9**

Mr. Martins asked why item nine did not need a vote.

Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Superintendent for clarity.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that she requested to withdraw item number nine from the agenda. They have a job description that is already approved by the School Committee for a Behavior Specialist. They have a number of Behavior Specialists throughout the district at schools. With the Committee's approval of the expenditure of funds for the \$911,000 they will see listed for Fonseca a Behaviorist position for \$40,000. Therefore, they do not need a job description for that because they already have a Behavior Specialist job description that has been approved by the School Committee.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**MOTION:** Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To place the for your information portion of the agenda on file.

No Discussion

**6 were in favor**

**0 were opposed**

**1 was absent** (Mr. Maynard)

**Motion passed**

***Revisit of item #9***

Mr. Martins said that the Chair was moving a little too fast for him and asked regarding item number nine if Fonseca had a counselor that is similar to a Behavior Specialist.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded yes; the Fonseca has a School Adjustment Counselor and a Behavior Specialist. Given the needs of the school and the work that needs to occur with social-emotional learning and behaviors at the school they are recommending a second Behavior Specialist.

Mr. Martins asked if they are looking for another person to do this.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said yes; they believe it takes two Behavior Specialists to serve a school of 800 students with an emphasis on social-emotional learning along with academics.

Mr. Martins asked if it was 800 elementary age students.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct.

Mr. Martins asked if there was going to be a vote to approve it.

Mayor Flanagan said there was no action taken.

Mr. Martins asked if they were creating another position.

Mayor Flanagan said according to the Superintendent it already exists.

Mr. Martins said the job description exists and asked if Fonseca had two.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said with their vote to approve agenda item number three – the expenditure of funds for \$911,000 – they approved the Fonseca position.

Mayor Flanagan said that was accurate.

Mr. Martins asked if it was under a grant.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was not grant funding. It was coming out of the operating budget/the supplemental appropriation of \$911,000.

Mr. Martins asked if it was part of the \$911,000.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was.

Mayor Flanagan said it was provided in the agenda.

Mr. Martins said he sees it there with the \$40,000 but when they were going through it did not indicate to him that it was another position at Fonseca.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown respectfully explained that the title on the page states *additional services*. It is an additional Behaviorist.

Mr. Andrade pointed out that a delegation from Fonseca had approached them last spring with a request to change a music position to a Behaviorist position which they agreed with at the time. In keeping with trying to accommodate the teachers who took the initiative to come up with some thoughts on how to better run their school he felt that this was an appropriate position.

Mr. Martins said he agreed except for the fact that he did not think it was adequately explained that it was a new position.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Costa asked through the Chair to the Superintendent if she could speak with the high school and/or survey the parents regarding the graduation day. The Committee had adopted a Sunday afternoon graduation for high school students the previous year and he received a number of calls with concerns about it being on a Sunday afternoon. Some of the faculty had approached him from the high school and suggested a Thursday evening. He believed other schools did it on a Thursday evening which allowed for families to have their graduation get together over the weekend. He asked again that the Superintendent poll the parents of the senior class and maybe speak to the staff and faculty at the high school to see their thoughts.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed.

Mayor Flanagan issued condolences to Mrs. Panchley on the loss of her mother-in-law on behalf of the city and School Committee

### **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Flanagan asked for the reason for Executive Session.

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Attorney Assad: "Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation or grievances, as well as negotiations with maintenance, custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA and FRAA as the Chair has determined that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's position. Also, with respect to

strategy sessions concerning non-union personnel, including Vincent Alley, Behavior Therapist; Nancy McCloskey, Field Supervisor; Kelli Mello, Field Supervisor; Lori Midura, Administrative Assistant; Susan Pacheco, Redesign Coach; Wendy Petrin, Behaviorist; Lamar Randolph, Behavior Therapist; and Nancy Slean, Facility Accountant. We would reconvene. There may or may not be statements at that time.

**MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: For executive session.**

**A roll call showed:**

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Andrade: Yes | Mr. Maynard: Absent |
| Mr. Costa: Yes   | Mrs. Panchley: Yes  |
| Mr. Hart: Yes    | Mayor Flanagan: Yes |
| Mr. Martins: Yes |                     |

**6 were in favor    0 were opposed    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Motion passed (8:09 PM)**

**At 10:11 PM Mayor Flanagan called the meeting back to order. A roll call for attendance showed:**

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Andrade: Present | Mr. Maynard: Absent     |
| Mr. Costa: Present   | Mrs. Panchley: Present  |
| Mr. Hart: Present    | Mayor Flanagan: Present |
| Mr. Martins: Present |                         |

Mayor Flanagan asked if based upon discussions of Executive Session, there were any motions to be made.

Mr. Costa said there were.

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To adopt the contract as negotiated between the Fall River Public Schools and Vincent Alley, Behavior Therapist.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor    0 were opposed    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract as negotiated between Nancy McCloskey, Field Supervisor, and the Fall River Public Schools.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor    0 were opposed    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between Kelli Mello, Field Supervisor, and the Fall River Public Schools.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor    0 were opposed    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between the Fall River Public Schools and Lori Midura, Administrative Assistant in the H.R. Department.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor    0 were opposed    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between the Fall River Public Schools and Ms. Susan Pacheco, Redesign Coach.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between Wendy Petrin and the Fall River Public Schools as negotiated.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between Mr. Lamar Randolph, Behavior Therapist, and the Fall River Public Schools.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Andrade: To approve the contract between the Fall River Public Schools and Ms. Nancy Slean, Facilities Accountant.**

No Discussion

**6 were in favor      0 were opposed      1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)      Motion passed**

**MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mrs. Panchley: To deny grievance 14-01.**

No Discussion

**A roll call showed:**

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Andrade: No  | Mr. Maynard: Absent |
| Mr. Costa: No    | Mrs. Panchley: Yes  |
| Mr. Hart: Yes    | Mayor Flanagan: Yes |
| Mr. Martins: Yes |                     |

**4 were in favor    2 were opposed (Mr. Andrade/Mr. Costa)    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Motion passed**

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

No Discussion

**6 were in favor    0 were opposed    1 was absent (Mr. Maynard)    Meeting adjourned (10:15 PM)**

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for  
School Committee Services