

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, September 11, 2017
5:30 PM

Morton Middle School Auditorium
1135 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720

MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Correia called the meeting to order. A roll call for attendance showed at 5:30 p.m.:

Mr. Andrade: Present	Mr. Martins: Present
Mr. Coogan: Present	Mrs. Panchley: Present
Mr. Costa: Present	Mayor Correia: Present
Dr. Costar: Present	

Also present were Attorney Assad and Superintendent Malone.

Mayor Correia read the Open Meeting Law.

Mayor Correia asked for a moment of silence in memory of the September 11 attacks. A salute to the flag followed.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Mayor Correia announced that there was no one signed up for Citizens' Input.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Mayor Correia announced that there were no Recognition Awards to present this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *Opening of School Update*

Superintendent Malone announced that they had an outstanding opening of the school year. He thanked all the members of the Committee for the work they did this summer. He also thanked his executive team, principals, facilities, executive directors, and everyone who worked to get the schools ready, particularly Ken Pacheco and his maintenance and facilities staff. He also thanked Human Resources for their work in hiring a bunch of new people.

- *Student Enrollment and Class Size Update*

Superintendent Malone stated that it was a lot of work opening for the new school year because of the uptick in student enrollment and getting the student assignment process correct. He thanked Julia Carlson, Siobhan Ryan, Barbara Allard, Brian Mikolazyk, Paula Soares, and Rebecca Caron who all helped ensure that they met their goals or got as close as possible to getting class size down. As of today, the student enrollment is 10,589 students. That's down approximately 140 students from last week. They had 10,720 students signed up at one point but many of those students have left for some reason or another or chose to be homeschooled. They had 10,163 students last year. The issue they face right now

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

is finding placements for all these students. They did some strategic work with the School Committee and they budgeted three class size reduction positions plus some contingency funds. This summer they were able to hire five additional classroom teacher positions to get class size down. Two of which were in their foundational ESL program. In the document he provided to School Committee members, he pointed out the class sizes by grades and he pointed out that last year 11.6% of their students were ELL/SEI students. This year, they're at 14.1%. Last year, 4.9% of students were new to the United States. This year, that figure is at 6.2%. One of the reasons that demographers have had a hard time tracking these numbers is because the schools were not supposed to grow this year but they did. While that's good news, it also makes it more difficult to balance class size. Their goal was to get to 26 students per class for K-3. They were able to get below that or close to that but some were slightly above that number. They have 27 students in two kindergarten classes at Doran, in 1st grade classes at Silvia and Spencer Borden. He is happy with that since they've had up to 31 students in a class last year. It was a little difficult to get class size to 26 for 3rd grade. At Spencer Borden, they have 28 students in 3rd grade but the rest are at 27, 25, or 20. They will continue to maintain and balance that. The good news is they've had a great start to the school year. They were able to follow through with what they said they were going to do which is get class size reduced which is the #1 concern of teachers, families, and principals. They went through an appeals process with parents who were wanting to transfer their child to a particular school and they did the best they could to meet the needs. He informed any other parents who were wanting to have their child transferred that he would look at those after the third week in September but he's hopeful that they are happy in their school.

Mr. Costa thanked Superintendent Malone and his team for a successful opening and for taking on the initiative of trying to balance the enrollment in the K-3 classrooms. He thinks that it is important to have equity across the district. He noticed that, through this process, there was an issue with the special permit and how it's utilized by parents. This caused some anxiety for parents, grandparents, and caretakers of students. He asked if Superintendent Malone could bring back a recap of some of the things that he and his team may have experienced during this process. There is a policy but it may need to be revisited. Once it's adopted and the changes are made, he thinks they need to go on a full court press to inform parents within the district what that special permit looks like, how to access it, what it will be used for, and what criteria they're going to look for when considering a particular special request, whether it's sibling groups, transportation issues, or hardships for other reasons. He thinks this process brought to light that a couple of things needed to happen: they needed to extend the opening for special permits a little earlier and cut them off a little sooner. There was some confusion among some of the parents that he dealt with of their not understanding why they had to request the school again if their son or daughter was previously at that school. He would like to see the policy come back to this Committee with any changes that he or his administration feel need to be made so that next school year, they not only have a policy that addresses those issues and streamlines this process, but parents know how to access it.

Superintendent Malone stated that the School Committee has identified that this is a strategic goal for this year. They will continue to bring back for further vetting and involve members of the Committee in this process. This also ties in with the long-term facilities master plan when they think about building space. If they continue to grow, their assignment zones might change as well.

Mr. Costa thinks that a clearer message is needed for parents to understand the special permits in regards to attendance and behavior issues. Some of the parents questioned if they were given their school of choice. He thinks that they are confusing that with school choice, which is whether or not the district will

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

take students from other school districts. It's a vote that the Committee takes annually as to whether or not they will take school choice for students who may be in another surrounding community. Some parents were under the impression that they could pick whatever school in Fall River that they wanted to send their kid to. Before that can happen, there is a process that needs to take place where the schools need to place the neighborhood students first. Then they can vet the special requests based on availability.

Dr. Costar agreed with Mr. Costa. In regards to special permits, he thinks parents should be notified right after Christmas vacation what the policy is, the process should start in February, and parents should know where their child will be attending school before the summer vacation.

Mr. Coogan thinks, as schools level out their services, curriculum, and class sizes, there will be less requests for special permits. He thinks people should feel comfortable in every school. He noticed that there were 16 students listed under the Parent Information Center and asked who those students were. Superintendent Malone stated that they were students who have yet to be placed. Mr. Coogan pointed out that they have 136 out-of-district kids. He asked if that was up from last year. Superintendent Malone said that it was up by 11. He stated that some of those students will be brought back and some will stay. It's an IEP process. Mr. Coogan asked if the School Department was targeting some of the 136 students for them to attend Westall (Stone School at Westall). Superintendent Malone said that they are doing their best to look at out-of-district placements in general. They want families to want to send their kids to school in Fall River. Mr. Coogan stated that he hoped that families would take the time to walk through the new Stone school. He would feel comfortable sending any student there.

Mr. Martins commended the administration for trying to get class sizes to 26. However, he feels that the class size should not only be based on a quantitative number but on the needs of students in the classrooms. If 10 of the 26 students are a little antsy, that's more than teachers can handle. He feels that they need to have assistance in the classrooms.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Dr. Costar: To approve the meeting minutes from the August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting of the School Committee.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

TRAVEL REQUESTS

There were no Travel Requests to approve at this time.

DONATIONS

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mrs. Panchley: To accept all donations.

Discussion:

Superintendent Malone read the donations aloud. In regards to the Kindles, he added that they distributed them during the Opening Day Convocation and people were very appreciative.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

CONTRACTS

Mr. Martins requested to take the two Fisher Bus contracts and the Easter Seals contract separately.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Andrade: To approve all other contracts.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mr. Martins: To approve the two Fisher Bus contracts and the Easter Seals contract.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins pointed out for the two Fisher Bus contracts, it looked like the first contract was for a whole year at a total of \$49,250 but the second contract was only for three months and it's \$84,420. He was wondering what the rationale was. Mr. Pacheco explained that the three-month contract was because they were going out to rebid on that particular piece. It was not a part of the overall bid for Fisher to add that additional bus. The School Department is giving them three months while they are doing the bidding process for the remainder of the year. Mr. Martins asked if the three months was added onto the existing contract. Mr. Pacheco confirmed that it was. Mr. Martins asked what the total length of the first contract was. Mr. Pacheco stated that it was one year. Mr. Martins said that he still did not understand how it's \$49,000 for one year and \$84,000 for three months. Mr. Almeida explained that the first contract was the cost for one bus. The contract for Fisher Bus for Argosy Middle School went out to bid for three years. That contract was already accepted three years ago. This is an add-on that they had to put in last year. In order to change the original contract, they need to bring it to the School Committee for approval again this year. Mr. Martins asked if a contract for Fisher Bus for an entire year cost \$49,250. Mr. Almeida clarified that that was for one bus which was added on last year. The School Committee already approved the contract for the other buses that they have in place. He can get the School Committee the total contract for the middle school buses at Argosy and what's encompassed in everything by tomorrow or by the next meeting. Mr. Martins asked how long a time the \$84,000 contract was for. Mr. Almeida stated that that was for three months for the high school piece. Mr. Pacheco explained that this contract was for multiple buses. They did not have a contract for high school buses because Argosy did not have a high school last year. These buses are not covered under the current contract. So, for three months, while they do the bidding process, they're using the contract number and they've agreed to allow them to use those three buses. They're going to bid that out and the contract will be for the remaining amount of time they need to get to the high school. Mr. Martins asked Mr. Pacheco if he called other providers.

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

Mr. Pacheco said that he did. He stated that they will probably have the contract done before the three months but he didn't want to cut it that close. Mr. Martins still thinks there is a big differential between both contracts.

Dr. Costar agreed that the amount did stick out, especially for a short period of time. He asked how many students were enrolled at the high school at Argosy. Mr. Pacheco stated that there were approximately 90 students. Dr. Costar wondered why they were paying \$84,000 to transport 90 students for several months when kids who go to Durfee have to use SRTA. Mr. Pacheco explained that this was a reimbursable expense to the district since they don't provide this to Durfee students. Dr. Costar said that he was not opposed to providing transportation to charter schools but added that it was an exorbitant amount of money for three months for 90 students, especially when they don't provide this for their own students.

Mr. Costa asked how this was reimbursed. Mr. Pacheco said that it was reimbursed through DESE in the same way a regional school would get reimbursed for its bus transportation because they don't provide this to their students. Mr. Costa asked if they only get reimbursed because they don't provide this to their students. Mr. Pacheco confirmed that was correct. Mr. Costa asked when they go out to bid for these two contracts. Mr. Pacheco said that they should be very close to going out now. Mr. Costa stated that Argosy knew they were going to have a high school. Mr. Pacheco agreed but said that they didn't know what the transportation needs would be. Mr. Costa countered that they knew that they were going to have a high school and they knew they would be expecting about 90 students. Mr. Pacheco said that not all 90 students were moving up through Argosy. Some of those students went to Diman and some went to Durfee. Mr. Costa stated that at some point they knew they were going to have a high school program. He asked if that was communicated to the School Department. Mr. Pacheco said that it was. Mr. Costa asked when it was communicated. Mr. Pacheco said around early August. Mr. Costa understands that they need to provide transportation for charter schools. The issue that he has is, historically, particularly with Argosy, the numbers of students that are going to require transportation come in at the last minute, which puts the district in a bad spot when going out for bids. This has happened over the last couple of years. He doesn't think that the City or the district gets the best bang for its buck when they're going out to bid for something at the last minute. The sooner they know, the better they are in how they structure the bids. They are lucky that Fisher Bus has the ability and the capacity to do that for them. By now, their routes are already spoken for. They've bid on them. They've already planned their routes. By doing this last minute, it's no wonder that transportation is going to cost \$49,000 for one bus. Someone needs to make Argosy aware that, in order for the School Department to get the best bang for the City's buck and for the tax payer's buck, they need to get their numbers to them a lot sooner.

Mr. Pacheco explained that Argosy was also trying to work with SRTA to see if there was a possibility of some kind of system that the School Department has but it wasn't feasible for the students. The timing on their side wasn't quite right. Mr. Costa wondered when that process started. He stated that he wouldn't be making these comments if this was an isolated incident but, since Argosy opened, the issue of transportation has been at the forefront with last-minute notification of how many buses they need. He asked, in regards to the contract that they have for the middle school buses, if there was a clause in the three-year contract that allows them to reopen it to add additional buses if needed. Mr. Pacheco said that it was a separate location so he thinks the location piece may come into play. Mr. Costa thinks there should be some mechanism for the School Department to tack on another bus. He asked if Mr. Pacheco will have a contract to the School Committee within the next couple of months for the Argosy buses. Mr. Pacheco said that he will. Mr. Costa asked how many buses the \$84,000 accounted for. Mr. Pacheco

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

said that it was for two or three buses. He added that the students were scattered throughout the city so it was a tough route. Mr. Costa asked if Argosy offers door-to-door transportation for all students. Mr. Pacheco said that some students are at bus stops. Mr. Costa agrees with Dr. Costar that it doesn't make sense that they are paying to bus these students when some Durfee students have to take two buses and pay out of pocket. The cost of transportation is at \$8.4 million and it's growing every year. He thinks that the topic of transportation needs to be discussed further or he suggests drafting a letter to the delegation asking them to consider fairness of transportation for charter and public school students.

Mr. Martins asked, in regards to the Easter Seals contract, why they couldn't hire two paraprofessionals to serve as 1:1 aides to these two students and end up with a much reduced cost. In this contract, the individuals would be making \$43,000 each which is more than what paraprofessionals make in the School Department. Ms. Moy explained that these two students were out-of-district students at Mass Hospital School. They are students who need a nursing facility so they have to contract out for paras to work with them.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

GRANTS

Mr. Martins asked to take the Title I and Title IIA grants separately.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Andrade: To approve all other grants.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Andrade: To approve the Title I grant.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins pointed out in the Title I grant it refers to a flex amount. He asked if the amount of \$138,244 was a transfer for the grant. He didn't see where that was accounted for in the expenditure column.

Mr. Almeida explained that they just found out that they are going to receive Title IV funding which is about \$140,000. When they got the deep cut in Title I and Title II this year, they're flexing some of the salaries. Mr. Martins asked if this was Title IV monies that wasn't expended. Mr. Almeida said that it has not been expended yet. Mr. Martins asked where the money came from. Mr. Almeida explained that they just recently got word that they would be receiving the money. Mr. Martins asked if it was additional money. Mr. Almeida said that it was.

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

Transcriber's Note: At 6:13 p.m., Mayor Correia stepped out of the meeting.

Mr. Martins pointed out on the Title I district reservation worksheet where it says Family Engagement - \$162,000 and Services for Locally Operated Institutions - \$71,000. He asked where that line comes from. Mr. Almeida said that the \$162,000 are the parent liaisons that are budgeted in Category 3.

Transcriber's Note: At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Correia returned to the meeting.

Mr. Martins asked where the MTRS was listed. Siobhan Ryan stated that the total Fringe Benefits, including MTRS is \$780,000. Mr. Martins stated that, on the first sheet, when he added the fringe benefits and MTRS together it did not equal to \$780,000. He just wanted to make sure this was accurate.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Andrade: To approve the Title IIA grant.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: No
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

Six were in favor

One was opposed (Martins)

Motion passed

DISCUSSIONS

1. **Presentation:** Attendance Awareness Month Proclamation, *as presented by the Attendance Task Force*

Christian McCloskey, Barbara Allard, and four students approached the podium. Mr. McCloskey stated that September was Attendance Awareness Month. For the past several year, the Mayor and the Attendance Task Force has run several different initiatives including the Empty Chair campaign, the High-Five event, restructuring the attendance policy and the intervention plan. Each year at the September School Committee meeting, they read a proclamation. This year they've invited four students from Durfee High School's Class of 2018 who had perfect attendance last year to help read the proclamation. Emily Silva, Joana Cordeiro-Araujo, Allison Howard, and Donovan Daluz read a section of the proclamation and the Mayor finished reading the proclamation.

Superintendent Malone announced that they started tweeting the daily attendance for schools today. Spencer Borden was close to getting 100% perfect attendance. They had six schools with 100% teacher attendance.

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

Mayor Correia asked the Committee if they could move Discussion #9 – Long-Term Rental Request for New Life Worship Center to #2.

MOTION: Dr. Costar-Mr. Coogan: To move Discussion #9 – Long-Term Rental Request for New Life Worship Center to #2.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

2. **Discussion:** Long-Term Rental Request for New Life Worship Center, *as referred by the Facilities and Operations Subcommittee*

MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Dr. Costar: To approve the Long-Term Rental Request for the New Life Worship Center.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins stated that he would like a legal opinion regarding having a church use a public school to hold religious services. Attorney Assad stated that this is an issue that has been looked at by the United States Supreme Court on more than one occasion. Their rulings have been consistent in that, during non-instructional hours, as long as the School Department has also made their facilities available to secular or community organizations to rent, there will be no prohibition to renting to a religious or political organization.

Dr. Costar stated that the contract showed that they would receive in the revolving fund a little over \$1,000 per week but the School Department would also be responsible for custodial services. He asked if there would be a net gain. Superintendent Malone explained that New Life would cover the cost of custodial, security, and the technology person. Those costs are part of the contract. On top of that, there is still an additional net left over that will go into the Facilities Revolving Fund. Dr. Costar asked if there was anywhere in the contract where the School Department would suffer a loss. Superintendent Malone said that there is no loss of dollars with this rental agreement. If the School Department is unhappy at any time with situations or if they need the facility, there is a component where they would have open dialogue with New Life. He spoke with folks in New Bedford who have been very happy with the church that is meeting at Keith Middle School. Dr. Costar read the reports from the other schools who rent to New Life and he noted that they seem to be engaged in some very positive activities. He asked if the School Department had precedence if they needed the facilities on a Wednesday when New Life has requested to hold a service. Superintendent Malone said that is his understanding.

Mr. Coogan asked Lino Braga, the pastor for New Life Worship Center, if they were looking for a permanent home. Mr. Braga stated that they were previously meeting at the mill near the river for the past six years but, because of the rentals they now have there, parking has been an issue. They are looking to rent for at least a year. If the School Department is happy with them, they can revisit the contract and extend it for another year or so. Mr. Coogan said that the price he saw was for a Sunday but he also saw that they wanted to use the building once a month on a Wednesday but he didn't see that factored in. Mr. Pacheco explained that the price was for Wednesday and Sunday. Wednesday's costs are a lot less because the personnel is already on duty. Mrs. Panchley asked if the cost that was listed was for both Wednesday and Sunday. Mr. Pacheco confirmed that it was.

Mr. Andrade noted that one of the donations that was listed on the agenda this evening was for 200 backpacks donated by New Life.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Correia asked if the Committee was opposed to moving Discussion #3 – Durfee High School MSBA Project presentation by Ai3 and LeftField before Discussion Item #2 – District Student Handbook and Durfee High School Student Handbook. No one was opposed.

- 3. Presentation:** Durfee High School MSBA Project presentation by AI3 and LeftField, *as presented by Mr. Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer*

Scott Dunlap with Ai3 Architects introduced himself as part of the architectural engineering firm that the City selected for the preliminary design and programming and schematic design phase of the new Durfee High School. He introduced Troy Randall and two of the architects from Ai3, Jonathan and Craig. He also introduced Adam Keen and Lynn Stapleton from the Owners Project Manager, LeftField. He began by stating that the City of Fall River was offered a one-time grant opportunity for grant reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to pay a significant portion of the costs associated with a new high school facility. The reason the MSBA offered this grant opportunity to Fall River is because they have a long list of criteria and, having been through the high school on a number of occasions, they determined that the physical building is badly deteriorated. They also looked at educational opportunities to determine if it's a good candidate for replacement or renovation. They identified the inadequate science rooms, undersized classrooms, lack of teacher collaboration space, and lack of 21st century program space. Durfee really hit every single priority category they would identify so it immediately moved up the list as a high priority. There are 130-150 cities and towns every year that request this grant opportunity and it's only offered to about 25% of those. It is significant that Fall River was offered this opportunity.

They are in the process of satisfying five major steps that they want to be evaluated in detail: (1) They are evaluating the existing building and site conditions in a lot more detail, (2) developing an educational program and vision that details exactly what the City and School Department would propose from an educational standpoint, (3) Looking at potential building sites, (4) Evaluating options on those sites, and (5) Selecting a preferred option. They have been through all five steps.

Over the last eight months, they've been collaborating with Mayor Correia, Superintendent Malone, the school administration, faculty, staff, and building committee to prepare the documentation. There are over 8,000 collective hours invested in this process with over 50 professionals. This has been going on since last year. They just recently wrapped this process up. They are now in the Schematic Design Phase which will be wrapped up in January. At that point in time, they will submit all the documentation that's developed over the 12-month period to MSBA and they'll be evaluating it from January to June. That's when they will produce the Project Funding Agreement. That is their firm commitment to the City with regards to the reimbursement funding for the high school project. At that point in time, the City will also make some kind of commitment to the MSBA regarding their intention of moving forward with the

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

project. From there they will move into design, construction, and then substantial completion, which could be as soon as June 2022.

They completed the necessary documentation of the current high school's facilities. They also participated in educational visioning sessions where they brought the entire staff and administration together for half-day sessions on multiple occasions to talk more globally about what's going on in the high school now and what educator's vision was for the future. Some of the highlights that came out of those are simplified organization and circulation; entry experience; absence of collaborative space for teachers; flexible and varied learning space; student socialization and observation; indoor/outdoor connections; branding, identity, and sense of school community – restoring Durfee PRIDE; making real-world connections with career and vocational/technical programs – they want to make those programs easily accessible by the business community; the importance of providing a space beyond the school day and planning for campus activities; and community use within the building.

They also looked at various options on how to organize a building on the site. The MSBA wanted them to look at different options. They studied the complete demolition and replacement of the building, renovation of the existing building, and they studied options of keeping portions of the existing building and adding to it and demolishing portions of the existing building. Ultimately, the building committee selected Option 1E. Some of the advantages of this option were that it allows the project to consider keeping the existing field house building. It's a significantly sized facility which could not be replicated because the MSBA will no longer allow field houses of that size. It is also advantageous to abandon the existing portion of the school that had multiple levels, very poor physical condition, poorly constructed, and did not make sense to renovate. It would have been more expensive to renovate that existing building than it was to construct a new building. They also found that it would be advantageous to keep the existing performance arts building as it could be maintained and be utilized for cultural purposes and performing arts purposes city wide in the future. The spot for a new facility was also advantageous because it allows them to potentially construct on the most flat part of the site. It allows them to stay away from the existing building which will continue to operate through the duration of the new construction. It allows them to be very close to the utilities on Elsbree Street so that they will have very few utility runs to the new building. It also allows them to create more amenities and parking. It has a lot of advantages as far as long-term master planning strategy for the existing site. The current building is not very visible from Elsbree Street but the new design will put the building in a prominent location on Elsbree Street.

They are proposing a three-story building as the right size to keep the building compact and keep a simplified floor plan. They're proposing that the building would be organized in such a way that the educational components would benefit significantly from being on the 1st floor level. For example, some of the career vocational technical programs that need easy access to the outside. They're also proposing a central atrium going through the middle of the building. They're proposing a performance arts piece solely to the school that is smaller than the performing arts building. They also want to take advantage of the Durfee PRIDE atrium and incorporate the history and significance of the city. The 2nd floor would be the academic floor. They are proposing two academic teams which means that one area will have science classrooms, teacher collaboration areas, independent study space, small and large group space, distributed administration, general academic classrooms, and possibly act as a single grade level academy. On the 3rd floor, they've labeled the two different areas 11th Grade Neighborhood and 12th Grade Neighborhood.

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

With the building being closer to Elsbree Street, they want to make sure that they have a space for students to socialize in the morning and after school but not be crowded too close to Elsbree Street. They are working with the massing on how far away from Elsbree Street they place the school. They are also trying to make sure that they engage the streetscape so that the building will have prominence. In regards to what the building should look like, they've gotten feedback that they should borrow some of the historical and traditional elements of the original Durfee High School and blend those with some contemporary elements such as glass stairs at the corner of the building. They want to incorporate the original Durfee tower.

Mr. Martins said that he has received several calls from people asking him what's going to happen to the clocks. The alumni association put the clocks there. They collected about \$35,000 to get those clocks going and there is still fundraising to enclose the clocks. They're concerned about what's going to happen to them. The clocks were tuned to play certain songs. If the clocks are not a part of the new building, they're going to have a very angry alumni association.

4. **First Read with Recommended Expedited Vote to Approve:** District Student Handbook and Durfee High School Student Handbook, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Matthew Desmarais, Principal of Durfee High School*

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Coogan: To approve the District Student Handbook and Durfee High School Student Handbook and waive all readings.

Discussion:

Dr. Costar stated that the bullying policy currently reads "The Fall River Public Schools includes the provision of skill-building opportunities" particularly for the individuals who are more susceptible to bullying such as kids on the autism spectrum. He knows that the skill-building opportunities for many of those kids engage social skills training. Many of the School Adjustment Counselors and behavior therapists perform this special skills training. The kind of training they receive varied greatly. He asked if the Superintendent could get back to the Committee with the kind of training that will meet the needs of that particular policy. Superintendent Malone will gather that information and get it back to the Committee.

Mr. Martins stated that at the last meeting they discussed unexcused absences where the student would receive a 64 or an F for the term. He isn't sure if the language on Page 13 and 15 of the Student Handbook corrects that problem.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

5. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** 2017-2018 Amended School Calendar, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the Amended 2017-2018 School Calendar.

Discussion:

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

Mrs. Panchley asked Superintendent Malone for clarification regarding February 5 being listed as a tentative Professional Development Day. Superintendent Malone clarified that, when they established the calendar before they ratified the final contract, part of the contract with the FREA was that they move that date to February 5 but they may move that date to the week before. He will inform the Committee of the final date at the October meeting and all parents will know in October the exact date.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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6. **First Read:** School Committee Goals, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mr. Martins-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the first read of the School Committee Goals.

No discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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7. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** Staffing Changes at Talbot and Kuss: Converting four teaching positions into two teaching positions and four paraprofessional positions, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Mr. Andrade: To approve the staffing changes at Talbot and Kuss.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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8. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** Creation of new kindergarten classroom (teacher and paraprofessional) at Spencer Borden Elementary School using contingency line item funds, *as presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve the creation of a new kindergarten classroom at Spencer Borden Elementary School using contingency line item funds.

Discussion:

Mrs. Panchley asked if this was part of the long-term capital plan as far as what would happen to the classroom next year. Superintendent Malone stated that the School Committee has established reducing class size as a priority. He's anticipating that he will fund this position in the budget next year.

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

Mrs. Panchley asked if there could be an opportunity where the School Committee would decide to rent space. Superintendent Malone said that he will be coming back to the Committee with more accurate ideas and suggestions. If he moves things around, they may have two more spaces and they could possibly look at rental but they're not there yet. He really wants to see what the October 1 number is so that they can get the projections for next year. They have a large population of students between Fonseca and Viveiros. There are 172 kindergarten students in the Fonseca zone. They only have seats for 100. They need some kind of relief in the Fonseca/Viveiros/Doran triangle. At the October meeting, the Collins Center is going to present on preventative maintenance.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

9. **Vote to Approve:** To request that the Mayor submit to the City Council a request to appropriate \$250,000 to hire a Owners Project Manager and a Designer/Engineer for the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program for Watson and Tansey Project, *as presented by Mr. Kenneth Pacheco, Chief Operating Officer*

MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Mr. Andrade: To approve the request that the Mayor submit to the City Council a request to appropriate \$250,000 to hire a Owners Project Manager and a Designer/Engineer for the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program.

Discussion:

Mr. Costa asked if this was reimbursable. Mr. Pacheco said that it was 80/20. Mr. Costa wanted people to know that the City would not be responsible for the full \$250,000 and that 80% of that is reimbursable through the project. Superintendent Malone added that he sat down with the 2nd grade class at Watson and he asked the kids how he could give them a great school year. They asked if they could get new windows. He suggested that they write a letter. With Mrs. Conway's help, the students wrote a letter and signed it and Superintendent Malone included that letter in the School Committee members' binders.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

10. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** Solar Contract, *as referred by the Facilities and Operations Subcommittee*

Mrs. Panchley asked if they would be in default of the agreement if they were to close a school in the future. Mr. McIlroy explained that they would assign a certain part of the subscription to another meter. If there was a meter that went away, they would move it to a different meter if that meter needed more. He added that the conservative way to do this would be to sign up for less than they can subscribe to.

They will owe 85% of the credits that Community Solar provides. If they feel that that is a larger number than they are comfortable with, they can look at a smaller amount but they would save less.

Mrs. Panchley said that she didn't see them closing any schools in the near future but the agreement is for 25 years. Mr. McIlroy stated that after 25 years, it will be 25% less in terms of what they're generating. Mrs. Panchley stated that, if they're building a new high school that is more efficient, she isn't sure how much it will change as far as their usage. She doesn't want the School Department to be in a position of buying more than they can use. Mr. McIlroy suggested that they subscribe to a smaller portion than what they're capable of. Mrs. Panchley asked if that was in the contract. Mr. McIlroy explained that there is a commitment agreement for X amount. Every time Community Solar puts the Fall River Public Schools into a facility, they will sign a separate agreement.

Mayor Correia asked Mr. Pacheco if there was a bid for these services. Mr. Pacheco said that there was not a bid because procurement of utilities is not an item that needs to be procured through bidding. He explained that this mimicked the Uxbridge Solar on the City side. Mayor Correia stated that they've had problems with the Uxbridge Solar contract in the past so he will not be supporting this. He asked if they were producing 21 megawatts. Mr. McIlroy said that they would be subscribing to it and they would not be purchasing anything. They would just be receiving credits on their bill and they would pay Community Solar a percentage of the credits they get. Mayor Correia asked if it would be up to 21 megawatts. Mr. McIlroy confirmed that it would. Mayor Correia asked how that would affect the municipal cap of 10 megawatts. Mr. McIlroy explained that the City has one cap and the School Department has a separate cap. Mayor Correia asked what the School Department's cap was. Mr. McIlroy explained that it would depend on their usage. Mayor Correia asked how much the School Department currently uses. Mr. McIlroy said 27 megawatt hours. Mayor Correia asked where the project was located. Mr. McIlroy said that they will be all over the National Grid service territory. Mayor Correia stated that he will not be supporting this because he thinks there could have been a little more due diligence. Even though it is exempt, it still could have gone out to bid. He asked if the meter credits they were getting was \$0.99. Mr. McIlroy stated that they were getting \$0.9947. He stated that there is no bid on that. That is legislative. The DOER decided that is what the credit rate is going to be. There is no bidding on that amount. Mr. Costa asked Mr. McIlroy if that rate changes. Mr. McIlroy stated that it was a mandated number. It will increase as rates increase. It's based on the cost of electricity. Mr. Costa asked, if the School Department had chosen to go out to bid, if that would still be the rate of reimbursement. Mr. McIlroy reiterated that that rate would not change. Mayor Correia stated that they would still be paying a rate. Mr. McIlroy clarified that they would just receive credits. The rate that they're paying for electricity would not change. Mayor Correia asked what their current rate was. Mr. Pacheco answered that he believed it was 0.094.

Mr. Andrade asked if they were putting up any solar facilities. Mr. McIlroy said that they would not be putting up any solar panels on any of the buildings. Mayor Correia asked if this agreement precluded them from buying from themselves. The previous contract with this same group precluded them from using their own solar panels on Morton. Mr. Pacheco said that they own those solar panels. The others were a part of a PPA. Mayor Correia stated that there was an issue where they couldn't turn on the panels. Mr. Pacheco said that that issue was with National Grid because they felt that the School Department had met their cap but they were wrong. Mayor Correia asked, if they were to install new solar panels, with the way the agreement is structured, would they be allowed to use their own solar panels to offset the cost. Mr. Pacheco said they could as long as they don't go over the cap. They would have to meet the cap. Mayor Correia said that he still needed more information to be clear.

Mr. Martins asked if there would be a solar farm in the area. Mr. McIlroy said that they have one now and there could be more as they build these. He explained that for the panels they subscribe to, they'd get paid by National Grid in the form of on-bill credits. They would then pay Community Solar 85% and keep 15%. It doesn't impact their usage and it doesn't impact what they're paying per kilowatt hour. It just impacts their net bill.

Dr. Costar asked Mr. Pacheco if he was approached by Mr. McIlroy. Mr. Pacheco said that he was approached by a few different companies. Dr. Costar asked Mr. Pacheco if he would recommend this company of all the others that approached him. Mr. Pacheco said that he would.

MOTION: Dr. Costar-Mr. Andrade: To table the discussion of the Solar Contract.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Costa: To place the FYI portion of the agenda on file.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To enter into executive session.

Attorney Assad read items that were requested for Executive Session.

- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel including Benjamin Grande, Administrative Intern.
- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7): To review and approve Executive Session Committee Minutes for the August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

Mayor Correia asked for a roll call to enter into executive session.

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Yes
Dr. Costar: Yes	

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed (7:27 p.m.)

At 7:56 p.m. the meeting reconvened. A roll call for attendance showed:

Mr. Andrade: Present	Mr. Martins: Present
Mr. Coogan: Present	Mrs. Panchley: Present
Mr. Costa: Present	Mayor Correia: Absent
Dr. Costar: Present	

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the contract between the Fall River School Committee and Mr. Benjamin Grande, Administrative Intern.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: No
Mr. Coogan: No	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Absent
Dr. Costar: Yes	

Four were in favor Two were opposed (Coogan & Martins) One was absent (Mayor Correia)
Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mrs. Panchley: To approve the executive session minutes from the August 14, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

No discussion

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes	Mr. Martins: Yes
Mr. Coogan: Yes	Mrs. Panchley: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes	Mayor Correia: Absent
Dr. Costar: Yes	

Six were in favor None were opposed One was absent (Mayor Correia) Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade-Mrs. Panchley: To adjourn.

No discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed (7:57 PM)

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant

Documents Referred to:

- District Enrollment
- Minutes
 - Special Meeting of the Fall River School Committee Minutes – 8/14/2017
 - Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee Minutes – 8/14/2017
 - Facilities and Operations Subcommittee Minutes – 8/21/2017
- Donations
 - Project Lead the Way
 - Comcast
 - School on Wheels
 - New Life – Fall River
 - Rotary Club
 - Donors Choose
- Contracts Memo
- Grants
 - Title I
 - Title IIA
 - Essential School Health
 - Implementation-Expanded Learning Time
- District Student Handbook
- Durfee High School Student Handbook
- Ai3 Powerpoint Presentation slides
- Amended School Calendar 2017-2018
- School Committee/Superintendent Goals 2017-2018
- Memo: Staffing Changes at Talbot Middle School and Kuss Middle School
- Memo: Kindergarten Teacher and Paraprofessional at Spencer Borden
- Letter requesting the School Committee's approval to request through the Mayor that the City Council appropriate funds for the Feasibility Study of the Tansey and Watson proposed projects
- Memo: New Window Project
- Letter from Mrs. Conway's 2nd grade class at Watson
- Letter re: New Life Worship Center's Long-Term Rental Request
- Reference letter from East Greenwich Public Schools
- Reference letter from Keith Middle School
- New Life Worship Center's Community Outreach Summary (2011-2017)
- Use of School Facilities policy
- Email re: New Life Worship Center's rental needs and the cost
- Letter of Agreement – Morton Middle School

Regular Meeting: September 11, 2017

- Fall River Public Schools' Indemnity/Insurance Agreement
- Letter re: Clean Energy Collective
- Clean Energy Collective proposal
- Purchase Commitment Agreement

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. - 508.324.2650

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