

Regular Meeting: March 13, 2017

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

**Monday, March 13, 2017**

**5:30 PM**

**Morton Middle School**

**1135 North Main Street**

**Fall River, MA 02720**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Correia called the meeting to order. A roll call for attendance showed at 5:41 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.

A salute to the flag followed.

**CITIZENS' INPUT**

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

**RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Superintendent Malone introduced the recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Friend of Public Education Award, Manny Papoula, by reading a brief biography. Mr. Papoula taught math in public schools for 30 years. He has been a volunteer math tutor at SER-Jobs for Progress since 1996. He also funds three scholarship programs which he started 10 years ago. He helps maintain all of Fall River's outdoor public basketball courts for the last 20 years. Mr. Andrade presented Mr. Papoula with the award. A group photo was taken.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- *State Assessments*

Superintendent Malone announced that they will begin the first round of state assessments within the next few weeks. They are working with principals and their technology team to ensure that they have technology in place. They are fixing things as they go and they are trying to provide as many tools and resources as they can. This is the MCAS 2.0 for every grade except for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade which will still be using the traditional MCAS. This will be their first time using this assessment. The whole state is going through this changeover. The leadership team has done a good job preparing for the roll out. They feel like they will be able to meet the needs of all the students they will assess.

- *Fonseca Level 4 Update*

Superintendent Malone stated that they had worked extremely hard in writing a Turnaround Plan that focused on the needs of students in the school. They've submitted that plan and the commissioner has reviewed it. He sent a team down last week to sit with their team. Fonseca is presently working on the turnaround. They will

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be making enhancements to the turnaround plan based on the commissioner's recommendations. They will then submit the revised plan and, once they have the final copy of that plan, they will begin working on implementation.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve all meeting minutes.**

Discussion:

Mr. Martins commended the Superintendent for his initiative in incorporating career and technical education. This will increase their graduation rate and will also increase Chapter 70 aid through Chapter 74 coming into Fall River. This is something that will be a plus in the Superintendent's cap and he looks forward to seeing these programs put into effect so that students have traces in how they want to proceed with their high school education and proceed to their post-secondary education.

**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**

### **TRAVEL REQUESTS**

**MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Dr. Costar: To approve all travel requests.**

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**

Superintendent Malone read the donations out loud.

### **DONATIONS**

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

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**

### **CONTRACTS**

**MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Costa: To approve all 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**

**GRANTS**

There are no grants to approve at this time.

**DISCUSSIONS**

1. **Presentation:** South Coast Youth Courts, *as presented by Ms. Nina Sousa and Ms. Terri Belliveau, Assistant Directors of South Coast Youth Courts*

**MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: For the School Committee to direct the Superintendent to work with the CFO to see if there is available funding in this fiscal year's budget to assist Youth Court.**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Sousa started by saying that Youth Courts' biggest issue and the reason why she was in front of the School Committee was funding. She explained that Youth Court is a diversion program where they take first-time offenders – juveniles who do not have a juvenile court record yet – for misdemeanor crimes and status offenses. They accept referrals directly from the schools, juvenile court, pre-arraignment, and the police department.

Youth Court also has volunteers who are a significant part of the process. They do the entire hearing process. They've donated 27,000 hours of volunteer time. They serve as their prosecution, defense, bailiffs, and clerks.

Youth Court has a 92% compliance rate. Compliance in Youth Court means, from the hearing process through the four months they are with Youth Court, they have not reoffended and they completed all their sanctions. One year after completing Youth Court, 88% of respondents do not reoffend and three years later 68% do not reoffend. This not only includes convictions, it means the respondents have had no police involvement whatsoever.

Community service is a huge piece of what Youth Court does. The respondents in Fall River get anywhere from 6-100 hours of community service. During those hours, they are supervised by Youth Court staff and do this as a group of 10-15. As of January 2017, they've done 23,386 hours of community service.

In the past five years they've had an EOPSS grant and a SAMHSA grant that funded both New Bedford and Fall River Youth Court. Once those grants went away in 2012, they had to look elsewhere for funding. The School Committee has given four years of funding ranging from \$15,000-\$45,000. They are currently at the point where they have to turn away cases. They are actually over capacity right now. She has made the promise that she will continue to serve those who are currently active but Youth Court will not accept any more referrals if they do not get funding. For the referrals process in the last seven years, there were spikes in Years 4, 5, and 6 because those were the years that they had the EOPSS and SAMHSA grants.

The goal budget for the program for the year is \$150,000 with the max of 100 cases and full staff. Cases processed by Youth Court get four months of case management services with a maximum of six months. They also get academic programs such as tutoring, mentoring, after-school programs and community service projects on the weekends and during school vacations. What that translates to is \$1,500 per child. At 16

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weeks, that's \$93.75 a week for one child. On average, a Youth Court respondent gets two hours of case management which are one-on-one sessions of respondents talking to their vice principal, administrator, or parents; four hours of jury duty; six hours of community service; and one hour of after-school programming. For Fall River, 100% of funding is state funding. They are asking the school department for 30% of the cost. That would put them in a good place for the rest of the year as far as staffing and would give them about 100 respondents per year which is where they want to be.

Mrs. Panchley asked Ms. Sousa to confirm that \$150,000 is the amount that they are looking for. Ms. Sousa confirmed that that was the goal amount and they are looking for about \$40,000 from the School Department. Mrs. Panchley asked what they were operating under this year. She said that it looks like they are still getting some state funding. Ms. Sousa said that right now they have a SAMHSA grant that is split between Fall River and New Bedford. They also have Shannon funding. Shannon works off of a calendar year as opposed to a fiscal year. For the fiscal year, between Shannon and SAMHSA money, they are at \$59,000 which is gone because that pays for slots which are \$1,500 per child. Any money from the Fall River School Committee would go toward funding slots for Fall River kids only.

Mr. Coogan asked how many of the kids on the Referrals slide were Fall River kids. Ms. Sousa answered that they were all Fall River kids.

Dr. Costar pointed out that it looks like Youth Court has struggled to engage the Fall River Schools in this program since 2015 and asked if it was a funding issue. Ms. Sousa said that it was 100% a funding issue and they actually have great relationships with and support from the Fall River Schools. Dr. Costar asked why Youth Court eliminated their Substance Use Prevention Group. Ms. Sousa explained when they received the SAMHSA funding that was specifically to expand the substance use prevention program. That grant went to 10 Youth Courts in the country. South Coast was one of them. It provided for extra slots and those extra slots were particularly for youth who were either referred for substance use crime or, during intake, had been identified as either using or having used in the past. Dr. Costar asked if she would consider reinstating the program if Youth Court was fully funded. Ms. Sousa said that she would because she sees a population of young people that struggle with it, whether it's in their family or they are struggling themselves. Dr. Costar said that his understanding was that a substance use curriculum was supposed to be implemented at the beginning of the school year. He would like to have a progress report on that. If this is something that is being done in schools then there would be less of a need for Youth Court to include this in their program. He would support partially funding Youth Court since they have demonstrated their success with this program. In regards to the substance use curriculum, Superintendent Malone said that he will put something in writing to the School Committee.

In regards to the slide that mentioned \$109,000 for high security detention, Mr. Martins asked if that was for incarcerated youths. Ms. Sousa answered that it was DYS detention. Mr. Martins asked if they were incarcerated. Ms. Sousa answered that they were. Mr. Martins asked how many students from this area are incarcerated. Ms. Sousa said that that was a state number and she didn't have the numbers for Fall River. Mr. Martins asked what the prognosis was for students getting out and living socially acceptable lives. Ms. Sousa didn't have an exact answer for that since that is more intervention but she said that she can look into it. Mr. Martins asked what the typical cost was for housing a criminal. Ms. Sousa said that she wasn't sure. Mr. Martins said that it was much higher than education. Mr. Sousa agreed.

Mr. Costa asked what the total amount that was funded by SAMHSA was. Ms. Sousa said that it was \$80,000 which was split between Fall River and New Bedford. Mr. Costa asked how much the Shannon grant contributed. Ms. Sousa answered that the Shannon grant contributed \$19,812. Mr. Costa asked if this grant

was also split between the two communities. Ms. Sousa said that the Shannon grant was only for Fall River. Mr. Costa asked who managed the Shannon grant. Ms. Sousa said that Christian McCloskey from Youth Services is the contact person. Mr. Costa asked if Ms. Sousa has had a conversation with Mr. McCloskey about the need for an increase. He asked how they determined the allocation for Youth Court. Ms. Sousa said that there was a 15% decrease for everyone. A committee that was put together determined the amount that would be allocated to Youth Court. She said that because of Mr. McCloskey and the Shannon grant, Youth Court was able to survive the way they did when they had no other money. She said that the School Committee also gave \$15,000 the year that they were supposed to close. Mr. Costa asked if the 5% that comes from city funding is the \$40,000 figure. Ms. Sousa said that that was for South Coast. In Fall River, there's only Shannon and SAMHSA money. The 5% is for New Bedford. Mr. Costa asked if by city funding she meant the New Bedford School Department. Ms. Sousa clarified that that meant the City of New Bedford. Mr. Costa asked what the amount was. Ms. Sousa said that it was about 5% of \$100,000. Mr. Costa said that he can't remember a year where the Committee didn't see a value or a need for Youth Court. Mr. Costa said that maybe Superintendent Malone can bring back information to the Committee at the next meeting that gives them an idea of what they may be able to contribute this year and going forward.

Dr. Costar asked if they were looking for the amount that Youth Court is requesting or if they were looking for an amount. Mr. Costa said that he would hope that they could contribute the amount that Youth Court needs; however, he is asking Superintendent Malone to see if there is available funding. He doesn't want to sound as though they need to come up with this money but he stressed the importance of the program and that Superintendent Malone would take that into consideration as an advisory request for the Committee to take a look at the budget.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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2. **Discussion and Vote to Approve:** Policy Subcommittee duties, as *presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

**MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mrs. Panchley: To make amendments to the Policy Subcommittee duties.**

Discussion:

Superintendent Malone stated that he worked closely with Dr. Costar on developing the Policy Subcommittee duties and this document was reviewed by their attorney. Superintendent Malone explained that this was a tool that will allow the subcommittee to refer policies but not usurp any of the rights of current subgroups or add any additional layer of bureaucracy. He supports this policy and hopes the Committee supports it as well.

Ms. Panchley had a question about the wording where it states "the duty of the Subcommittee on Policy is to advise the School Committee and the Superintendent of any recommended changes and/or changes to presently existing school policies." She didn't understand the "and/or changes." Superintendent Malone said that that was a typo. Ms. Panchley added that the Wellness Committee has come up with the Wellness Policy and they brought it to the Committee and it's been voted on. She said that they typically review it every year and they make any recommendations. She asked how the Policy Subcommittee would work with the Wellness Committee when they are already responsible for reviewing their own policy. Superintendent Malone said that they will not usurp any existing committees.

Mr. Martins pointed out that the last two sentences of the document don't seem to go along with each other. He said that it would if they changed "Superintendent" with "School Committee." The current wording is "the School Committee will consult with the Superintendent prior to making any changes to the policy. Final policy approval rests with the School Committee and nothing containing in this description prevents the

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School Committee itself from initiating or changing existing policy when deemed necessary.” He thinks that the wording should be “the Superintendent shall consult with the School Committee prior to making any changes to the policy” and the last sentence remain as is.

Attorney Assad said that the reason for the language is for the School Committee to receive input from the Superintendent prior to a decision being made with the ultimate decision being made by the School Committee. Dr. Costar asked if they could take that sentence out.

Ms. Panchley said that the way that she interpreted the wording was that the School Committee would consult with the Superintendent for input. She is fine with the wording or removing the wording but not fine with changing the wording. Mr. Costa suggested that the final sentence read: “The final policy approval rests with the School Committee in consultation with the Superintendent and nothing contained in this description prevents School Committee itself from initiating or changing existing policy when deemed necessary.”

Dr. Costar said that there was a recent concern that was raised by someone regarding establishing a policy having to do with bus regulations. He would like to recommend that this be brought to the Policy Subcommittee and then have it presented to the full Committee. Superintendent Malone said that he will check to see if this is considered a policy or a procedure.

<b>All were in favor</b>	<b>None were opposed</b>	<b>Motion passed</b>
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**MOTION: Mrs. Panchley-Mr. Andrade: To approve amended Policy Subcommittee duties.**  
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	

<b>All were in favor</b>	<b>None were opposed</b>	<b>Motion passed</b>
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3. **First Read:** Instructional Calendar, as *presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

**MOTION: Mr. Coogan-Mr. Andrade: To ask the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents to explore a standardized calendar statewide for the school year.**

Discussion:

Superintendent Malone said that this was the first read of the academic calendar for the 2017-2018 school year. He said that it follows the same exact plan as the current year, 180-day calendar for students broken down by trimesters. There are no changes from this school year’s calendar.

Mr. Costa pointed out that Veteran’s Day is on November 11 but it’s listed as November 10 on the proposed instructional calendar. Superintendent Malone explained that Veteran’s Day was being observed on November 10 since November 11 falls on a Saturday.

Mrs. Panchley said that they had talked about making the Friday before the holiday break a half day. Superintendent Malone said that he will do the math and get back to the Committee on what that looks like for CMR 603.27.

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Mr. Coogan said that, with the amount of snow days that are piling up, he would like to see the associations of Superintendents and School Committees try to figure out a calendar that operates statewide.

Superintendent Malone recommended a joint letter from himself and the School Committee be sent to both associations to see if this is something that they could look into.

Superintendent Malone will bring this back to the Committee at the next meeting for a second read.

**A roll call showed:**

Mr. Andrade: Yes

Mr. Martins: Yes

Mr. Coogan: Yes

Mrs. Panchley: No

Mr. Costa: Yes

Mayor Correia: Yes

Dr. Costar: No

**Five were in favor**

**Two were opposed** (Costar and Panchley)

**Motion passed**

4. **Presentation:** FY18 Superintendent's Recommended Budget, as *presented by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools*

Superintendent Malone explained that the Superintendent's Recommended Budget is a presentation where they outline a budget they've been working on that contains the goals that they would like to attain in the following school year. This is one of the steps in the development of the School Committee's budget. At the last meeting, he presented a forecast of what he was looking at for fixed costs. Tonight he will be laying out the Superintendent's recommended budget. Once he's done, it will be the School Committee's budget to deliberate over the next few months and come up with a final budget for the public and then present it to the City Council on June 1.

Superintendent Malone announced that he was able to zero base the budget. He thanked the Mayor for pushing this process. Superintendent Malone admitted that he didn't think that this could be done in the first year but they did. He believed that this budget will allow the School Department to meet the needs of children, grow their skills in the field, support their schools, and increase student achievement.

He explained that a budget is a statement of their core values, a financial planning tool, a communication vehicle, a strategic road map, and a living document. It's not etched in stone. Every member of the School Committee must understand the system's budget. There are three major calculations in the foundation formula in the Commonwealth of MA: the foundation budget, local contribution, and Chapter 70 aid. When you add the three together, you get net school spending. Net School Spending is the cost directly related to the education of students. Required net school spending is set each year by DESE. This includes town/city indirect spending for schools known as "actual net school spending." Most communities in MA pay about 1%-60% above net school spending. The goal of the Chapter 70 formula is to ensure that every district has sufficient resources to meet its foundation budget spending level through an equitable combination of local property taxes and state aid. The formula calculates what a community contributes to the cost of educating their children. Fixing the Chapter 70 foundation budget formula is the #1 need in the Commonwealth right now.

Chapter 70 aid is determined by three basic steps: calculated foundation budget, an adequate funding level for each district, and the demographic characteristics of its students. The state determines the equitable local contribution and how much of that foundation budget should be paid for by each city and town's property tax

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based on their relative wealth. The remainder is funded by Chapter 70 aid. Local contribution + state aid = a district's net school spending requirement.

The last piece of the budget puzzle is Schedule 19 where the city is allowed to "charge back" or "write off" certain charges and expenses for services they provide to the Fall River Public Schools. These fees are referred to in the state budget as Schedule 19. They are developing a focused, targeted, and forward-thinking budget that is inclusive of all learners and will deliver increased student achievement results. As they began developing their budget, they looked at their mission and goals. The people who are doing the work in the Fall River Public Schools are the most important aspect of the budget. They are at the center of the budget. The goal is to ensure that they can meet the needs of kids and keep all the people that they have in place.

Student enrollment is at 10,163 but, for the foundation, there are 10,246 students because there are kids that are in other programming but are counted toward the foundation budget. They are a diverse community. The percentage of second language learners has grown to 11.7%. Students with special needs are at 20% of the District. The high needs and economically disadvantaged students are in the top percentile statewide. The actual foundation enrollment is 11,662 because that includes students in the charter schools. It's up 200 students from the year before. The foundation budget for this year is just under \$140 million. The net minimum contribution is about \$28 million. The Chapter 70 Aid is slightly north of \$112 million. Their required net school spending is the under \$140 million figure mentioned earlier. Their actual net school spending is \$143 million. Eighty percent of the operating budget is state aid.

In September and October, the central office staff studied zero-based budgeting. In November, they developed the budget calendar and administered a survey to all principals. The priorities were: reducing class size for K-3, maintaining current levels of human capital, delivering high-quality learning and teaching, implementing strategic investments in technology, and maximizing efficiencies in cost containment for operations. They also established the following parameters: zero base every school and cost center, let student need drive decisions, allow principals to make site based decisions, and use conservative austerity and building a balanced and transparent budget using the granularity of all the line items.

In January 2017, they trained principals and central office in the state budgeting process and on the zero-based budgeting process. In February 2017, the principals and their sites zero based their budgets based on the template they were sent then submitted their budget to the central office. Through February and March, they held zero-based budget meetings with principals and all department heads, a minimum of an hour per meeting. There were about 27 budget meetings. Superintendent Malone presented this budget last Friday to all the principals and department heads and received feedback from them.

Under House One, Chapter 70 Aid is at \$112 million which is almost a \$5 million increase which comes out to \$20 per student. The City's contribution was slightly south of \$28 million. This is an increase of \$1.7 million over June 2016 required city contribution. The appropriation which is Chapter 70 plus the town contribution equals that \$139 million figure which is an increase of \$6.6 million over FY 17 required net school spending. This does not include the \$1.5 million appropriation provided to FY 17 to cover FY 16 net school spending shortfall.

The operational budget for FY 17 was \$135 million. House One came out at \$139 million. The recommended budget for FY 18 is \$141.3 million. The delta between these two figures is slightly south of \$1.4 million. It represents a 1% increase in net school spending. The budget design strategy that they're bringing forward is a zero-based site level and department cost centers. They let student needs drive the program improvements, established a series of cost containments and repurposed allocations, human capital conversions, and

implemented several strategic reductions. The operating budget shows an increase from 2017-2018. While there's a reduction in materials and supplies, benefits and insurance have gone up. There's an increase of about \$2.5 million.

Superintendent Malone pointed out the line items in the binders and told the Committee that they will receive backing documents in the next two weeks. Anything in parentheses signifies a decrease. Due to zero basing the budget, they were able to find \$1.3 million that they were able to repurpose. In the recommended budget he is proposing program improvements of new positions. The amount for these positions were equal to 32 FTEs. When there are dollars that have not been expended, they can be repurposed. He is proposing two district-wide positions. Both FTEs will be covered in general operating funds, 50% would be covered in grant funds. The first position is a Pre K-12 Curriculum Coordinator in Math and Science. Math and science are a priority right now because those are the scores that need improvement. He is also proposing a half grant-funded, half operational funded K-12 Special Ed Director position. It will be an FRAA position. The work in special education is worth about 15 FTEs that they don't have right now. This is the largest programming in the school system. They've added a 6-8 Social Studies Teacher at Doran and a new addition of a Library/Media Specialist at Durfee. Durfee is also requesting the creation of a Department Head in Special Ed, the largest department. In ELL, they are adding a 0.5 Director position to help with the growing ELL program. They plan to add and create a Community Facilitator roll, who will be working with families who do not speak English. They are adding a K para at Fonseca and Greene. These are part of the eight para positions that were eliminated. These positions were built back into the budget. For Henry Lord, they are proposing an addition of a clerk which they do not have. They're creating a special ed para at Morton. They are also recommending a split in the creation of a nursing position at RPA and Stone so that both schools have at least 0.5 coverage in nursing. RPA is also requesting a Department Head in Instruction and creation of two new positions which are called Re-Engagement Specialist which will be people who are working in the field to re-engage dropouts to come back into the Fall River Public Schools. If these are positions that the School Committee supports, Superintendent Malone will bring forward job descriptions for those rolls. The Silvia School is creating a 1:1 para, two special ed paras, and a K para. They are also creating a Community Facilitator for Special Ed. Stone is requesting an addition of a clerk. Talbot is requesting an addition of a Department Head in Math/Science and an ESL para. There will also be an addition of three classroom teacher positions. They don't know where they're going yet. These are the class size reduction positions for K-3. They are working on getting the class sizes down to 26. At Viveiros, they are requesting a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and a para at the K level. Watson is requesting a STEM teacher, a SPED/ELL dual certified roll, a para, and a vice principal. The vice principal used to be on a state grant that went away so it's being put in the operating budget. For the Department Head in Math and Science at Talbot, 0.4 would be covered by a grant and 0.6 by the operating budget. They also made decisions on nine positions. They will be repurposing money into some of the positions that they do need. He stressed that no one will be losing their jobs with this budget.

#### *Budget Conversions*

Also included in this budget are conversions of current positions into proposed positions. There's no additional cost with conversions.

- Durfee has an office para but they want an ESL para
- The kindergarten teacher at Fonseca has been repurposed into an ELL Newcomer Strand position at Fonseca. So, it not like they are taking from one school and giving to another; it's in-school conversions based on the zero-based budget process. There are 15 of those.
- Fonseca has an Admin Intern that they're proposing to turn into a Redesign Coach for the new Level 4 plan
- Henry Lord is creating a new position called an Interventionist Coach. This is someone who can do student services and coaching services to classroom teachers.

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- Kuss has a Parent Outreach Coordinator but what they really need is an Instructional Technology Coach
- Talbot has a School Adjustment Counselor that they are proposing to convert to a Student Support Coordinator. There are seven of those positions.
- Talbot has a Redesign Coach position that they were unable to fill but they need an Interventionist Math Coach

#### *Expense Changes*

Superintendent Malone is proposing two new line items in the budget: a technology line item and a contingency line item. Earlier in the year, Mr. Martins brought up the fact that in Title I they get the results but they've already articulated how they're going to spend the money and they can't attach additional resources to solve a problem. The contingency line item can be used for that regard but can be used for other unforeseen needs.

#### *Line Item Reductions*

- Reduced tutors by \$10,000
- Cap the use of daily subs at the secondary level. The money that they are spending on subs at the secondary level does not have the impact that subs could have at the elementary level. They reduced the sub line by \$100,000.
- Unemployment reduced by \$182,000
- SRG grant sunsets this year. In order to meet the needs of the students at Watson, the building would rather keep the number of people they have. They'll lose the extended time but they'll get to keep the people. That's a \$202,000 reduction.
- Sick leave buyback reducing by \$16,000
- Utilities reducing by \$160,000
- Tuition for special ed is reducing by \$133,000
- Cutting postage by \$12,000
- General classroom supplies reducing by \$300,000. They have four storage rooms filled with supplies. They want to deplete those supplies before they order any more.
- Textbooks/Technology Materials are being reduced by \$113,000

#### *Expense Increases*

- Medicaid is going up \$15,000
- Legal services increasing by \$45,000
- Built in \$400,000 to Transportation
- Increase in travel which is collectively bargained
- Medicare insurance has gone up
- All those increases are a total of \$850,000
- There are also increases in administration costs. Currently there are 13 SROs. The School Department pays for three and the City pays for 10 on a grant. That grant is gone. In the proposed budget, they will be paying for seven. There will be two SROs at the high school, one at RPA, one at each middle school, and one roaming. That's an additional cost of \$386,000.
- The additional cost of Maintenance (Water and Sewer) is \$385,000
- Retirement benefits are increasing to \$368,000
- Health insurance is going up to \$1.7 million
- Charter school reimbursement increasing to \$2.7 million

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- The total of those increases is about \$4 million

#### *Budget Highlights*

- They used zero-based budgeting for the first time in the history of the Fall River Public Schools. They will use this every year going forward
- Budget development was based on student need and site-level decision making
- Proposed budget includes 32 new FTEs to support learning and teaching mostly identified through the zero-base process
- Achieved reduced class size in K-3, capping student enrollment at 26 per class
- Created two new line items: technology and contingency
- Reduced operating expenses across departments by \$1.2 million, reallocating savings to build budget
- Introduced new budget development protocols increasing face-to-face facilitative meetings between site-level and central office leaders
- Budget was built to protect human capital assets
- Proposed a transparent budget where every dollar is accounted for
- Built trust, transparency, and teamwork between school sites and central office as well as with the city
- Achieved district goals contained in the budget with a proposed 1% increase over net school spending

#### *Concerns for FY18*

- Charter school expense goes up every year. Right now the cap is at 15.3% of net school spending. As of December, they're only at 10.57%. That figure can grow another 5% over the next few years. The state has not funded their commitment to offset the cost in the last seven years.
- Health insurance. They began the current year at 4.7%. Those figures increased to 13%. They worked with colleagues in the City who got it down to 9%. Superintendent Malone is budgeting at 8%. That's a total health insurance cost of \$21 million.
- Step and Lane Increases are \$1.45 million. These are built in, fixed costs that include yearly salary increases covered under collective bargaining. It fluctuates each year based on where the employee is at.
- Transportation is going up \$400,000. Superintendent Malone will be bringing forward a facilities review in the next month or so. They're working on finding savings in Transportation over the next few years.
- Out-of-district special ed tuition. They are level funding this in the budget. They're building more internal programming to meet the needs of students. He is proposing that they move the Stone School from its current location to the Westall Building and growing the Stone School to a K-12. They think they will be able to grow their revenue or decrease their out-of-school tuition by growing Stone to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### *Important Budget Planning Dates*

- Presentation to the School Committee on 3/13/17
- Recommends Finance Subcommittee meetings be scheduled in March and April 2017
- School Committee budget deliberations March-May
- School Committee budget hearing – May
- Submit final budget to City Council on June 1, 2017

Superintendent Malone thanked a group of people who helped in the zero-based budget process including Northbridge Public Schools for sharing their budget presentation template format.

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5. **Vote to Approve:** February's Budget Report, as *presented by Mr. Kevin Almeida, Chief Financial Officer*

**MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve February's budget report.**

Discussion:

Mr. Martins stated that he liked the written explanations for the budget report.

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

Discussion:

Mr. Martins asked if an exit interview is done after each employee leaves. He is concerned that they are halfway through the school year and people are still leaving. He wonders if they are unhappy or if they find the work to be too difficult or they found a better position elsewhere. Superintendent Malone said that he can put together comments on some of the trends and give that to the School Committee.

**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)(3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining relative to ALL professional teaching employees of the Fall River School System including coaches, Title I, teachers, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, and specialists in the teaching profession represented by the Fall River Educators' Association.
- M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7): To review and approve Executive Session Committee Minutes for the February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.

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

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 (7:46 p.m.)**

At 7:54 p.m. the meeting reconvened. A roll call for attendance showed:

Mr. Andrade: Present	Mr. Martins: Present
Mr. Coogan: Present	Mrs. Panchley: Present

Regular Meeting: March 13, 2017

Mr. Costa: Present  
Dr. Costar: Present

Mayor Correia: Present

**MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To approve the Executive Session committee minutes from February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee.**

No discussion

**All were in favor**

**None were opposed**

**Motion passed**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Correia announced that the only new business is that Superintendent Malone has decided to close schools tomorrow, March 14, 2017.

**MOTION: Mr. Costa-Mr. Andrade: To adjourn.**

No discussion

**All were in favor**

**None were opposed**

**Motion passed (7:55 PM)**

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant

**Documents Referred to:**

- Brief bio for Manny Papoula
- Minutes
  - Instructional Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – 2/7/17
  - Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – 2/13/17
  - Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee Minutes – 2/13/17
- Travel Requests
  - 2017 Blended & Personalized Learning Conference
  - Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative 2017 Spring Meeting
- Donations
  - Parent-Child Home Program
  - School on Wheels of Massachusetts, Inc.
  - Liberty Utility Co.
  - South Coast Business Alliance
  - Allen Manufacturing
  - Let's Move! Active Schools' Physical Education video contest
  - New England Dairy & Food Council
- Contracts Memo
- South Coast Youth Court
  - 2017 Fact Sheet
  - PowerPoint presentation
- Policy Subcommittee duties

Regular Meeting: March 13, 2017

- Instructional Calendar 2017-2018 (draft)
- FY18 Superintendent's Recommended Budget
- February's Budget Report
- List of Retirements, Resignations, Appointments, and Death Notices

*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