

Special Meeting: August 14, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FALL RIVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, August 14, 2017
4:00 PM

Kuss Middle School
52 Globe Mills Avenue
Fall River, MA 02724

MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Panchley called the meeting to order. A roll call for attendance showed at 4:03 p.m.:

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

Also present was Superintendent Malone.

Mrs. Panchley read the Open Meeting Law.

A salute to the flag followed.

School Year 2017-2018 goal setting, facilitated by Dr. Matthew Malone, Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Malone stated that last year they did this same activity in order to establish the School Committee goals. He is looking for specific goals that the School Committee can hold him accountable for achieving in the coming school year. He wants the goals to push the needle on some things. He began drafting some goals and displayed a draft of the goals for the School Committee members. There were six categories:

- Human Capital Strategy, where they will implement the recommendations that were made during the Human Resources Audit
- Student Achievement (literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning)
- Inclusive Access to High-Quality Programming (they removed the term “Pathways”). They plan on expanding CVTE programming, refining and articulating plans for GATE, and utilizing the RTI Model which is the Response to Intervention.
- Long-Term Capital Plan which includes the construction on Durfee, the 7th and 8th grade at Resiliency, and repairs at Tansey and Watson. Also they will be looking at space needs district-wide.
- Student Assignment and Attendance Zones. As of right now, the district does not have a clear attendance policy.
- Long-Term Strategic Plan. They want to work on developing a 4-5 year strategic plan that will align with their goals, priorities, and initiatives.

Superintendent Malone announced that they kicked off their Leadership Institute today and the keywords were consistency, alignment, and coherence. He finds that schools are more organized and focused when they have strategic goals. Before the meeting, he asked the School Committee members to bring a list of 3-4 goals that they would like to hold the Superintendent accountable for in the 2017-2018 school year.

Special Meeting: August 14, 2017

Mr. Coogan's Goals:

- Reduce Level 4 schools in the district using additional money from the State
- More support for teaching and learning in literacy and math
- Diversity in hiring
- Class size reduction in Grades 4-6

Mr. Martins' Goals

- CVTE curriculum development at Durfee in 2017-2018 in preparation for submittal to DESE during the 2018-2019 school year
- To establish a career awareness program in each middle school. He would like to see guest professionals come in once a month to speak to students about their careers.
- Analyze the results of the 2017 MCAS 2.0 test. He would like to see an improvement by at least the minimum growth factor as established by DESE.

Transcriber's Note: Mr. Andrade entered the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Dr. Costar's Goals:

- Increase in involving parents as partners. This includes improving communication with parents. Parents should know what their kids are being taught.
- Expand the Gifted and Talented Program
- Curriculum clarity and consistency. Not every school is doing the same thing.
- Proactively promoting inclusiveness. Preventing bullying or discrimination before they have to implement policy.

Mrs. Panchley recommended that Superintendent Malone include Jean Facchiano on discussions about the Gifted and Talented Program because she does not want the program to get lost if it is included in every school. Superintendent Malone said that, when they are looking at the expansion, they would give the students the test in the 3rd grade and in 4th and 5th grade they can stay in their current school but go into a separate classroom. This would lower transportation costs and more parents will want to stay in the district.

Mrs. Panchley's Goals:

- Emphasis on promoting and recruiting for Durfee by really selling what the school has to offer. Dr. Costar added that they used to have a Parents' Night where they would talk about what the school had to offer.
- Pre-K class expansion. Superintendent Malone said that this was part of the strategic plan.
- Lowering classroom sizes to even fewer than 26 kids in K-3. Superintendent Malone thinks that this is doable for kindergarten but might be a little difficult in Grades 1-3. He said that there will certainly not be 31 kids in a classroom like in the past.
- Consistency with leadership

Transcriber's Note: At 4:36 p.m., Attorney Assad entered the meeting.

Mr. Andrade's Goals:

- Improving curriculum, particularly in math where there are large gaps
- Reducing class size, particularly at the lower grades
- Maintenance upkeep of all buildings. The district currently has buildings that are falling apart long before they should.
- Applying vocational education in the Fall River School System. This includes looking at marginal kids and how to make them more marketable.

Special Meeting: August 14, 2017

Superintendent Malone stated that they applied for four additional programs this year. They were not approved for the Diesel Repair Program or Television and Radio Broadcasting. The Construction Craft Laborer and Vista Marketing programs were approved. They will be applying for the Television and Radio Broadcasting program to be approved by a different name.

Superintendent Malone aligned Mr. Martins' goals of expanding the CVTE program and adding a career awareness program at the middle schools with his goal of Inclusive Access to Curricular Programming. He aligned Mr. Coogan's goal of Diversity in Hiring with his goals in Human Capital Strategy. He added that, unfortunately, there are not a lot of candidates of color going into the Education field. In Brockton, people who choose to go into Education receive debt forgiveness on college loans. They need to be purposeful on hiring diverse candidates.

Superintendent Malone continued that Dr. Costar's goals on expanding the GATE program can be articulated in his goal of Inclusive Access to Curricular Programming. Mrs. Panchley's goal of consistency in leadership can be articulated in his Human Capital Strategy goal. Dr. Costar's goal of parent communication can be embedded in each of the goals. The School Committee members' goals on reducing class size can be articulated in the Superintendent's goals for Student Assignment and Attendance Zone. The School Committee members' goals on reducing Level 4 schools, increasing MCAS scores, and curriculum clarity and consistency can be articulated in the Superintendent's goal of Learning and Teaching. Superintendent Malone added that he also wants to work on reducing Level 3 schools before they become Level 4 schools. Superintendent Malone stated that promoting the Durfee brand and Pre-K expansion can be added to the Long-Term Strategic Plan.

Superintendent Malone announced that he would have a draft of the School Committee/Superintendent goals for the 2017-2018 school year prepared by the September School Committee meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Costar-Mr. Andrade: To adjourn.

No discussion

Five were in favor None were opposed Two were absent (Mayor Correia and Mr. Costa)

Motion passed (4:57 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant

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