

REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 10, 2014

6:30 PM

**Henry Lord Middle School
151 Amity Street
Fall River, MA 02721**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Sub-Committee Reports
5. Recognition Awards
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Approval of Minutes
8. Committee of the Whole
9. Request for Executive Session
M.G.L. c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3)
 - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, FRAA and non-union personnel including Kevin Almeida, Business Manager; Carol Ann Viveiros, School Administrator Manager; Paul Marshall, Principal; Samantha Braga, Michael Ferreira, Pauline McGrath, Alex Mello and Tara Peckham.
10. New Business: Topics for discussion that could not reasonably be anticipated by the Chairman forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting
11. Addendum

MINUTES

At 6:36 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, March 10, 2014.

A roll call for attendance showed all members were present.

A salute to the Flag followed.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Donna Murphy, Tremblay's Bus Employee

Discussion topic: Tremblay's Bus Contract

Ms. Murphy said she does not want to minimize the incident that took place but wanted to speak to them regarding the vote they were going to be taking that evening. She felt if she did not speak, she would just be a number of the 130 people working at Tremblay's. She wanted to put a face to that number and tell about her experience as an employee at the company. Ms. Murphy explained her history of employment at the company. She also said there was a training earlier that month of all employees and she wished that Committee members had attended to see what the company has put in place to make sure incidents like these never happen again. They are making a serious attempt to be sure it never happens again. She concluded that if they spoke to the children and families that ride their buses, they would hear how much they like them and what a good job they do and would like to have them again next year. Her hope is that the Committee takes into consideration that they are human and it is not an excuse but there are 130 other people who care sincerely about the children and their well-being and she hopes they take that into consideration when voting.

Mayor Flanagan asked what Ms. Murphy's role at the company is.

Ms. Murphy said she is a driver.

He asked how long she had been driving for the company for.

Ms. Murphy said she was a monitor for nine weeks and a driver for almost three years.

Mayor Flanagan asked if she resides in the City of Fall River.

Ms. Murphy said she does.

James Moniz, Tremblay's Bus Employee

Discussion topic: Tremblay's Bus Contract

Mr. Moniz said he is a former policeman with over thirty years on the job. Right now he is transporting a child from St. Vincent's home every morning and he is one of the best kids he has ever met. He said he plays movies for him and CDs so that the student is comfortable on his ten minute ride to school. It is a pleasure for him to do it. He lost his son and this student is like another son to him. He has been with Tremblay's for fifteen years and what happened should never have happened but he can tell them that the systems they put in are thorough. His bus is checked three times by a safety officer. He does not see this happening ever again. He showed a list of over 100 people who work for Tremblay from the city

and explained that they are grandparents, parents, and siblings. They all love the students and he does not feel all those people should be penalized because of one mistake. He hopes the Committee will take it into consideration.

Mayor Flanagan asked if this was his only source of employment.

Mr. Moniz said it is.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Mr. Martins asked that Mark Charest, teacher who nominated Jill Latinville, paraprofessional, come down to read his submission. Ms. Latinville was recognized for her hard work and dedication to the students of Kuss Middle School and the FRPS.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she had one item to update the Committee on:

1. It was with great sadness that she informed them that they lost an art teacher, Deb Eckersly, who passed away on March 9th. Deb was a phenomenal art teacher at Letourneau who was instrumental in coordinating many school wide activities including student of the month, principal's award, and recently several attendance issues. They will miss her greatly and asked for a moment of silence in honor of Deb with the Chair's permission.

There was a brief moment of silence.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown thanked Mayor Flanagan who gave them permission to fly all of the school's flags at half-staff.

Mayor Flanagan asked that a letter of condolences be sent to the family.

MINUTES

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

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

TRAVEL

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all travel requests as listed.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins noted a typographical error on the third travel item noting that the cost should be \$2,000, not \$20,000.

Mayor Flanagan said he was correct and thanked him for the notation.

Mrs. Panchley had a question regarding the RI Convention Center MIS Department request. She questioned the cost. She thought they should be registering two people for the full day if one would go free.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked Mr. Mikolazyk to respond.

Mr. Mikolazyk said she was correct with the pricing. He explained the reason why a few people were going only for one day was due to staffing the office. Two have chosen to go for one day to stay behind and man the office the other day. He will be going free because he is presenting.

Mrs. Panchley questioned if they signed two of the participants up for two days – even if they only go one day – one would go free.

Mr. Mikolazyk thought that made sense and said he would also see if they would allow him to have alternate people substitute in. He will register them for the two days to get the savings.

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

CONTRACTS

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was a motion to move all contracts.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – : To accept all contracts as listed.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins said he is objecting because there is one particular contract that he may not want to vote for.

Mayor Flanagan asked what the contract was that he is referring to.

Mr. Martins said he is concerned about the contract with Attorney Diane Parent.

Mayor Flanagan called for a new motion and asked if there was a motion to approve all contracts except for the contract for Attorney Diane Parent.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept all contracts except for the contract for Attorney Diane Parent.

No Discussion

All were in favor None were opposed Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Martins if he had any questions before he called for a second motion regarding the contract for Attorney Diane Parent.

Mr. Martins said he knows that Diane Parent is an excellent attorney and provides a valuable service for legal counsel in special education. The issue is that he does not know the status in regards to her overall duties. He sees listed “additional legal services for student services” in the amount of \$30,000. He asked how much she receives and what they are paying for in regards to her services. He asked what the additional services are; where is the money coming from; and why it is needed. Also, in order to keep the costs of legal services at what they should be; is her presence at every IEP meeting necessary.

Mayor Flanagan asked that Attorney Parent come to the podium.

Attorney Parent responded that the contract money that is in front of them that evening is related to services other than special education services that she is providing to the FRPS. Those services right now are primarily the matter that is outstanding with the Office of Civil Rights. She is also engaged in working with a group to revise the discipline protocol and code of conduct. She also reviews any record requests that come to the city for third party records and files motions as needed to prevent the records from being discovered if necessary. She also reviews all of the subpoena requests that are sent to staff members to appear in court to be sure there will not be any violation of student’s rights and privacy.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown added that the School Committee had previously approved a contract for Attorney Parent to serve any needs within the special education department that require an attorney. She does not attend every IEP meeting. They have approximately 2,200 students on IEPs. When the matter gets to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals or if there is another attorney involved in the matter with a student, they do call Attorney Parent in for those types of situations. As she was describing to Mr. Martins, the additional funding request is to focus in on three items:

1. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy and Procedures that they have had before them.
2. The Office of Civil Rights complaint that is still ongoing in terms of the complaint that the FRPS suspends students of color and students with special needs at disproportionate rates.
3. Review of their discipline procedures and protocols. There is a new law coming into play July 1, 2014 that they need to make sure they have compliance with student handbooks, etc.

Mr. Martins said that Attorney Parent’s work is valuable but asked that in the future there be a brief explanation to some of these items that come forward so that he does not have to question them.

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

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes
Mr. Costa: Yes

Mr. Maynard: Yes
Mrs. Panchley: Yes

Mr. Hart: Yes
Mr. Martins: Yes

Mayor Flanagan: Yes

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Flanagan said this brings them to the discussion portion of the agenda and asked how many people in the audience were interested in the Tremblay Bus issue. He said due to the level of interest, he would take that item first. He noted to Madame Secretary that they would be taking items 2 and 3 simultaneously.

2 & 3 Tremblay's bus contract suspension and Tremblay's bus fine

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was anyone present who had authority to speak on behalf of Tremblay's Bus Company and asked them to come to the podium. He then asked them to state their names and place of business.

Philip Beauregard, Attorney from New Bedford accompanied by Nicholas Bernier who is an intern in his office.

Mayor Flanagan said there was a meeting of the Facilities and Operations subcommittee to discuss Tremblay's Bus contract and what actions the full Committee would take. He asked if there was anything Attorney Beauregard wished to share with the full Committee in helping them reach their decision.

Attorney Beauregard said that he understood that the matters that were given to the subcommittee have been published to the entire Committee which included a narrative of how the event occurred as well as an explanation of measures that were being undertaken. He is satisfied that they were correctly stated on behalf of Tremblay's. The other matters that have come up since then that Tremblay's wishes to bring to the attention of the Committee includes a photograph packet that Mr. Tetrault passed out to the Committee which shows the new vehicles that have been ordered and will be available to Tremblay's.

Attorney Beauregard continued that this is the second incident in seven years and it is not acceptable but it would also be a betrayal of facts of life to think that things don't happen. They should be used as a lesson for improvement. There have been 18 new vans ordered that are ready to start service in mid-May and an additional dozen after that. There are about 30 that are required traditionally for special needs services provided by Tremblay in Fall River and it is Tremblay's intention to have all 30 in operation. They are all 2014 vehicles and he went over all the key features/changes to the vehicles and noted there was one in the parking lot for anyone who wished to see it. He also explained that there will now be three sets of eyes checking the vehicle – the driver, the monitor, and a safety monitor. As the subcommittee brought out at the meeting, at the earlier incident seven years ago, there used to be

a supervisor who checked the van for about two years and then stopped and that is something that is being reinstated. They have a very full and strong commitment from Tremblay's that that measure will be kept in place. Tremblay's stands ready to meet the financial consequence that is provided in the contract. They are also preparing to offer safety instruction.

Mayor Flanagan asked the current status of the employee who was responsible for the incident.

Attorney Beaugard said they were terminated immediately as well as the driver.

Mayor Flanagan asked if Tremblay's had policies and procedures in place and the driver and monitor failed to follow those policies and procedures.

Attorney Beaugard said yes, they had explicit policies in place.

Mayor Flanagan asked that Mr. Coogan come to the podium. He asked how many contracts Tremblay's has for transportation with Fall River.

Mr. Coogan said he did not know the specific number of contracts but that they handled wheelchair service and van service in and out of the district.

Mayor Flanagan asked what types of students those services were typically for.

Mr. Coogan responded special needs students who are placed in out of district placements/other facilities in the area.

Mayor Flanagan asked if it went out for an RFP.

Mr. Coogan said in the past it has been practice that special needs transportation is exempt from Mass 30B laws so it is not typically an RFP and is put out as a request for bid. They have done it on an annual basis and he has spoken with the Committee about the possibility of going with a three year contract backed with additional extensions which would give some stability and commitment on their end to vendors as well as gaining some cost efficiencies.

Mayor Flanagan asked how many solicitations came in for these types of services.

Mr. Coogan said it is not a simple answer and explained that it is a packet that is put together that has multiple components. Some of those components had multiple bidders and some of the van components had single bidders. Some that Tremblay's won were only single bids.

Mayor Flanagan asked how many bidders they had for the handicap transportation and the special needs transportation.

Mr. Coogan said he believed there were two for the handicap vans. As far as special needs transportation, that encompasses all of the bids that he mentioned earlier.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there were any other vendors to choose from besides Tremblay's.

Mr. Coogan said not for the specific service that encompassed the incident in question which was McKinney-Vento.

Mayor Flanagan asked if they were not to allow Tremblay's to bid this type of transportation, if there were any other vendors they could choose from to deliver this type of transportation.

Mr. Coogan said not at the current time and it remains to be seen if they go out in the future with another bid.

Mayor Flanagan asked how many bidders they have had in the past.

Mr. Coogan said for this specific service there was only a single bidder.

Mayor Flanagan asked who it was.

Mr. Coogan said it was Tremblay's.

Mayor Flanagan asked if Tremblay's historically has been the only single bidder for this transportation.

Mr. Coogan said for this particular portion of the special needs bid which calls for a great number of vans.

Mayor Flanagan asked if that was for children with handicap disabilities.

Mr. Coogan said this particular portion of it is for students that are relocated because of a homeless situation. They may be traveling from our community to another school or from another community to one for the FRPS schools to continue their education.

Mayor Flanagan clarified that these are students who have been deemed homeless.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mayor Flanagan asked if the Committee had questions for either Mr. Coogan or Attorney Beauregard.

Vice Chair Costa said the Mayor asked about the number of bidders and the response was that it was just Tremblay's and he believes that is part of the problem and an easy fix. If FRPS controls the language

in the RFP or request for bids, then they can be structured in such a way that gives opportunity to multiple vendors.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mr. Costa said right now Mr. Coogan is or has in the past proposed a multi-year contract. He is in support of that because he thinks the longer the period of time in which they allow vendors to bid for gives more options or opportunities for companies who may not have the financial resources to get the number of vehicles needed in order to provide the service that they are looking for. When they have an RFP that is structured in such a way that only allows for one vendor to be able to bid, the administration and district have very few options to address what they have before them now. He noted that he appreciated the people who were there and was not looking to take anyone's job from them but the fact is that over the last several years they have had two incidents where children have been left unattended on Tremblay's buses. If they go back ten years, there was another incident of a child being asked to get off the bus short of their destination. He thinks Mr. Tetrault is an honorable man and has been nothing but forthcoming with his attempt to explain to the Committee what has gone on and he applauds the efforts he has made to correct the issues. However, in 2007 he heard some of the same dialogue regarding safety procedures that were going to be put in place so that this would not happen after 2007. A recommendation was also made at that time by Mr. Tetrault to have a supervisor board the buses to make sure there were no students left. The monitoring happened for two years and went well but then stopped. He felt if that practice had not stopped, they would not be sitting there having the conversation again.

He thought the Committee had very few options currently but going forward there would be more options available to them in terms of how they structure the RFP with language that allows for a longer contract that will hopefully entice other companies to bid.

Mr. Costa asked Mr. Coogan how many vendors they used for transportation in the district.

Mr. Coogan said he believed it was seven.

Mr. Costa asked if they did regular transportation.

Mr. Coogan said that regular transportation involves only about 20% of their contract and is on a 3 year RFP which they are in the final year of.

Mr. Costa said they would be going out for bid not only for special education which they have done annually but also regular education which they have historically done on a three year basis.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mr. Costa asked how many issues they have had with safety that he is aware of with any of the other seven vendors.

Mr. Coogan said very few if any like the incident they just had over the time he has been in the position. There have been other minor incidents that were potential problems but were all addressed with the vendors and corrected.

Mr. Costa asked if there were any in which children had been left behind.

Mr. Coogan responded no.

Mr. Costa asked Attorney Beauregard if he is aware of any findings that DCF may have made regarding this incident with the two former employees.

Attorney Beauregard said he does not have any updates. It had been reported and Mr. Tetrault had been in contact with DCF. He thinks there was a decision made that there would be an automatic reporting.

He continued that it had been talked about whether Tremblay's be allowed to bid on the RFP. He noted that Tremblay's track record has been quite good except for these two incidents in seven years which is unacceptable. They certainly should have followed through on the supervision but the quality of the company overall is something that Tremblay's stands proudly behind and he felt it was to the city's advantage to have them in the bidding and among the people that are going to compete for services in the upcoming contract.

Mr. Costa said he appreciates his perspective and wouldn't expect anything less from him to make that representation as council for Tremblay's but he sits in a seat that he may have a voice in an alternative argument. He speaks for himself when he considers two instances where two children were left on a bus as irresponsible.

Attorney Beauregard said the other thing worth saying is that it was two reported incidents that gained notoriety. That is not to say it has not happened in a more minor way in other situations.

Mr. Costa said that absent that report or information, they cannot say for sure if there were any other issues with other companies.

Mayor Flanagan asked if Tremblay's is the only carrier that is bidding on this particular transportation for McKinney-Vento, if they were to fine them \$25K, they could just increase their cost and make it up the following year. He asked what type of procedures they have in place to prevent that from happening.

Attorney Beauregard said if there is a \$25K fine, Tremblay's is prepared to meet its obligation. It also sets a precedent that anytime that would happen that there should be a \$25K fine imposed which in turn may be relevant to companies throughout their bidding. There might be some that can absorb that

kind of financial impact. As far as the Mayor's question, he supposed that could be worked out in whatever specifications they put together for the new contract.

Mayor Flanagan said it becomes defeating to the Committee if they are the only bidder on that particular line item, they can determine what price they are going to be paying for transportation of homeless students and pass the cost right back.

Attorney Beauregard said they can make some adjustments in the RFP language to be sure they don't end up paying back what the company paid them. He noted that Tremblay's is not in that type of mentality. They are aware it is being considered that they be barred from bidding with the possibility of a three year plus contract coming up and intend to be responsible and have a very sharpened pencil and ready for the process and will bid as best they can.

Mayor Flanagan asked if the Committee were to move to suspend Tremblay's contract this evening, would that raise any legal issues that could be filed against the city or school district.

Attorney Assad said that the city and School Committee would have the ability to suspend the contract. The ultimate arbiter of whether or not the individual or Tremblay's would be precluded from bidding would be the Superior Court. The problem with that is the time element. There would have to be notice to Tremblay, a hearing within 30 days to be initiated and completed whenever it was completed. It could potentially go 2-3 months into the session whereby the bidding process would be interrupted. There is a second avenue that is available also to the Committee which is that a public agency can reject any bid or proposal if it determines that a bidder or vendor is not responsible. He explained that can be done after a bid is placed by the bidder himself. One of the ways it is looked at is through the RFP in terms of the criteria that is established and the weight of the criteria itself. A determination is made, not just based on price, but also on the other criteria, to determine who is the most responsible bidder both on price and factors such as safety. Based on the time element and the fact that the safety of the students is first and foremost in everyone's mind, he suggested and recommended to the Committee that rather than a vote which they could take that evening to suspend, that they allow the procedure to go through, that the RFP be drafted, that the weighting be given to the matters that are of concern to the Committee, and that a determination be made after all the bids are in.

Mayor Flanagan asked when the date of the incident was for the record.

Mr. Coogan said it was June 15, 2013.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there have been any other reported incidents against Tremblay's since that date.

Mr. Coogan said there had not.

Mr. Costa said having heard that information, he was prepared to make a motion with respect to the monetary fine that is in the contract language since 2007.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mrs. Panchley: That Tremblay’s Bus Company be responsible for paying monetarily the \$25,000 fine as written in the contract and as agreed to by Tremblay’s and the Fall River Public Schools and that not come in the form of in-kind services to the district.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Flanagan said that Attorney Beaugard indicated that Tremblay’s would not protest the payment of the fine.

Attorney Beaugard said that was correct.

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan said that disposes of item number 3 and that item number 2 was still up for discussion.

Mr. Martins asked about the red safety button shown in one of the pictures on the new vehicles and if there was any protection of that button from students inadvertently pushing it.

Mr. Tetrault said that the button will only activate once the key is shut off.

Mr. Martins asked if the button could be key operated. He felt it may be tempting for students to press the button to see what would happen.

Mr. Tetrault said he was unsure and would have to check into it.

Mr. Martins said while the incident that occurred is unfortunate, they need to go forward and see where things are. The previous motion was to require the penalty be paid and it was passed. They have considered multi-year contracts and he is concerned if they bar Tremblay’s from bidding on a multi-year contract, they will have paid the \$25K fine and then be barred for three or more years. In addition to the red button which he thinks is a good thing, and the sign at the back of the bus stating it is empty, he wondered if there could be sign offs on a card. He explained how that procedure might look.

Mr. Tetrault thought this would be something they could implement.

Mr. Martins asked Attorney Assad that when he explained the two scenarios of suspending of a contract versus barring from bid; if that was the suspension of the current contract or a future contract.

Attorney Assad said that would be any contract in the future. The barrment and suspension stature are one in the same in the state law. Also, with respect to a suspension, a suspension would be for a period not to exceed one year.

Mr. Martins asked if passing the \$25K back to the school department in costs would in turn not make them the low bidder and jeopardized them being low bidder. He does not think that would be happening. He would like to make a motion but would first like to have everyone on the Committee ask their questions if they wish and then he reserves the right to make a motion.

Mrs. Panchley said she watched the subcommittee meeting and there were some things that she was not happy about as far as systems that were put in place after the last incident that did not continue. In the article when the 2007 incident happened, it said it was a permanent policy. Seeing that gives her pause and makes the decision difficult. She is concerned that when she reads all of the measures being put into place that they are not going to be permanent. She thinks it is on the Committee to look to put some additional language into contracts if they think that some of these measures need to be done. The last time the daily check list was put into the contract and if it had been done, this would not have happened. She has two children that take the bus to school every day and if she thought that by letting them bid on the contract, she would be putting her children or other children's safety at risk, she would not do that. However, she thinks it is upon the Committee to put some additional language into the contract of different things that need to be done and held responsible. If companies decide down the road that they do not need to do it anymore, then she believes that should be termination of the contract. This is how she sees them proceeding with any of the vendors. She does not want to be responsible for unemploying 130 people from that office and the fact that the van left from New Bedford and went back there and the decision would affect the Fall River office, bothers her. She thinks they as a Committee need to put better language into the contract.

Mr. Maynard said he liked the presentation on the vans and asked how many they would be getting.

Attorney Beauregard said there are 18 presently ordered and another 12 that would be coming by the time the next bidding round is in place.

Mr. Maynard said the vans did not cause the problem; it was the driver and the monitor. He asked what has been done to stop that and if there have been classes.

Attorney Beauregard said there have been sessions and meetings and additional education in place. The equipment does not self-activate and requires humans and if the human is somehow complacent that person is going to have to go to the back of the van because it is only them that can press that button. It is a way of making sure that the person fulfills their responsibilities. He said he wouldn't say it is just the equipment or just the person; if they combine the two, they can make it fail safe.

Mr. Maynard stated that leaving a child on the bus all the way to New Bedford is no joke. He also noted that he has been hearing job advertisements for bus drivers for Tremblay's on the local radio station.

Mr. Tetrault explained that that is a direct result of the McKinney-Vento program. In the last few weeks they have had to purchase five additional vehicles because they are moving students from Mattapan, Foxboro, and Plymouth to Fall River and there is a process that they have to have people already CORI checked by FRPS and ready to go so that when the transportation office calls with requests, employees have completed all the paperwork. They are advertising so that they have people when the homeless situations arise, they are prepared to act. They have a contract that states he needs to act within 48 hours.

Mr. Maynard said he would like to see the company at least once a month have some type of a coffee hour to get all the monitors and drivers together to discuss this so that they do not run into these issues anymore. He thinks there is no excuse for it and that it should be “three strikes and you’re out.”

Mayor Flanagan said he gave this a lot of thought before coming to the meeting and he believes the reason they are there is to protect children and make sure that from that day forward the actions that happened in January do not occur again. He does not know the bus driver and monitor on the bus but he thinks it’s a safe bet that they did not wake up that morning with the intentions of hurting children. They made a mistake and are human and paid for that mistake by losing their job. If that child was hurt, he is sure they would have paid for that mistake with possibly their freedom because criminal charges would have been brought out. They have 135 citizens of the city who did not make a mistake and he questioned if they should be penalized, too. He felt the common sense approach would be not to penalize those individuals. They do need to make sure it does not happen again and that the policies and procedures are put forth to make sure that this does not happen again with any company. By their comments this evening, it seems that Tremblay’s is doing what they need to do to ensure that this does not happen again. He thinks some of the responsibility lies with the Committee too and they have to make sure that going forward they put the policies and procedures in place on their part so this does not happen again. He said he would like to make a recommendation for a motion if someone would like to make it.

- 1. That the School Department work with the Purchasing Department in drafting a RFP for the solicitation of proposals when it comes to transportation, including that of special needs students.**
- 2. That the School Department submit that RFP to the subcommittee on Facilities and Operations for review and that the F&O subcommittee forward that to the full School Committee for its approval.**
- 3. Any contract regarding transportation, especially that with students who are handicapped or have some type of special need, in the RFP, we stress the importance of criteria for a vendors safety record, policies, and procedures that way the Committee can judge what type of policies and procedures companies have when it comes to safety.**

Mayor Flanagan said it is a three part motion and wondered if anyone wished to make it at that time.

Mr. Andrade suggested also that if there are any circumstances under which they would consider suspending a vendor, that those be specified in the contract.

Mayor Flanagan said he would amend his motion to add that as well.

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart:

- 1. That the School Department work with the Purchasing Department in drafting a RFP for the solicitation of proposals when it comes to transportation, including that of special needs students.**
- 2. That the School Department submit that RFP to the subcommittee on Facilities and Operations for review and that the F&O subcommittee forward that to the full School Committee for its approval.**
- 3. Any contract regarding transportation, especially that with students who are handicapped or have some type of special need, in the RFP, we stress the importance of criteria for a vendors safety record, policies, and procedures that way the Committee can judge what type of policies and procedures companies have when it comes to safety.**
- 4. Any circumstances under which we would consider suspending a vendor, that those be specified in the contract.**

Discussion:

Mr. Hart said he agrees with the Chair and Mrs. Panchley's comments. He is the chairman of the Facilities and Operations subcommittee and he did not want this to go to the full body because he felt the two people involved had been fired and there is a \$25K fine that will be paid. He does not feel that the penalty should affect 135 Fall River residents. He is not belittling what happened but feels there has to be a balance. He wants to see Tremblay's make their improvements and he thinks the steps they are taking are positive. He feels it would be the wrong thing to do to penalized 135 residents of Fall River that work very hard and rely on that paycheck and have families to support.

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan said the motion carries and explained to the audience that the facts present that two employees have been terminated who were responsible for the incident. Tremblay's Bus has put forth protocols to ensure that it is prevented from occurring in the future. The 130 employees who live in the City of Fall River and work for Tremblay's Bus will not lose their jobs based upon any action of the Committee. When the School Committee drafts its RFP for next year, they will require all vendors to discuss their safety plans regarding transportation for children. He noted that items 2 and 3 regarding Tremblay's Bus have been disposed of at this meeting.

Mr. Martins said he is not certain that what was passed disposed of number 2. To make it perfectly clear, he would like to add a motion.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Hart: That the Committee as a Whole not accept the subcommittee’s recommendation of contract suspension of Tremblay’s Bus.

Discussion

Mayor Flanagan explained this was a procedural motion to take off the recommendation.

A roll call showed:

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

5 were in favor

2 were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan said that that motion cleaned the record.

1. Policies and Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Bullying and Retaliation and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To approve the Policies and Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Bullying and Retaliation and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said the process of appeals has been corrected but he does not see the staff to staff bullying that they had discussed. He could not remember if that had been directed to a subcommittee or not. He moved that the issue of staff to staff bullying be addressed at an appropriate subcommittee.

MOTION: Mr. Martins – Mr. Andrade: That the issue of staff to staff bullying be addressed at an appropriate subcommittee.

Discussion

Mayor Flanagan said he believed that was a topic of contractual negotiations.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is and is part of the FRAA contract that had been ratified by the School Committee and the Association. There is a joint committee that is working on the Respectful Work Place policy that will be forwarded to the Committee.

Mayor Flanagan said the working group will forward to the Committee an outline to review on staff to staff bullying.

Mr. Martins asked if that was being negotiated with FRAA currently.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is already in the contract that was just recently ratified by both the association and the School Committee. There is specific language in there that references a Respectful Workplace Committee. That joint committee which is up and running is charged with developing proposed language to bring forward to the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Martins asked if it would be presented to FREA and the other unions so that they would have input.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that the joint committee is FREA and management. They are in discussion with the other unions as well with regards to the same policy work.

Mr. Martins said he accepts the procedure that was outlined and withdraws his motion.

Mayor Flanagan noted there was a motion on the table to approve the policies and procedures for bullying and retaliation that was made and seconded.

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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4. Revisions to Policies GBEB and EEA

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To approve the revisions to Policies GBEB and EEA.
No Discussion

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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5. Additional FTE for School Nurse

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve an additional FTE for a school nurse.

Discussion

Mr. Martins asked where this nurse would go.

Ms. Karen Long explained that this would be a float position. She gave them statistics that show there is an increase in encounters in some of the large schools and those schools have 1.5 nurses which means they have a second nurse 2-3 times a week. This extra nurse will allow her to give the larger schools a third or fourth day.

Mr. Martins asked if it was intended as a substitute.

Ms. Long said it was not and it was a full time position but would float to where she is needed.

Mr. Martins asked if she has substitutes for any nurse that may call in sick.

Ms. Long said she has one currently.

All were in favor	None Opposed	Motion passed
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6. Superintendent's Mid-Year Progress Report

Mayor Flanagan explained that they have received the progress report in their binders which addresses each of the five goals for the Superintendent which have been approved by the School Committee. Within each section, the Superintendent has included artifacts for review.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To accept the Superintendent's progress report.

Discussion

Mr. Andrade asked Superintendent Mayo-Brown if she feels comfortable with what she has submitted and that it is realistic and appropriate in terms of accomplishing her goals.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that she does. She is looking for feedback in terms of improving performance but also, this is the first time they are going through this as a Superintendent

and a School Committee so as she was putting together the artifacts for each goal, she was curious if the Committee felt they were enough or too much or if they would like to see something in a different direction because they will need to go through a similar process for the summative evaluation.

Mr. Martins said he has read it multiple times and has concerns. He hoped the Committee understood the items that go into Pupil Performance Index (PPI). He explained that there are seven items that go into determining PPI and one of them is the graduation rate. He further discussed each of the Superintendent's goals and issues and questions for each. Mr. Martins said there was a lot of work that went into putting the progress report together but he thinks some of the issues he brought up need to have some explanation.

Mrs. Panchley said for goal 5 which referenced addressing the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP), she did not see a lot with the parent portion and felt that communication and being more timely/advanced notice when there are events, etc. could be added. She suggested artifacts showing there has been some improvement because when they discuss parents not attending things, she believes when they have 48 hours' notice, it is difficult. She thought it was a way to improve engagement and hoped for artifacts that showed that kind of communication. Mrs. Panchley added that overall, she was impressed with a lot of the items. She asked if the Superintendent could use the same schools for the same items to see where they are at the summative to see there were improvements. She would like to know that the process is working and that the ones she was not impressed with have made improvement.

Mr. Andrade said just to clarify that Mr. Martins had made a number of comments about the goals. He explained that these were goals that the Superintendent chose to submit for herself. They are not part of the evaluation materials that were presented by the state. He tried to locate his copy and there are a number of different items that are on the form aside from what the Superintendent submitted which get more into what Mr. Martins was discussing. He added that it is a wide ranging survey that they have to respond to but not now. The purpose of this agenda item is to simply deal with the Superintendent's submissions and to determine whether or not it seems to be appropriate in terms of her goals as she submitted them. He noted it was only part of the evaluation and not the total evaluation.

Mr. Martins said he agreed that this is the Superintendent's personal goals and there is more to the total scope of the evaluation; however, if there was substantial improvement and they come to the targets of PPI and CPI that is great but if that is not the case and some of the materials that were presented in the packet remain stagnant, he is afraid of that she will have met her goals but they have not improved.

6 were in favor	1 was opposed (Mr. Martins)	Motion passed
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7. Attendance boundaries for Henry Lord K-8 School, Carlton M. Viveiros Elementary School, William Greene Elementary School, and Alfred Letourneau Elementary School

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was motion to approve the information provided to them which would allow the school district to contact the parents in the newly created Henry Lord district and provide them an opportunity to opt into the new school.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the attendance boundaries with the information provided which would allow the district to contact parents of the newly created Henry Lord district to provide them an opportunity to opt in to the new school.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said he had asked for an overlay of the entire city; however, he does not believe it is in his information.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Mikolazyk if they had an overlay slide.

Mr. Mikolazyk said he could pull one up.

Mr. Martins said that his concern is that Henry Lord has been closed for over a year and their rating of a level 4 school is gone and they are not currently rated. Where they go from there is going to be developing the rating of the new Henry Lord.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that she wanted to correct him. She explained that Henry Lord is no longer designated as a level 4 because it was closed. The state has the ability to create a level based on the students who enroll at Henry Lord. That is an option they may decide on. She has not heard one way or the other but she did clarify that when they closed Henry Lord it loses its designation but that does not mean it will not have a level. It can if DESE chooses to take the students that enroll in Henry Lord and create a level based on their historical performance in MCAS.

Mr. Martins said he stood corrected and did not know that they could issue a level. Nevertheless, the perception is still there and they are going to be asking people to move their children to K-6 and then it would grow to grades 7 & 8 at Henry Lord. They would provide the necessary resources for that school to succeed. His concern is the transportation of students. There is one area that goes from the extreme south end to the extreme north end. He asked Mr. Mikolazyk to point that out on the slide.

Mr. Coogan said the Henry Lord district as proposed does not go into the north end; it stops just shy of the 195 thruway which is the equator in the city between north and south.

Mr. Martins said it traverses the whole area between the south end to 195.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mr. Martins thought that was a large area and asked if the special needs students currently in the various schools would remain in the current schools except for those that would be transferred. He felt that all schools should share in the special education students and there should be programs in all schools to make sure that those students are improved and learning. There is another item before them that evening for the autism spectrum disorder and that those that are high intensity needs of service would be better suited at Henry Lord where they would be able to have the resources available to them. He understands that but does not want to see Henry Lord have the greater majority of special education students and get labeled a special education school. He felt that every school should have a proportionate amount of special education students wherever they may fall. Likewise, he felt every student is equally important and every student is entitled to a free and appropriate education of which case every school should have AP classes.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they do not stack their schools one way or another. They do not move students based on their MCAS performance. They have had a GATE program at Silvia, Greene and Kuss since 2005 and those programs have not moved around. The district average for special education

students is about 23%. If they look across the schools, they would see that no one school carries a greater many more percentage wise than another.

Madame Superintendent continued that what they wanted to do at Henry Lord and wanted to have the School Committee have a discussion about is to see if it makes sense to create a strand for students with autism from PreK- 8 so that they are not asking children with autism to transition from school to school. With that said, they have other strands of disability types in the schools. They are only seeking to have the Committee consider creating that type of strand which they believe makes sense for students with autism. The 23% district average of special education students is across all schools. Spencer Borden carried the medically fragile class for years. It depends on the school and what special education program they have. They do not weight the schools according to a student's disability or not.

Mr. Martins asked that the boundary of the proposed Henry Lord be pointed out.

Mr. Mikolazyk pointed that area out on the slide that was shown.

Mr. Martins said they have the area that goes up to 195 which is a long narrow area. He asked them to go to the full city map showing the north end schools.

Mr. Mikolazyk showed that slide and pointed out the areas of the Tansey, Spencer Borden and Silvia schools.

Mr. Martins said that the Superintendent is telling them that all of the schools on the map will have approximately equal students with IEPs not taking into consideration the high needs autistic students.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked if he meant students that were on IEPs for inclusion.

Mr. Martins said for all students that have an IEP and have various levels of needs.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked if he was talking about self-contained district based special education programs.

Mr. Martins said he was including them and asked if every school has self-contained areas.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that every school has self-contained district based programs either for behavior, community learning, autism, etc. The one school that has the fewest number of district based self-contained programs is Fonseca because they have one classroom.

Mr. Martins said he was just concerned that the needs of students are equally distributed throughout all of the schools. With Henry Lord coming on line and the number of students that would be transferred over, there should be ample classrooms available to accommodate that. He has always professed that staffing should be based on the needs of the classroom. One of the issues in the past was that they don't have the classrooms to be able to do this. They now have the classrooms so as a result, they can even if it means hiring another teacher or two, to have classrooms that will meet the needs of the students. He noted that transportation was going to be an issue but that was a cost factor but he felt the education of the students was more important. He also thought they were going to have a transportation issue for Henry Lord as it is currently proposed but as long as all of the schools have an

equal number of special education, he was happy. He also felt having the autistic children at Henry Lord made sense.

Mr. Maynard asked how much more transportation would be needed.

Mr. Coogan said it remains to be seen but he could go through how they arrived with the proposal put before them.

Mayor Flanagan said they had already been briefed on the proposal and slides and that Mr. Coogan could just answer the question.

Mr. Coogan said it is still unknown at this point. He could point out some areas that would be in question. He proceeded to explain the mapping and noted areas where the transportation was in question.

Mr. Maynard asked if they were just talking about one bus.

Mr. Coogan said possibly a bus for the area he discussed but there may be a similar situation at the middle school level. He said he could get the Committee a transportation impact once they go out for bid and overlay the areas to see what the parent feedback is for transportation, etc.

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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8. Progress of the Committee addressing goals on the AIP

Mr. Andrade explained that they had an Evaluation subcommittee meeting prior to the regular meeting that evening. They discussed the Superintendent's evaluation which was already discussed. They also discussed the School Committee evaluation which they are required to do. After speaking to Dr. Kelly, he suggested that they pass the form out at the meeting and the School Committee members could then be responsible for filling it out and turning in at the May meeting. The information could be compiled and discussed in June. Also, as part of the School Committee evaluation he included several pages from the quarterly progress monitoring report because it includes four district objectives. As part of the School Committee evaluation members could be looking for items that fit the four strategic objectives.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mrs. Panchley: That the School Committee fill out the report to pass in at the May meeting and that they look for any progress on those AIP items.

No Discussion

All were in favor	None were opposed	Motion passed
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Mr. Andrade continued that policy DBE concerned the subcommittees of the School Committee. He recommended a first read which would give them until the next School Committee meeting to look the policy over and make any changes deemed necessary so that it could be adopted by the Committee to change the existing policy.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Costa: That the Committee accept policy DBE for a first read.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mr. Andrade said with regard to the School Committee policy, they will be in the process of developing the descriptions of the subcommittees and will bring it to the Committee in April or May.

ADDENDUM

Mayor Flanagan explained that there was an addendum item for the meeting which was a request from Cindi James of Diamond Events and Promotions and Rui Rego of JoJo's Boxing Academy of Fall River regarding the use of Durfee High School's field house for a concert with a one day beer and wine license on Saturday, April 19, 2014. The beer and wine license would have to be applied for separately to the licensing board of the City of Fall River. This program will benefit the academy's program of providing fitness and boxing training to troubled local teens at no cost as well as helping to fund a potential high school boxing team.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To suspend the policy and allow Diamond Events and Promotions and Jojo's Boxing Academy to sell alcohol (beer/wine) on Saturday, April 19th which will benefit their academy's program for helping local teens and help fund a high school boxing team.

Discussion

Mr. Maynard asked if there would be police officers present.

Mayor Flanagan said it is the policy of the licensing board to require a police detail at any event that would be selling alcohol.

Mr. Andrade asked if they have a policy on alcohol consumption at the high school or the public schools.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Coogan to respond.

Mr. Coogan said there is a policy that prohibits that. This request was to apply for an exception of that policy. He did clarify the agenda item and said it was supposed to be two separate events. One was a concert that they would like to hold in the auditorium and that is what they would like the beer and wine license for if they are able to obtain the license. The second event would be held sometime later in the year (May) for a boxing event in the field house. The field house is not where they were looking to have the beer and wine event. They do need an exception from the policy in order to ask for the license from the city.

Mrs. Panchley stated that she knows the policy has been waived in the past for events that the school was hosting and a city event that CD Rec held. To her knowledge, it has never been waived for something that the city or school did not have a stake in.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct. There were two events. It has never occurred outside of those two events.

Mrs. Panchley said she was not comfortable doing it for an event like this.

Mr. Hart said he knows Mr. Rego and he does great work for a lot of young kids in the city in getting them off the streets and helping them. He understood what Mrs. Panchley was saying but thought that Mr. Rego has a good organization and the work that he has done for the youth in the city is very good. He noted that Mr. Rego recently had a boxing event in the Flint section of the city and over 400 people showed up and loved it. He would be in favor of it.

Mr. Costa asked if Ms. James was present. He asked through the Chair that he ask her some questions since she is promoting it.

Mayor Flanagan asked Ms. James and Mr. Rego to come to the podium.

Mr. Costa asked if Ms. James was handling the promotions for the event.

Ms. James said she would be coordinating everything.

Mr. Costa asked which band would be playing.

Ms. James said they are looking for four to five rock bands for a 21 and over crowd. Four bands had been confirmed and were all rock bands with local ties.

Mr. Costa asked who would be serving the alcohol.

Mr. Rego said they have a local club, Tonic, that offered to help them with volunteers for the event.

Mr. Costa asked if Tonic was going to be responsible for this.

Mr. Rego said that he was going to pull the liquor license but as far as serving the alcohol, they would depend mainly on volunteers who are bartenders from Tonic.

Ms. James said IDs would be checked by police that are detailing the event.

Mr. Costa asked if they were sure about that.

Mr. Rego and Ms. James responded yes.

Mr. Costa asked if the police agreed to that.

Mr. Rego said that is what they were asking of them.

Mr. Costa said he could tell them that they would not card for them but they can ask. He asked if they were going to be insured for the event.

Mr. Rego said they would have liquor license insurance plus liability insurance.

Mr. Costa asked who would be handling the sound for the event. He added that he asked because they have had an event where they relied on the house sound and it did not work out the way it was intended. He wants to be supportive of an event but he also wants to make sure it is done correctly so that they do not run into a situation in the future where people who may have attended the event think

unfavorably of the venue and it in turn hurts the school's opportunity for raising funds for student organizations.

Ms. James said she did speak to Jay Arruda and he explained that they have a basic sound system. As far as concert sound, they would have to bring in equipment which two of the bands have offered to provide. She will be consulting with Gary Bigelow for sound and lighting.

Mr. Costa said there was a sound group that worked with the high school, Middle House, and asked if she considered speaking with them because they know the house sound. He said he wants to be supportive of it but has angst. He hears great things about the programs Mr. Rego runs and wants to be supportive but is uncomfortable with the way it has been presented. He would feel more comfortable if there were other things in place that he could be supportive of.

Mr. Martins agreed that he provides a valuable service to the students in Fall River and they should be applauded. His issue was that they have a policy and have now twice changed/ignored the policy. If policies are routinely changed or altered then the policy should be looked at again. He wondered where the requests would stop if they waive policy for one group. He liked the idea but just not at Durfee. He was torn with the decision but did not feel that policy should be amended to suit needs as they come along. If there are areas of a policy that need to be changed, then they should look to change the policy.

Mr. Hart asked if they were voting for both.

Mayor Flanagan said the vote is to approve the one day liquor license.

Mr. Hart asked if they were going to vote on the boxing event after that.

Mayor Flanagan said he did not believe they needed a vote for that.

Mr. Coogan said they did not.

Mayor Flanagan said the motion on the floor was to suspend the policy and allow Diamond Events and Promotions and Jojo's Boxing Academy to sell alcohol (beer/wine) on Saturday, April 19th which will benefit their academy's program for helping local teens and help fund a high school boxing team.

Mr. Coogan said he believes the motion is to suspend the policy and then they have to go get the license.

Mayor Flanagan said that was correct. If the motion carries, they still need to obtain a liquor license.

A roll call showed:

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

2 were in favor

5 were opposed

Motion denied

9. February Expenditures

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To approve the February expenditures as they have been presented by Mr. Saunders.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said at the last meeting he asked for the cost of how many staff members have been placed on paid administrative leave and what the total cost was. There has been some material in response but he did not think it was accurate and would like to have it looked at again.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To place the FYI portion of the agenda on file.

No Discussion

7 were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Secretary to send letters of condolence to the bereavements listed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Flanagan said he has received calls from several parents regarding the PARCC exam. He believes at some point there is a proposed transition to abandon MCAS and transition to PARCC. It has been brought to his attention that there is exploratory PARCC testing within the FRPS. He asked if they have done any informational gatherings to parents to explain to them what PARCC is.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they can certainly do that. Fatima Silvia has been designated as the PARCC coordinator and they are a pilot site. They were randomly selected and have a number of schools participating in PARCC. There has not been a lot of information forthcoming to districts which has been one of their complaints. It puts them in a difficult position not being able to communicate well with committees or parents when the information is very limited coming out of DESE. They know the schools that have been identified as pilot site, the technology requirements, etc. They do not get any information back for students which is why they are continuing to use MCAS testing so students will be required to still take MCAS regardless of whether or not they are participating in PARCC. Ms. Silvia just went to a session last week and she was not sure that they had any other information to get out to parents/they are in the dark as well.

Mayor Flanagan said some of the questions that have been raised to him are:

1. Students are taking MCAS as well as PARCC so now there are double levels of anxiety being placed on the student.
2. PARCC as it has been explained is not a predetermining factor in advancement or graduation at this point; however, parents are concerned who has access to the information because it is personal information regarding their child. How is it disseminated and to who?

He added that there are a lot of questions and unknowns and parents are starting to have their own level of anxiety with it. He asked that they do an informational sitting or provide information home.

Mr. Martins said the Massachusetts Association of School Committees recently had a meeting which he attended. They had a presentation which he has a copy of and the Superintendent can get to distribute to the School Committee. Secondly, the results of the first PARCC test will not be made available to anyone. It will be kept solely by DESE. The determination if the PARCC will replace MCAS will be made by three people – the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of higher education, and the Governor. He dislikes the fact that the democratic process does not seem to be taking place. The MCAS test was the structure of the legislature. PARCC is not. Lastly, the PARCC is for ELA and math. Science will still be required for graduation and will remain an MCAS type test. For that issue he yields but does have some other items under new business.

Mayor Flanagan said before they entertain further new business, he wanted to dispose of the PARCC issue. He asked if there were any further questions and there were not.

Mr. Martins asked what the status was of the MSBA refusing to remodel Durfee for \$130M and suggesting that a new Durfee be built for \$130M.

Mr. Coogan said they have until April 11th to file a statement of interest with the MSBA. They are working on a statement of interest (SOI) which is not a license to proceed but a petition to the MSBA to fund the project. The SOI is nearly done and they anticipate bringing it to the Committee. They also need approval from the City Council and then it would be submitted to the MSBA who can accept or not accept. They have not put the application in yet.

Mr. Martins said that \$130M may repair Durfee but they are not going to rebuild a school of that size for that amount of money. It would cost a lot more to rebuild. He questioned what they would do with the current building. It would cost \$7M just to demolish the building. He would like to be kept up-to-date as to what is happening with this.

Mr. Martins asked what the status was of the dedication of the Kuss Library.

Mayor Flanagan asked if Madame Superintendent had an update.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she did not and believed they just needed to schedule it.

Mr. Coogan said at some point they have to ask for some verbiage for whatever the plaque would be that would accompany the dedication. The Committee has already approved that the library be dedicated and it is just a matter of deciding when the event will take place and the verbiage on the plaque which they will get ordered.

Mayor Flanagan asked that Mr. Martins confer with Dr. Fradkin for a date for the dedication.

Mr. Martins said he could and depending upon how quickly they can make it happen; a group from New York was coming to Fall River to do an interview of Dr. Fradkin. They are correspondents to 89 different countries to bring out what Dollars for Scholars has done. Also, in the latter part of the month, a group from Jefferson County, Louisiana will be coming because they also want to do an interview of Dr. Fradkin to expand their sphere of giving. He thought if it could be done in that time frame, it would be great because these people would love to be able to see the dedication. If it is too quickly, then during the month of April or early May would suffice.

Mr. Coogan said he would check back with Mr. Martins the following day and get the information he needs and see if he can put together a timeline.

Mr. Maynard asked if there were carbon monoxide detectors in the schools.

Mr. Coogan said he believed they did in certain areas and programs that require it. Typically they would go in an area where there is a combustion process taking place. They have some at Durfee because of the child care center. He could find out where they are located and get a cost to install additional detectors in the buildings that do not have them if he would like.

Mr. Maynard said he would appreciate it if they could get them all installed.

Mr. Coogan said he could get the information to them and they could make a decision.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Flanagan asked for the reason for Executive Session.

Attorney Assad said there was. *“Pursuant to M.G.L. c30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, FRAA as the Chair has determined that an open meeting would have a detrimental impact on the bargaining and litigation position; and strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel including Kevin Almeida, Business Manager; Carol Ann Viveiros, School Administrator Manager; Paul Marshall, Principal; Samantha Braga, Michael Ferreira, Pauline McGrath, Alex Mello and Tara Peckham. We would reconvene. There may or may not be statements at that time.”*

MOTION: Mr. Maynard - Mr. Andrade: For executive session.

A roll call showed:

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

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed (9:18 PM)

At 9:46 PM a roll call was requested by Mayor Flanagan to reconvene:

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

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

Mr. Andrade said there were.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract with Carol Ann Viveiros as negotiated.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract with Kevin Almeida as negotiated.

A roll call showed:

Mr. Andrade: Yes

Mr. Maynard: Yes

Mr. Costa: No

Mrs. Panchley: Yes

Mr. Hart: Yes

Mayor Flanagan: Yes

Mr. Martins: Yes

6 were in favor

1 was opposed (Mr. Costa)

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Samantha Braga as negotiated.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Michael Ferreira as negotiated.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To approve the contract with Pauline McGrath as negotiated.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract with Alex Mello as negotiated.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Maynard: To approve the contract with Tara Peckham as negotiated.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

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

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

Mayor Flanagan said they would adjourn at that time (8:48 PM).

Respectfully submitted,



Interim Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services

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