

**AGENDA
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, April 7, 2014

6:30 PM

**James Madison Morton Middle School
1135 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Citizens Input
4. Subcommittee 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.
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 6:35 PM, Mayor Flanagan called to order the Regular Meeting of the Fall River School Committee for Monday, April 7, 2014.

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

A salute to the Flag followed.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Dan Robillard, Citizen

Discussion topic: Passing Score at Durfee

Mr. Robillard stated that approximately 7 years ago there was an ill-advised move made by the administration at the high school to lower the passing score from 65 to 60. In his opinion, it was done to increase the promotion rate. He asked that the Committee go on record and take a strong stand. They hear a lot about raising the bar of education and he feels they should do so completely and have the passing score be 65. He also felt that the district needed to submit a budget that focused more on direct student classroom services and less top heavy administrative positions.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

There were no recognition awards presented this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

1. The Watson Turnaround Plan was accepted by the Commissioner of Education which signaled them to be able to apply for the federal school improvement plan fund that Doran benefited from over the past number of years. The grant has been submitted and will await hearing from the Department in terms of acceptance. They are tentatively scheduled to go up to DESE on Friday afternoon to participate in an interview process regarding the grant narrative that was submitted.

MINUTES

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

No Discussion

6 were in favor

None were opposed

1 was absent (Mr. Costa)

Motion passed

DONATIONS

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

No Discussion

6 were in favor

None were opposed

1 was absent (Mr. Costa)

Motion passed

TRAVEL

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

No Discussion

6 were in favor

None were opposed

1 was absent (Mr. Costa)

Motion passed

CONTRACTS

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked if they could hold on the Futures HealthCore and William Starck Architects because he had discussion on those.

Mayor Flanagan asked the maker of the motion if he wished to amend it to just accepting the Kenneth Ward and Master Urban Educators contracts.

Mr. Hart agreed.

AMMENDED MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To accept the Kenneth Ward and Master Urban Educators contracts.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Andrade asked who did the scheduling at Morton last year.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said the scheduling was done by the school which was prior to the expanded learning time (ELT) grant initiative at the school. Mr. Ward was one of the primary schedulers for Kuss Middle School through their years of ELT. Principal Rabbitt brought in Mr. Ward to do that same type of scheduling at Morton so that they could have the ELT options as Kuss had been accustomed to.

Mr. Andrade asked if Mr. Ward was involved in the scheduling last year.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said he was not; just this school year.

Mr. Andrade asked if they had a great deal of problems with the schedules in the fall.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that there was difficulty scheduling in the fall primarily because the grant was awarded to the school and teacher contracts were approved around that schedule in August so they really didn't start to schedule students until later in August. Some of the difficulty with the scheduling at that time was that students didn't have the opportunity to go into classes they wanted to and were placed into classes which created some tension. That was corrected for the second semester when the schedule was redone over December and January and allowed for more student choice.

Mr. Andrade asked if Mr. Ward was involved in correcting the schedules.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said not to the extent that he was prior to that. They want the school to develop their own capacity to do the scheduling and not have to rely on external help. Mr. Ward's contribution was to build capacity and now they are on their own with it.

Mr. Martins said he noted that the payment for both of the contracts was coming from the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant. He asked what the utilization of the money parameters were for that grant.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that there are a number of projects through RTTT that the district signed onto approximately three years ago. It depends on the project.

Mr. Martins asked if that was considered as supplanting.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it was not supplanting and would have had to have been paid out of the operating budget prior to.

Mr. Martins said that this is something that they would like to try and make programs better.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown agreed and said their theory is around building capacity with the staff that they have so that they are not relying on external people to help in the future.

Mr. Martins asked if they wanted to try an experimental program where they were to hire teachers to lower the class size at a particular school to see how that impacted versus the other schools; would that be an item that could be funded by RTTT.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it could potentially but noted that they are ending the RTTT funding period. As long as the teachers were new to the district, they were new positions, and it fit into the grant parameters. They would have to make a case for which project in RTTT that that pilot program would fit into.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the contract for Futures HealthCore.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked what line item this would be charged to.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Saunders to come to the podium.

Mr. Saunders said it would be charged to contractual services. They will be coming back to the Committee to do a transfer from salaries to that contract. They have been able to hire somebody in that area to deliver those OT services.

Mr. Martins said at the present time they do not have sufficient funds in that line.

Mr. Saunders responded that they would be coming back with a transfer for that in the third quarter.

Mr. Martins said they are going to have to take \$45K out of another line to pay for this.

Mr. Saunders explained it would be coming out of the line that they would have hired somebody to deliver the services. They did not have someone in the position so had to contract out so that the service could be delivered.

Mr. Martins said that they are in trouble financially and he wanted to make sure that wherever the money is coming from, that they are not going to shortchange one very important item to create another very important item.

Mr. Saunders said in this case, they had a position to fill that they could not. They contracted out so the students could get the services.

Mr. Martins said they are not hiring a person; they hired a company to provide occupational therapists to help with the special education program.

Mr. Saunders said that was correct.

Mr. Martins said he just hoped it was not a matter of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Mr. Saunders said it is just transferring where the service would have been delivered by a full-time employee of the FRPS to a contracted person because they could not fill the position.

Mr. Martins said that means that the money is already in the budget and it will cover this cost.

Mr. Saunders said that was correct.

Mrs. Panchley said as a parent of a child who started in the FRPS on an IEP and had speech therapy services that weren't given as they should have been because there were not enough therapists; preference to her would be to hire an individual by the FRPS to provide the services but when that cannot be done, she is happy to see them getting a contract so that children with an IEP can get the services that they need to get by law.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept the contract for Starck Architects.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins said he had the same two questions for Mr. Saunders. He said he understood they had to get the bathrooms retrofitted; however, looking at the budget that they have, that they are not taking from one area to pay for another.

Mr. Saunders responded that it is coming out of the facilities contract line within the budget.

Mr. Martins asked if there were sufficient funds to cover the cost.

Mr. Saunders said there were.

Mrs. Panchley said she just wanted to make it clear when she hears that they have budget issues that they do not think they are not going to meet their budget on June 30th. She feels that there is a perception that they are having a problem with the budget and asked Mr. Saunders if they were.

Mr. Saunders said they are anticipating that even though they don't have a large amount of money, finishing within the \$91M budget.

Mrs. Panchley said she just wanted to clarify that.

Mayor Flanagan asked if Mr. Martins wished to clarify his comments regarding budget issues.

Mr. Martins said no; as long as there is money in the line item to cover the cost, he does not have a problem with it.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

GRANTS

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was a motion to accept all grants as listed.

Mr. Martins said he wished to hold the Supplemental Support and High School Partnership for discussion.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was a motion to accept the Talbot Innovation & Enhancement grant.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept the grant.
No Discussion
6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan said that brings them to the Supplemental Support, At Risk Grant.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the grant.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked if this particular position required a license.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it does not require a DESE license per the job description that was approved the School Committee.

Mr. Martins asked if the School Committee were to provide a job description for a particular teacher, does that stop it from requiring a license.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it did not because the licensure is required by law.

Mr. Martins said that she is telling him that regardless of the job description, this position does not require a license.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said she has the job description in front of her and the qualifications set forth by the Committee are a BA in psychology or human services related field, school social worker, school adjustment counselor or school psychologist license.

Mr. Martins said then they are licensed in some capacity.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that is correct and that the individual's contract was approved by the School Committee in executive session on February 10.

Mr. Martins asked if it was a new hire.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that it was a new hire for the Resiliency Middle School.

Mr. Martins asked if the person was already in the position.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said yes, since their contract was approved in February.

Mr. Martins asked for the individual's name.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it is Mr. Kashaka Williams.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mrs. Panchley: To accept the High School Partnerships grant.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked who the supervisor/director was for this grant.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded it is one of the vice-principals at the high school, Mr. Thibault.

Mr. Martins asked if it is someone who is already on staff and Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct.

Mr. Martins asked if it is a .1 FTE.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said as listed on the grant it is 1 staff member.

Mr. Martins said there is no FTE associated with it then.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said no, it is a stipend for the individual.

Mr. Martins said then he can assume that the individual will do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said that was correct.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

Mayor Flanagan said that an addendum was given to them with a request by Karen Long, Nursing Supervisor, to approve Ms. Ginny Bernier for the position of the floating nurse.

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Andrade: To accept the addendum and the item.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins asked if there are sufficient funds to cover the cost.

Ms. Long said it is a grant position for the enhanced school house services.

Mr. Martins said she was right and he apologized.

Ms. Long said it was dependent on grant funds from year to year and there are enough funds.

Mayor Flanagan asked how long the grant was for.

Ms. Long said they have had the grant since 1999 and have one additional year for the first five years of this grant and then three more times they can apply for two consecutive which could be six additional for a total of eleven years.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion passed

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Durfee High School's MSBA application

Mayor Flanagan noted that this item was a request for the statement of interest for Durfee High School's application. He explained that in their School Committee briefing materials, they received information regarding the statement of interest as completed by the City of Fall River in conjunction with the Fall River School Department. He said it is a draft of the statement of interest for submission. It is only a submission for the purposes of gaining Massachusetts School Building Authority approval to move the project forward to the next phase. It is not a guarantee of final approval or an offer of

commitment of funding by either the MSBA or the City of Fall River. The reports will read “draft” until the Statement of Interest has been submitted electronically, and that electronic submission takes place following a formal vote to approve the submission by the City Council as well as the School Committee. Once the proposal has been voted and approved, a final copy of the submitted Statement of Interest is printed, and the approved motions and their votes along with the required signatures are submitted to the MSBA as hard copies.

Mayor Flanagan said that there is an official motion that he has to read and then he will ask for the motion to be made. He then recited the following:

“Having convened in an open meeting on April 7, 2014, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Fall River, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest for the Durfee High School located at 360 Elsbree Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. The purpose of the project would be for replacement, renovation or modernization of the school facility and its systems, such as roofs, windows, boiler systems, heating and ventilation systems, and to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the school facility, and also to maintain accreditation and develop further programming for students; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any funding commitment for the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.”

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To accept.

Discussion:

Mr. Martins said he highly supported the renovations at Durfee and noted the pictures they received showed a decaying facility. He questioned what the City and MSBA financial commitments were.

Mr. Coogan responded that it was an 80%/20% breakdown with the MSBA putting up 80% and the City putting up 20%.

Mr. Martins said that he hoped that the City Council will support this and asked Mayor Flanagan if the 20% would be on the city side or from the school budget.

Mayor Flanagan responded that more likely than not, this would be a ballot question that the public would vote on for a debt exclusion and whether or not they want to fund this project with the city revenue. He added that once the application is submitted to MSBA, they will have to review an election date and then have an election for debt exclusion on the Durfee project.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Coogan if he had any further information and he did not.

Mr. Martins said he hopes it all comes about because the building needs improvement.

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 was absent (Mr. Costa) Motion approved

Transcriber's Note: at 7:06 PM, Mr. Costa joined the meeting.

2. Durfee High School's passing grade for courses

Mayor Flanagan said this is a request regarding the Durfee High School passing grade and asked Associate Principal Curley to join them. He asked her what they were asking for on item number 2.

Ms. Curley explained that in February she and Principal Marshall along with the Director of Guidance met with the Instructional Subcommittee to discuss their Program of Studies. At that time it was suggested that they survey parents and faculty regarding the passing grade threshold at Durfee. They have since conducted that survey and found that about 2/3 of their faculty and 1/2 of parents would prefer a passing grade threshold set at 65. If it is the will of the Committee, the high school would change their passing grade threshold from 60 to 65 beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To raise the passing grade from 60 to 65 at Durfee High School.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

3. High School grading structure as required by DESE

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was a motion to accept the high school grading structure

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley – Mr. Hart: To accept the high school grading structure.

Discussion:

Mr. Andrade asked about the excused grade and how and when it would be used.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown asked Ms. Curley to provide instances where a grade might be excused per approval of the principal. She explained that the Department is asking them to add some additional marks to their grades. One is a W for general withdrawal and the second is WF meaning withdrawal and failing at the time of withdrawal; WP withdrew and passing at the time of withdrawal; M meaning mark not required which can be used for clerical experience, lab, etc.; EX for excused when the grade is excused per approval of the principal. These are new marks for the district and required by DESE for all Massachusetts RTTT grant schools.

Ms. Curley explained that they have had discussions around all of the other markers with the exception of the last one and she would need clarification as to what is suggested by the commission in terms of that particular marker.

Mayor Flanagan asked if it is recommended by DESE that they adopt it.

Ms. Curley said that was correct.

Mr. Martins asked if they had to accept that mark.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it does indicate that they are required to accept it as they are a RTTT district. She noted they have to include it but it does not mean they have to use it.

Mr. Martins noted that the chart that was included shows a D- and asked if they had to accept that now that they have raised the passing grade.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said the snapshot he is looking at is right off of X2 and are the grades that are currently in use at Durfee but the Committee's adoption of the new passing grade would begin for September 2014.

Mr. Martins said he understood that but questioned where the chart would go and how it would be used.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said the chart is part of the grade scales that are used at Durfee as teachers enter their grades electronically.

Mr. Martins asked if the D- would be used.

Ms. Curley said they will revise the table he is looking at to reflect their new grading policy.

Mr. Maynard asked if all the schools were doing that.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown responded that all schools that are RTTT districts are required to do this.

| All were in favor | None were opposed | Motion passed |
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4. A request to the City Council for authorization to exceed a three-year transportation contract

Mayor Flanagan asked that Mr. Coogan brief them on item number 4 before there is a motion.

Mr. Coogan explained that they included an RFP for the Committee to see and consider. According to the reassignment with the boundaries that were done last month, they have a series of three meetings scheduled that will be conducted similar to the Q&A forums that they did last year so that parents have an opportunity to consider whether they wish to remain at their current school or switch to the reassignment that the district did based on the addresses that came up in the new Henry Lord district. The letters were mailed out and parents are in the process of receiving them. They hope to address any issues with parents at the meetings and will have people available to fill out forms and assist with information that parents may wish to have.

Mayor Flanagan asked if they are doing a 3+1+1 or a 5 year contract.

Mr. Coogan said the recommendation based on his work with the procurement office and City Administrator would be to go for a five year contract which would hopefully be the most powerful to get the best price possible. They discussed the possibility of a 3+1+1 but it appears that would not be the type of guarantee that would get them the best price.

Mayor Flanagan asked if there was a motion from the Committee to grant the school department the authority to go before the City Council with a 5 year RFP for school transportation.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Andrade: To grant the school department the authority to go before the City Council with a 5 year RFP for school transportation.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martins thought a five year contract was too long even if there was a cost reopener paragraph written in. Also, if any of the local vendors are not successful in obtaining the bid, they will be shut out for five years and could be put out of business because of it. He cannot support a five year contract and suggested a three year contract.

Mayor Flanagan asked Mr. Coogan the theory behind a five year contract.

Mr. Coogan explained that in speaking with some of the vendors as well as some of the other people involved, it appears that four years would be the minimum they would consider for financing and purchasing of new vehicles. That would be enough of a length of term for them to propose that they could go for financing and show the commitment on the FRPS side which would allow them to amortize their purchase over that time and hopefully offer FRPS the best price on service.

Mrs. Panchley said if the process will help them pin down their budget and save money then she will support this. She feels their responsibility is to make sure that students have the resources that they need to learn in the classroom and if they can save money in this way, she cannot be concerned on how it affects bus vendors. She asked if they were also voting on the RFPs at this time or will they have the opportunity to have input in the RFP.

Mr. Coogan responded that there were several changes that were requested/suggested with Mr. McCoy's help from procurement. He explained that the special needs contract lies outside of the 30B process and not done with a formal RFP. Mr. McCoy suggested they keep with that informal process. The intent would be to handle it as though it is an RFP so that Mr. McCoy can still field the submissions and act as a monitor and have a committee. The formal RFP process requires that they do a technical evaluation first to judge the bidders qualifications to fulfill the contract and then do a financial analysis. He has some suggestions as to what that committee might look like and named a cross section of people who might have a voice to represent the different constituents.

Mrs. Panchley asked if it was appropriate for her to make a recommendation and suggested as part H under "other information" something that says "any safety measures in the vendors proposals cannot be ceased without permission from the School Committee or the contract is null and void."

Mr. Coogan thought that was a good suggestion and realized that the material he forwarded to the Committee was in draft form and very dense. There is also a part that suggests there will be spot audits as well.

Mr. Andrade made an observation that they had just come through a situation with Tremblay Bus Company where it was discussed that they be forbidden to bid because of the incident that occurred. He felt if they have a multi-year contract it becomes problematic because termination of a contract for a particular reason can become a messy situation. He felt the language regarding termination was not upfront in the contract in relation to the Tremblay situation.

Mr. Coogan said there are certainly problems with terminating a contract mid-term from legal aspects but one of the other issues they find no matter how long the term, based on resources, there may not always be a second position they can fall back to in terms of a bidder. However, they can include

language around what the grounds for termination are and what the process might be for bidding should someone be in breach.

Mr. Martins said special education transportation, while not subject to 30B, does not prevent you from going and utilizing the requirements of 30B.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct.

Mr. Martins said a five year contract is going to be to the advantage of the big transportation companies because they can do it at a lower price. He agrees with the saving of monies but does not want to shut out local vendors in having a chance at the contract. He believes in multi-year contracts but feels five is too long.

Mr. Hart asked if Mr. Coogan said that vendors prefer 4 year contracts and not 5 years.

Mr. Coogan said no; originally they talked about the possibility of a 3 year with a 1+1 for a maximum total of 5 years; however, for financing purposes, it is more advantageous to have a commitment of at least four years in order to be able to spread out the payments on the vehicles.

Mr. Hart asked about the email from First Student and if they would be bidding.

Mr. Coogan said they had some advice around several key issues that they would find prohibitive depending on how the bid is structured.

Mr. Hart said that the \$25K fine is not something they would be interested in.

Mr. Coogan said they found that to be high for any company that was interested in bidding in the long term contract.

Mr. Maynard asked if all companies would be able to bid.

Mr. Coogan said that was correct. He added that by doing it in the informal process rather than the form of 30B, it gives FRPS the option of awarding them in total or separately depending on the advantages or disadvantages of going with a specific carrier.

Mr. Maynard asked when the contract would be written out.

Mr. Coogan said it would be written after the award is done. He anticipates if they get the exception from the City Council, they could go out fairly quickly.

Mr. Maynard said he would like to see a contract before voting to make sure they are covered. He thought five years was a long time and he is concerned about the safety of the children.

Mr. Coogan explained that the issue at hand is permission to request the ability to go outside of the three year limit. After, they will go out for the RFP and before the award is made, the contract will be done.

Mr. Andrade said that Mr. Coogan indicated that he had spoken to a number of the vendors and asked if that included some of the smaller, local companies and asked what their reaction was toward a five year contract.

Mr. Coogan said they spoke in favor of it being a longer contract for some time, not specifically a five year.

Mr. Costa said that his understanding is the reason for going out to bid is to secure a contract to get some stability and drive the cost down. It sounds like there is some will from his colleagues to go for a five year but also to go for something less. He asked what prohibited the school department from sending out requests for a four year and a five year and leaving it to the Committee to review what may be the most advantageous in terms of the cost.

Mr. Coogan said he is not sure there would be anything to prevent them from doing that and could check with Mr. McCoy to see if there was anything preventing them from going out with both.

Mr. Costa said he thinks they have encountered this before and thought it was their option to go out in multiple fashions. He suggested putting it out for both terms if they are able to. He also thought that Mr. Maynard made a good point and that once the request goes out and the bids come in, bringing them back to the Committee to take a look at before being awarded would be a good idea. He asked through the Chair to the Superintendent that that become available as the contracts start to be sent in.

A roll call showed:

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

6 were in favor

1 was opposed (Mr. Martins)

Motion passed

5. 2014-2015 Instructional Calendar

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To approve the 2014-2015 Instructional Calendar.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

6. Policy DBE

MOTION: Mr. Hart– Mr. Maynard: To place the first read of Policy DBE on file.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

7. Conversion of a paraprofessional position to a clerical position at the Watson Elementary School

Mayor Flanagan asked Madame Superintendent asked why this was before the Committee.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown explained that it is a conversion from an office paraprofessional to a clerk position. Given the extension of the school day as part of Watson’s Turnaround Plan, there is required professional development of staff during the summer time and summer programming for students. She is requesting the conversion of the office paraprofessional because they have a 183 day position to a 12-month clerk. The difference in salary is \$1,337.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To convert a paraprofessional position to a clerical position at the Watson Elementary School.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said time is a collective bargaining issue as well as the salary. He does not understand why there are paraprofessionals doing clerical work. He felt paraprofessionals should be in a classroom. It did not make sense to him and he does not understand why the unions are not filing grievances on this issue. He was okay that they were getting away with it but noted it was not something that he supported.

A roll call showed:

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

6 were in favor None were opposed 1 abstained (Mr. Martins) Motion passed

8. Henry Lord School, update on facilities and parent communication

Mayor Flanagan said it appears that the conversion on the school has been moving forward and there have been scheduled parent meetings to discuss the new attendance boundaries and the opt out/opt-out procedures at the Viveiros, Greene, and Letourneau elementary schools. He noted dates and times of the informational meetings.

Mr. Hart asked if those meeting dates and times were on the website.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said they will be posted on the website and individual letters went out to families of students that are impacted by the change. They have asked principals to do the phone notification as well to encourage attendance at the meeting.

Mrs. Panchley asked about costs for the upgrades and what line item they would be coming from.

Mr. Coogan said it would come from contracted services. There is an RFP currently out looking for a bidder for that.

Mrs. Panchley asked if there was money in that to cover before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Coogan said yes, they have earmarked some funds for the completion of those repairs in time to make them available for September.

9. March Expenditures

MOTION: Mr. Maynard – Mr. Hart: To approve the March Expenditures.

Discussion

Mr. Martins said they spent a good deal of time on the budget and met with Mr. Saunders several times because of what has been said at the joint School Committee/City Council meeting and what he has read in the paper of not meeting net school spending (NSS). There are a few items that he has been working on and asking how they get to NSS. He found one piece of data that says NSS for the school department is \$85,752,989. He asked if that was an accurate figure.

Mr. Saunders said the handout Mr. Martins is referencing is one that was produced on March 17th for FY14 and 15 which showed what the requirements would be in each one of those years to meet NSS. The \$85M budget item that he referenced is what would have to be spent of the operating budget to contribute so that they could make NSS. Right now they have a \$91M budget and approximately \$6.7M in transportation costs that would have to be reduced from that number. That would bring the contribution out of the schools \$84M. It indicates that there is a shortfall in the contribution that would be eligible to make NSS.

Mr. Martins said he wants to look at the municipality's actual amount of money to be expended for educational purposes. He asked if that was something Mr. Saunders could arrange for him. He would like a line item budget of how much actual that the municipality is contributing to NSS.

Mr. Saunders said they could provide that.

Mr. Costa said it currently stands at \$1.4M; however, if the medical projections come in lower than what has been projected by the city would increase that number.

Mr. Martins agreed.

Mr. Costa said that his understanding based on documentation that has been shared with them is that the school department's projections are coming in much lower than what the city had projected when the budget was created. They have seen the medical expenses on the school side decrease over the past couple of years and if it stays on that trend, the city is not going to be able to meet NSS this year and will need to adjust future projections as well.

Mr. Saunders said they shared that information that morning with the city. They are going to come back with their projections but that is the indication. They will be doing another update and going through the subcommittee to come back to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Costa asked if a request had been made of the city's financial team for medical costs to date, actual.

Mr. Saunders said they have the medical costs to date, actual. They all share the same financial system so they looked up that information.

Mr. Costa asked if the city's financial team is acknowledging that that's the actual.

Mr. Saunders said they are aware of it and the information was exchanged earlier that day.

Mr. Costa asked if they have given the school department what the City is projecting what their projected medical expenses are going to be going forward.

Mr. Saunders said they had not.

Mr. Costa said he wants to make sure that they are not going off of different numbers and they get on the same page. He said it is collectively everyone's issue and to the extent that they can share information back and forth and be on the same page is imperative. He said it is clear the medical is less than it was previously anticipated and that is only going to make the gap in NSS larger.

Mr. Saunders said that is correct and they had met earlier that day and had that conversation. The city asked for the school department's projections which they gave and they were going to send their projections to him.

Mr. Costa asked that Mr. Saunders forward them to the members of the Committee once he receives them so they can be aware of what the projections look like because if they are seeing a decline in their actuals, they need to know to what extent the projections are off because it is going to make the \$1.4M a larger number and he doesn't want there to be any surprises when the actuals start coming in and they are far less than projected. If they don't meet NSS this year, the responsibility is on the community to make it up in the next fiscal year which is significant when they are talking \$1.4M.

Mr. Saunders said they have shared all the information on this and did the reconciliation on these numbers back to the city and are waiting for information back from them.

Mr. Costa asked if he had any sense of what the projected costs are going to be going forward or what the school department's projection is.

Mr. Saunders said he does not have that.

Mr. Costa asked if there was any analysis.

Mr. Saunders said there was but he does not have it verified on the city side. His projection is that they are on a three year trend right now.

Mr. Costa wanted to know what the city projected in medical for this fiscal year.

Mr. Saunders said they did not share that with them.

Mayor Flanagan said he wanted to go back to topic; the motion is on the March expenditures. He feels they are discussing an important issue but it might be something that is for a future meeting because they are getting off topic.

Mr. Costa said he would take the Chair's ruling but thinks they are trying to have a discussion on whether or not they are going to meet NSS. If it does not fall under a review of finances, he is not sure when it would fit.

Mayor Flanagan said he wants to bring the discussion back to the March Expenditures and Mr. Costa yielded.

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

10. One-Year Follow-Up Surveys

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To accept and place on file.

Discussion

Mr. Martins shared a story of a young man he had been working with and said that there are students who are dropping out and leaving the school system with no skills. He said you hear a lot about the Common Core and being college and career ready but he doesn't see how they are career ready. He cannot help these students because they are not skilled and have nothing to sell to the employer. When he looks at the follow-up survey and sees there were 65 graduated and only 31 responded, he wonders why the other 34 have not responded. He thought if they were doing well in school and work, they would want to share that information. He said while he applauds RPS for the work involved, he finds that this data and Durfee's as well, to be the most important data they can find and utilize in determining and planning future year in the school department.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MOTION: Mrs. Panchley– Mr. Andrade: To accept the For Your Information portion of the agenda and place on file.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None Opposed

Motion passed

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Andrade said he wanted to remind them that the School Committee evaluation was passed out to everyone and is due next month. They received a copy of part of the policy which did not have the actual descriptions. If they have any corrections to be made, they can be submitted to him by next month. Dr. Kelly looked at it and deleted the Policy Subcommittee which is no longer an active committee. There was also a worksheet and two descriptions of subcommittees (Evaluation and Finance). He asked that the committees they do not have descriptions for, come up with them so that they can get together valid descriptions for the subcommittees. His goal is to have something to pass to for the June meeting.

Mr. Maynard asked Mr. Coogan how they made out with the carbon monoxide detectors.

Mr. Coogan said they did do an inventory to check to see which schools had them and they are not in all schools. They are waiting for pricing to put them in all the combustion areas in the schools and anticipate getting that done between now and the return of school in September.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Flanagan asked for the reason for Executive Session.

Attorney Assad: "Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for all litigation as well as negotiations with custodians, paraprofessionals, clerical, FREA, and FRAA and non-union personnel. 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 (8:02 PM)

At 8:46 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. Costa said there were.

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: Accept the contract as negotiated with the paraprofessionals and the Fall River School Committee.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Costa – Mr. Hart: To provide notice to all FRAA members of the budgetary concerns and the possibility that the Committee may take notice to non-renew or layoff individuals within that bargaining group by April 15th.

No Discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion approved

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Hart: To deny FRAA grievance 14-01.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca J. Quinn".

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