

**Special Meeting of the
Fall River School Committee**

Monday, December 30, 2013
6:00 PM

School Administration Building
417 Rock Street
Fall River, MA 02720

Agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Vote to approve: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ten new School Resource Officers.

MINUTES

Mayor Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:21 PM.

A roll call for attendance showed 6 members were present and 1 was absent (Mr. Martins).

Mayor Flanagan led the salute to the flag.

Mayor Flanagan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that the purpose was to request a vote to approve a Memorandum of Understanding for ten new school resource officers. The administration alongside the police Chief Dan Racine and their grant department were able to apply for the grant. They have been awarded the grant which has specific language as to how the officers are to be deployed. It will allow them to hire ten new officers to the Fall River School Department. Chief Racine had indicated to Mayor Flanagan that he is going to go through his entire roster and select those officers that have the experience and temperament to work as school resource officers. Mayor Flanagan noted that all of their officers are qualified but some may want to have the opportunity and possess the temperament to effectively to work with students. He continued that in order for the grant to be effective, it will need a vote from the Committee after which the Mayor will meet with Chief Racine who will file the paperwork electronically and send a hard copy by mail.

MOTION: Mr. Andrade – Mr. Pavao: To approve the MOU.

Discussion:

Mr. Pavao said he would just like to congratulate the police department and grants office for applying and getting this grant and to the Mayor for appropriating matching funds.

Mayor Flanagan said as Mr. Pavao stated, there are funds from the City to match it. Their goal as they move along to future budgets is to make this a sustainable goal. When he first took office the police

staffing was at 195 and they have built that up to 225 and can hopefully continue to increase that number. He added that it is always good to apply for federal funding but they also have to make sure they are self-reliant.

Mr. Maynard thanked everyone who was involved in obtaining the grant and felt it was an excellent idea. He has grandchildren in the school system and it makes him feel better to have the officers in the schools.

Mayor Flanagan said they have two priorities, educating the children but also making sure they are safe and this is a step in the right direction. He said it is important for public safety and also builds that relationship between child and police officer.

Mr. Costa asked with the creation of the PreK-8 that is not listed, if anything need to be amended so that they can participate.

Mayor Flanagan said he did not believe so. Once the school does become effective, they will be able to deploy an officer to it.

Mr. Costa said that was fine, he just didn't want to lose out on an opportunity if the grant was specific.

Mayor Flanagan said as long as the intent is to have it for educational purposes.

Mr. Costa asked if it now brought their compliment up to 14 school resource officers.

The Superintendent said it would be 15.

Mr. Hart said, as the Mayor stated, education is important but they have to have a safe climate in the schools and he believes this addresses that. He added that matching it on the City side just shows a commitment by the Mayor and the City. He thinks they all believe that this is going to be an ongoing, revolving situation with having the SROs in the schools. He added that he is not saying there are issues at the schools but it is another precaution to let parents know that the schools are safe.

Mr. Andrade echoed his colleagues sentiments and thanked all of those involved.

Mayor Flanagan said whenever a funding commitment is made, it is always analyzed and scrutinized but whenever you make a funding commitment for a child's safety you are hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't support that and they need to be sure they continue to increase safety at the schools.

6 in favor	1 absent (Mr. Martins)	Motion passed
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Mayor Flanagan asked that Committee members sign the MOU prior to leaving so that he can deliver it to the Fall River Police Department in the morning.

Mayor Flanagan noted that the inauguration will be held on January 6 which is a school day and asked if she could have Durfee High School students participate.

The Superintendent agreed.

There was no new business.

MOTION: Mr. Pavao – Mr. Andrade: To adjourn.

No Discussion

6 in favor

1 absent (Mr. Martins)

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Interim Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services