BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37

November 13, 2017 **7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas called for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Hallsville Elementary School: Bonnie Skogsholm, Principal

Committee Member Terrio stated I have the pleasure of introducing Xiomara Camelo.

Committee Member Connors stated I would like to introduce Byron Minueza, fifth grader from Hallsville.

Committee Member Freeman stated and last, but not least, I am honored to introduce Violet Brier.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Committee Members Ambrogi, Langton, Georges, Want, Freeman, Bergeron, Tessier, Girard, Terrio, Connors, Beaudry, Avard, Desrochers, Van Houten, Mayor Gatsas

5. Approval of minutes from the Board of School Committee meeting on October 23, 2017.

*On motion of **Committee Member Terrio**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Connors**, it was voted to approve the minutes.*

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

6. Recognition of the McLaughlin Middle School girls' field hockey team on winning the city championship.

Nyssa Barrett	Daylee Maxham
Brianna Chap	Erin McCoy
Jacqueline Connors	Payton Moran
Mya Desjardins	Rachael Neuberger
Lauren Dumont	Elizabeth Patton
Bella Falite	Nadia Provencher
Brooklyn Flinkfelt	Kaylie Robare
Bella Giampa	Grace Sharpe
Aiyana Holguin	Desayda Soto
Claire Lawson	Elle Whiteman
Olivia Mach	Machenzie Whiteman
Caroline Makara	Jeremy Jutras-Manager

Mr. William Krantz, Principal of McLaughlin Middle School, stated it is not hard to say nice things about these guys. They have been doing a great job all year. A special thanks to the parents and to the coaches that helped out. The head coach couldn't be here tonight, but she has been awesome and the parents have been very supportive. It has been a lot of fun watching these games. I have to admit that after four or five years I'm still not quite sure what the rules are, but I can tell when we score so I guess that's all that matters. A huge congratulations. They are not just good athletes, they are terrific kids. They do well in school, they are very well behaved. Thank you to your parents for making you be that way. We appreciate it very much.

7. Recognition of the Central High School girls' soccer team on winning the NHIAA Division I championship.

Jessica Lewis	Morgan Tanguay
Hannah Autenreith	Brooke Ribeiro
Madison Tremblay	Kaitlin McIntire

Lindsay LeBlond
Gabrielle Paradis
Mariana Poore
Lauren Gill
Morgan Tremblay
Ellen Jones
Paige LaBerge
English Bailey
Emily Greenwood
Victoria Keyes
Katie Boyle
Heather Jennato
Nadege Masubuko
Sabrynna Pearson
Matara Tamzarian
Erin Flurey
Grace Potvin

Mayor Gatsas stated I was at that game and the girls played an absolutely incredible game and certainly nothing more heart throbbing than watching the penalty kicks at the end because anything can happen. I think it is the first time that I can remember seeing the goalkeeper from the other team take that very first kick. That certainly proved to be very interesting. Again, the girls did a great job. It was a little chilly, but they didn't look like they were cold out on the field. Peter, you did another great job. Congratulations.

Mr. Peter Lally, Coach of the Central High School Girls' Soccer Team, stated I would just like everyone to know that the girls that stand before you are not only fabulous soccer players, but they are also fabulous young ladies. Every year I come back to coach the age gap gets broader and broader. I get older, they still stay young. When I started coaching, this is the fifth decade I have been coaching so it is a long time, I was like an older brother and then as time went on I became like a father figure. Can you see where this is going? They are just fabulous student athletes and the City of Manchester and the Towns of Hooksett and Candia, because I still get them from there, should be very proud of them. Thank you.

Committee Member Avard stated while we are recognizing student athletes, I would like to point out a very special student athlete from West High School they may have seen in the paper recently. West High School's Julia Robitaille was just recognized as New England's cross country champion for this year. She placed at the 83rd New England interscholastic cross country championship in Belfast, Maine, where she finished in first place with a time of 17:31.65, which happens to be a new course record for the course that they were running on.

She is an amazing athlete. She works very hard. What is even more special with this team is that her twin sister also gained New England status by placing 25th at the same race. We have two wonderful athletes, twin sisters at West High School, that both should be recognized for their outstanding efforts. Julia was second place in the meet of champions and the girl that she came in second place to she beat at New England. I just want to recognize Julia for the tremendous work that she has done and her sister Corinne.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Gatsas advised that the purpose of the public forum is to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the board on items of concerns affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak; that any comments must be directed to the Chair; that any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Mr. Pat O'Neil, 70 Chauncey Avenue, stated:
Happy Thanksgiving to all. I'm here to continue the series on advocate to educate for all our students in the Manchester School District. I would like to start out by thanking both boards. You are starting to listen and hear those who have come before you including parents, students and educators regarding the importance of meeting our students' needs including foreign languages, health and reading that became part of the middle school curriculum as well as establishing with the aldermen a joint committee on education. Your efforts and support are much appreciated, but there is no reason to rest on our laurels just because we provided some of the programs that really should have been part of our school district's curriculum already. It is imperative that we continue to advocate for all of our students' education per the mission statement of the Manchester School District. We need to continue to bring awareness to both boards about the importance of curriculum and instruction that will meet the individual needs of all our 14,000 plus students. We need to be creative and sensitive to meeting the needs of students who suffer with mental health conditions by establishing an alternative k-12 school with

a therapeutic component that will address the students' needs. We need to restore the PASS program, an alternative vocational program that helped hundreds of high school students who were at risk of dropping out graduate. That was housed at MST. We need to put a strong emphasis back on the importance of the social studies curriculum including civics, which Dr. Vargas has already initiated at the middle school level. We need to revisit the creative ideas of turning West High into a specialized, districtwide, community led program of fine arts, performing arts, entrepreneurship and philanthropy while maintaining the STEAM and ROTC programs already established. We have programs like this throughout the United States, academies in different big cities including Rochester, New York. The main reason why I'm here tonight is to say thanks to all board members and the mayor who will be moving on to new endeavors as well as to say congrats to the new board members and new mayor-elect. Many things go on behind the scenes and what you don't know behind the scenes people need to be aware of. I would like to give a special shout out to a board member, Deb Langton, who has advocated to educate all of our students behind the scenes the past 12 years, especially the less fortunate and those students with specific educational needs who have no choice. Deb was their voice, especially during the time period when many of our students went through extended periods of time without services, including her own son, Craig, who Deb advocated for to have the School District provide a reading program that addressed Craig's dyslexic needs. Craig went on to graduate from Central High and UNH with a degree in engineering and is now an engineer in Portsmouth. It wouldn't have been done without his mom. Deb didn't stop advocating with her own family. In her own quiet, yet confident way advocating for our students from other countries including many EL students at Hillside in my class by providing school supplies and materials as well as driving numerous clothes drives. Her successor, Dave Scannell and his wife have also done so much to advocate for our refugee and immigrant students and will be a strong advocate for education. I just wish they both could serve together. Deb, her husband Mike and three children have also been a huge part of our community and supporting over the years supporting local youth sports including Babe Ruth baseball and CYO basketball, which are programs dear to my heart. She has done all this and more just by doing what is right. It might not have been politically correct or the way the Democrats or Republicans want it to be, but it was the right way. She always kept the best interest of our students and needs in mind without the fanfare, drama and political gain for which I am forever grateful. Our students followed the

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elections, Deb, and they know what you have done for our program over the years, more than 20 years, and you will still get your thank you cards at Christmas, but they wanted to give you this card and just say thank you, so thank you.

Mr. Art Gatzoulis, 357 North Bend Drive, stated:
I'm the president of the Central High School booster club. I'm also the treasurer of Friends of Central Hockey. I have a son who is a junior at Central. He has played on the Central hockey team for two years. I'm also proud to say I have my daughter who is a freshman at Central who was on the JV soccer team so I was really happy to see the mayor and the board recognize both the McLaughlin field hockey team as well as the Central girls' soccer team. But I'm here today to advocate for a different groups of student athletes. I'm here to advocate today for the hiring of the hockey coach for the Central/West combined hockey team. It is my understanding that there is a qualified candidate who is willing to take the position. Try out and practice for the team begin a week from today. If a decision to hire a coach is not made today I fear that there will not be a team. That would end the hockey season for about 20 or so student athletes that are looking forward to playing for their school. Let me also explain to you, a little inside knowledge of how youth hockey works having gone through it for the past ten years with my son, that if there isn't a Central/West hockey team this year there probably never will be again. The reason for that is there are these junior teams and these junior teams, the Monarchs, the Avalanche, there are a whole bunch of them, they are comprised of high school students. They hold their tryouts in March. They run their season from September through March. This coming March they will have tryouts for a full season junior team. If there is no high school hockey team this year those parents who have eighth graders are going to see that, they are going to send their kids to these tryouts and commit to that kind of team rather than playing for their high school team because there is no high school team and they won't be able to count on one. That's a problem because there are only so many players and if eighth graders commit to a junior team they are going to pay a lot of money to do it. They are not going to come out for the high school team. For all intents and purposes if we can't put together a team this year, if we can't come together and hire a coach then it probably ends high school hockey, at least at Central and West here in Manchester. I just ask that you please don't let the kids down. There are a bunch of kids, mostly

young men who really want to play. They are committed, they love playing hockey, they love playing for their school. Please put a coach in today.

Mr. Eric Gagnon, 452 Pine Street, stated:
I wanted to say Happy Thanksgiving. That is coming up next week. I was surprised to hear the news that your show is going off the air, Rich. I'm sorry to hear that. I had a lot of enjoyment listening to the show and winning a lot of gift cards and passing out some flowers for Saint Patrick's Day. That was fun. Anyways, I also want to congratulate all the winners and the people who are moving on, good luck in whatever you are going to be doing. I always like to come by and market something. I'm working at the new Pizza 911 down the street on South Willow. It is already open. We have a full bar with adult beverages if you like pizza with a drink. If someone wants to pass those out I have one for everybody and it also has coupons. Come down and visit the gang.

Ms. Patrice Benard, 31 Aurore Avenue, stated:
I'm the proud parent of a Green Acres student because Green Acres is the place to be. Quickly, at Green Acres this week, third grade, flat Stanley continues to go around the nation and we get emails and pictures from all around the country encouraging our third graders to learn about the different states in the union. In fourth grade today we were doing our weekly lesson for mysteryscience.com and when they put up the question it was, what makes a roller coaster go faster? I left the room. I have been there, done that. I can't watch those videos without my stomach doing flip-flops. I'm sure my fourth grader can tell you what makes a roller coaster go faster, which brings me to science. Tonight you are being asked to just pass through the next gen science standards. These are the Common Core standards for science. In three minutes I'm expected to give you my rundown. Not happening, not in three minutes. We haven't had any public hearings, but don't worry, the teachers have already implemented these. They didn't need your permission. They didn't bother asking for it. As a matter of fact they put them into place this year in high school. Do you know what my daughter in biology, Dr. Avard, you might be interested to know that biology has changed this year. My daughter has been sitting in a biology classroom since September. She has yet to look through a microscope at a cell. She knows nothing about the cell membranes, the nucleus or the organelles. She has yet to pick up a scalpel

or a dissection tray. She doesn't know how to pin back anything. She hasn't done a flatworm or an earthworm, never mind the frog or the cow's eye or a heart. She has learned nothing in biology except biomes. There are 12 biomes apparently. This last week they started a unit on population. You see, they are doing ecology because the new next gen science standards are actually geared towards environmental sites. My daughter who is going to be going to college for either music therapy or speech therapy or let's see what she changes her mind to next week, will need science, but she doesn't know how to hold a scalpel, she doesn't know how to look through a microscope because the Manchester School District has changes their science standards without asking. Oh well. I don't think that's good enough for our children. Back in 1982 by this point I had already looked at cells through microscopes, I had already picked up a scalpel and the tray and I had dissected a flatworm. We are not teaching our children enough. It is not good enough for my daughter. She is going to go to college unprepared because the teachers didn't bother to ask, they just went ahead and did that. I would ask you to put the brakes on please, say no to the next gen science standards. Let's have some hearings and let's vet this out.

*There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Terrio**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.*

ACTION AGENDA

10. Ratify and confirm the phone poll conducted on October 31, 2017 to release the attorney's opinion regarding an audio recording of the 9/11/17 non-public session.

*On motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Girard**, it was voted to ratify and confirm the phone poll.*

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CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 11-18)

Mayor Gatsas advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

12. Report(s) of the Committee of Coordination/Administration, if available.

13. Report(s) of the Committee of Curriculum and Instruction, if available.

a) To approve the Curriculum Associates data sharing agreement.

14. Report(s) of the Committee of Building and Sites, if available.

15. Report(s) of the Committee of Athletics, if available.

16. Report(s) of the Committee of Information Technology, if available.

17. Report(s) of the Committee of Student Conduct, if available.

18. Report(s) of the Special Committee on Redistricting, if available.

HAVING DULY READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ***COMMITTEE MEMBER CONNORS,*** *DULY SECONDED BY* ***COMMITTEE MEMBER AVARD,*** *IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.*

13. Report(s) of the Committee of Curriculum and Instruction, if available.

b) To approve the Manchester Academic Standards for Science in grades five through eight.

These minutes will be approved at the 11/27/17 BOSC meeting.

Committee Member Girard stated these are the Manchester Academic Standards for science that Ms. Benard just brought up. I simply want to echo my opposition to these standards, which I made a point of opposing in committee. I will say it wasn't because I don't think the teachers who reviewed the standards, although I find it troubling what I learned tonight about them already being implemented in our schools before this board has had the opportunity to act on them, but I will say that I'm concerned about the process that this went through. The process that this went through is the process that the Manchester Academic Standards in English and math went through. As we have seen for the last year on the committee on Curriculum and Instruction there are serious shortcomings to how those programs are operating in our schools. It seems to me somewhat foolish that we would add another set of standards to the ones that we are now coming to realize are pulling up short in a number of ways. I think the process is one where the district essentially circled the wagons and looks inward. We haven't gone through and revised the process of our curriculum management plan. There has been no input outside of the teachers. There has been no input from higher education, from business and industry, from trade groups. There has been no input from interested citizens with expertise in this subject area and there has been no input from parents. While I think the teacher probably did the best they could with the one perspective they had and that was their own, I do believe that to avoid the mistakes that this board made three and four years ago with the adoption of the Manchester Academic Standards in English and math that more eyeballs need to look at these standards, more expertise, more vantage points need to have input into them before we go ahead and approve another set of standards we are likely to come back to two years from now and say oops, we have to do a redo. I quarrel with the process because I think good people in a bad process can do their best and still come up with a bad result. We have seen that in English and math and I'm not excited to do it again, Your Honor. With that I'll oppose.

Committee Member Desrochers stated I actually have a question for the superintendent if I may. Dr. Vargas, do you approve these standards that are going through on the consent agenda?

Dr. Bolgen Vargas, Superintendent of Schools, replied I do.

Committee Member Beaudry stated Committee Member Desrochers took a little bit of my question away from me. I would like to hear from the superintendent about the questions that were raised by the speaker under the three minutes. Can anybody answer those questions? Are we preparing our students properly under this curriculum? The argument that she made, is there any counterargument to that? If someone from the administration can answer that.

Dr. Vargas responded we had a number of teachers that participated in that. I believe Mr. Krantz worked with them and I wonder if you can comment about the process that you went through which you articulated to the Curriculum Committee recently.

Mr. Krantz stated Lori McIntire Willis is up here because she was the chair of that particular curriculum committee which we formed up at the middle school. We wanted to keep the curriculum committees that had been formed going. I'm going to let Lori speak to it because she is the expert and I was the administrator cheerleader support staff. If there are any questions that I can answer I'll do my best to do that.

Committee Member Beaudry stated before you do that I was just told by Committee Member Avard, who is on the committee, that the speaker that spoke under public session was speaking about high school and this is middle school.

Ms. Lori McIntire Willis, Parkside Middle School, stated correct.

Committee Member Beaudry stated I just want that out on the record when you are going to be talking about middle school.

Ms. McIntire Willis stated correct. To comment about any questions about the high school, her comments were basically about teacher instruction rather than the standards. We have to look at the standards as the standards are written. We don't have a curriculum in front of you, we have a list of standards. Those are two different kinds of documents. Our particular committee has been working on this for about two years with representation from all of the middle schools. On our committee have been people with masters' degrees in curriculum. I have two masters'

degrees, one in k-8 science. We have also worked with UNH and we have also worked with Southern New Hampshire on looking at these standards. Currently in their education programs for science educators they are teaching them these standards to teach in the classroom. We are basing it also on what is coming in to the pool of teachers as well. We took the next gen science standards and compared them to the particular Manchester standards we had prior. We did eliminate from what next gen has, supplemented from what we had so it is an amalgamation of the two of them together and that was the general process where we went through looking at the standards.

Committee Member Beaudry asked do you believe that we are preparing our students from the middle school to enter into high school?

Ms. McIntire Willis replied definitely.

Committee Member Beaudry stated and the questions that were raised earlier would be mitigated?

Ms. McIntire Willis replied definitely. We are using all of the inquiry processes including microscopes and we are dissecting. We are doing all of those things in the classroom. We are doing hands-on science experiments where they will write lab reports. All of that is inclusive when you are looking at our standards. We have a section in there called "science practices and engineering practices". Those are to supplement the standards as they are written as to general things in both science and engineering that the teachers should be using in the classroom to teach.

Committee Member Freeman stated just a quick question. To come back to a point that Committee Member Girard made, you are using the next gen science standards. Is that correct?

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Ms. McIntire Willis replied we have placed it in front of the teachers that if they would like to try the next gen, this particular set of standards, that way we could get feedback on whether or not they needed to be changes. I think I said the last time I was here with C&I that it is a living, breathing document that we have to continually revise. There isn't a set curriculum.

Committee Member Freeman stated but it is being used in the classrooms right now.

Ms. McIntire Willis responded by some, yes.

Committee Member Van Houten *moved to approve the Manchester Academic Standards for Science in grades five through eight. The motion was duly seconded by* ***Committee Member Freeman****.*

Committee Member Girard *requested a roll call vote on the motion. Committee Members Girard and Freeman voted nay. Committee Members Terrio, Connors, Beaudry, Avard, Desrochers, Van Houten, Ambrogi, Langton, Georges, Want, Bergeron, Tessier and Mayor Gatsas voted yea. The motion carried.*

15. Report(s) of the Committee of Athletics, if available.

a) Approval of the coaching nominations

Committee Member Girard stated there is a coaching item of concern regarding the boys' hockey team. I don't know if that is to be discussed here or in non-public session, but I believe there are issues that need to be addressed. I would like some guidance on how to proceed.

Mayor Gatsas stated we'll do it all in public because there are three nominations in front of us and we will take each one individually.

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Ms. Maura Wellington, Clerk of the Board of School Committee, stated there is a second page as well, Your Honor. There is a second page to the coaching nominations so it is more than three, on the backside.

Mayor Gatsas stated and also the nominations on the back side.

Clerk Wellington stated yes.

Mayor Gatsas stated if there is only a question about one of the nominations, the boys' hockey coach, we can move on the balance.

*On motion of **Committee Member Avard**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Connors**, it was voted to move on the coaching nominations with the exception of the boys' hockey coach. The motion carried with Committee Member Girard abstaining.*

Committee Member Girard stated Your Honor, with respect to the boys' hockey team, I have to tell you that I have probably had more phone calls on this than almost anything I have dealt with in the last two years and I find a number of phone calls I have received rather distressing because it would, again, frankly appear that confidential personnel information has been leaked into the public and based on some of the phone calls I have received from various people who have called there are details that only board members should have known about this process. Once again, it seems that we have a campaign by certain board members in favor of an outcome that didn't start until after they met with the superintendent to discover that the superintendent was not in favor of the recommendation, what the likely recommendation of the committee was going to be. In digging around on some policies to find out how this process is supposed to work, because to be perfectly honest with you, Your Honor, I had never honestly paid much attention to coaching nominations and how this process is supposed to work. It would appear that there are a number of policies that the board has in place that do not support the process that has brought this name forward. Before I offer any additional commentary I have some questions for the superintendent because I think there are some things that need to be cleared up and I think there are some facts that need to be put on the record about the people involved and the process

and how it unfolded. If I may, Your Honor, indulge in some Q&A with the superintendent I would appreciate that.

Dr. Vargas stated I would respectfully advise the board that if you are going to enter into a personnel discussion, to ask me questions about personnel, I would not be able to answer unless it is in non-public.

Committee Member Girard stated I appreciate that, Dr. Vargas, but I'm wondering if we can enter into a dialogue.

Mayor Gatsas stated how about if we just ask the simple question, do you support the nominee?

Dr. Vargas replied the answer to my question, once again, I prefer to give you the answer… That is a personnel question and I would have to give my reason, in order to be fair, so I would like to be in non-public. Again, I don't want to expose the district to any situation that is unfair to the district and unfair to the candidate.

Committee Member Girard stated I do have a question that perhaps the superintendent might answer in public session because we heard Mr. Gatzoulis here basically say that if we don't approve somebody tonight then there may never be a hockey team again. I don't know that I agree with that because I think, frankly, if there is an effort put forward to find a hockey coach we will find one. Doctor, I have been told that after the initial pool of four applicants was whittled down to one that either three or four weeks ago you directed the athletic director to repost the position and develop additional nominees. What I would like to know is if that request was made, in fact, and whether or not the athletic director followed your instructions and reposted the position.

Dr. Vargas responded that is correct and to my knowledge it did not happen.

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Committee Member Girard stated you see, Your Honor, I have a concern about this because once again it would be another example of where the wishes or the requests or the directives of the superintendent were frankly ignored for whatever reason.

Mayor Gatsas stated Dr. Vargas doesn't feel comfortable discussing this in public so let's go through the rest of the agenda and then we will go into non-public so he can give you the answers directly. Then we will come out and take a vote. If this candidate doesn't get the votes then my suggestion is, Dr. Vargas in the next week find someone who can be the hockey coach please.

Committee Member Georges stated my question was because I'm concerned too about the position, even all of them, because they just bring one position for us to approve. That was my problem. Why only one candidate? We are supposed to just accept because there is no choice. Why not bring two candidates and we are supposed to know who is who and why we are going to hire this person, why we are going to refuse that person. All the time they bring just one candidate and we need to accept. We don't have a place to say there is no choice, you need to accept. That brings a conflict. That brings that we don't like the person because you bring just one person.

Mayor Gatsas stated let's have the discussion in non-public. We will move that to the table. Do we have a motion to table?

Clerk Wellington asked did you want to table it and you want to bring it up after? Just table for a certain amount of time?

*On motion of **Committee Member Avard**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Girard**, it was voted to table the boys' hockey coach until after non-public session.*

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COMMUNICATIONS

19. Superintendent's Communications.

a) Master schedule update

b) Special Education update

c) Legal expenses

Dr. Vargas stated thank you, Your Honor and thank you to each one of you tonight. We are going to give you a report about the master schedule that you requested for me to revisit and to take a look at it. Our school principals have a very robust discussion around the master schedule and the implications to do what you have requested. Tonight you are going to hear from our principal from Memorial and vice principal who are working very closely with the master schedule and they have intensive knowledge of the inside work, a lot of work that needs to be done and I look forward to getting this done for you. However, there are several steps that we need to take, one which is urgent. For the interest of our families, the interest of our students and the interest of the staff, that is that for many years you have accumulated so many courses that right now I think it is approaching 270 courses. That is unheard of and it is something that we need to bring some clarity to. My conversation with school principals has been very rich. They see an urgent need for us to make sure that we deal with this in a very methodical way and in a way that tries to resolve the problem that you have brought forward to us.

Mr. Arthur Adamakos, Principal of Memorial High School, stated good evening everyone. Dr. Vargas asked me to weigh in on the request I think you made about a master schedule being identical at all three schools. We know that that would be next to impossible to achieve for a few reasons. It is a request that needs to be examined a little bit further than that because we are at the point now where we have a system that needs revision. We are doing the same things we have been doing since the 80's. We have a changing population and we need a real thorough examination of how we conduct our schedule, what courses we offer and what configurations we

offer then and come with a better answer than just trying to mirror image a master schedule. The number one reason why we can't do it is because the request files at all there schools are not identical, number one. It is sort of like you have to have the same numbers of students asking for the same numbers of courses in order it achieve that and that doesn't happen. With the course catalogue that we have right now, we have 165 different topics offered in a variety of levels. That is way too many in order to meet the needs of our kids. We have to take a careful examination of what we want our kids to know or be able to do. We want to be able to thin that down to the most relevant and the most important things that kids should know or be able to do. Then once we do that, figure out what we want to do next in terms of how we want to offer them and then we can probably get very close to what the board is requesting of us. Right now in our current configuration and just the sheer number of the classes, I don't want to say next to impossible, but it would be impossible to achieve an identical master schedule at all three of the schools. I'm excluding MST because they are on a block schedule, they have a different curriculum, they have a different way of conducting business, but for the three high schools that have been around a while we need to take a really thorough examination of what we are doing. I think the time is right now to do it given our decreasing numbers and our current demographics.

Mr. Peter Perich, Assistant Principal of Memorial High School, stated I have done the scheduling now for 19 years so that is a lot of time. A couple things you also have to take a look at, first, every school has different programs. At Memorial we have different types of special ed programs. At West they have STEAM, they have ROTC. Central has their programs also. They have a bigger EL population than us. All this will make a difference in how we schedule the kids. MST makes a big difference. Arthur brought that up that they have block scheduling. Each of our schools go at a different time of the day. For instance, Memorial goes block one and block three. Central goes for all three of them and West goes, I believe, block two. That makes it more difficult for us to have schedules that match and mesh together. Some of you are former teachers and know how the days are when Memorial might have an assembly, West or Central might have something the week after. Bell schedules will also go into play, whether or not we can match classes. One of the things the superintendent asked me to take a look at, can we have an AP class and teach it at one school and have other kids go to it or have other things learn from long distance learning. That would be difficult because of the different types of schedules to

have it during the same period all the time. As Mr. A said, there are 270 different courses plus. I can tell you that I registered a student that transferred from Central today. One of the most difficult things was that she had four out of five classes we were not offering this semester. Two of them we didn't offer at all because our numbers were not high enough. Because the teacher that teaches it at Central, their numbers were out of this world. We have some classes like that, like our psychology teacher and our marketing programs are both a lot higher than the other two schools because of the teachers that teach those classes. The subscription for those classes are a lot higher. It is the same thing with Central and West, they have teachers that really recruit their kids and do a nice job and they have more kids in those programs than us.

Committee Member Connors asked can you give us an explanation of what you are really talking about when you are talking about master schedule? Are you talking about what time the bell rings? Are you talking about what courses are offered? Are you talking about what time of day each course is offered? We hear master schedule a lot and it means many different things to different people.

Mr. Perich responded it is all that. Master schedule would be, first of all, when classes are offered. For us it is bell schedule also. It is a little different. One of the things I didn't mention is that Memorial has their advisory period or their homeroom period after period C because most of our kids that go to MST block one come back then. We want them to hear the announcements when they get back to the whole school hears them. Central and West aren't the same. I think Central and West do it after period A. All those things go into the master schedule. Basically it is the classes and when we schedule them.

Committee Member Girard stated I don't know if this is a question for you, Mr. Perich or you, Mr. Adamakos, but I know my intent in the discussion about coordinating the three schools was so that some of the smaller classes that the district offers at all three schools, the AP classes, some of the foreign language classes, whether it is Latin or German, we either run extraordinarily small classes at each school, which I think saps teacher resources or we cancel them because there aren't enough kids at any of the schools. The goal of this was to try to figure out a way to use distance learning or technology or other methods so that we could connect some

of these smaller classes at the three schools. Is it necessary that you bring all three schools entirely into the same schedule in order to accomplish that for what are essentially niche classes, however important they are?

Mr. Adamakos replied part of the problem, Mr. Girard, is the fact that we offer too many classes. When we do that, we create singletons and doubletons, situations that force us to put them in configurations in which they fit. One thing I have come to realize after being an administrator in this district, this is my 31st year, is the fact that I tell the kids the master schedule is like 501 jeans, it shrinks to fit what you ask for. The request file for us to be able to pull that off right now would be difficult because the request files don't match. My biggest fear is MST because what happens is we have students who select courses at MST and we have to make sure that they go to either block one or three so that the other students can fill in the other block. If we all send them at the same time they wouldn't fit. The problem is also that those requests that are other than the MST course have to be placed into periods where the students will get those courses where they have to be placed in the other periods when they are at the other schools. For example, let's say I'm taking an English course that only happens twice a day. I have to make sure that I put that in the middle of the day because the student will have two shots of getting that particular course where the other two schools can't do that because they have to account for travel time and everything else where our guys just walk across the street. They have to put them in other periods outside of where we are going to put them. it gets to be complex. This leads to what I was bringing up earlier, we really need to do a better job of condensing what we are offering right now to provide more opportunities to allow to what you were talking about. Right now it is incredibly difficult to pull it off without the revision, the examination, the paring back, the thinning down of certain things. We offer way too many electives, let's say, in certain subjects where maybe we need to improve the curriculum in some other areas so that they can get those subjects, but a small dosage of it in another thing. I'll give you an example: in English we offer quite a few electives where… Here's a course: fantasy literature was offered for years at West and we never offered it, but we have to offer it now because it is a course that has to be offered to all three schools. It kind of backfired because now we are the only ones who are offering it. The other two schools are not, but we were forced to buy materials to teach that course. Sometimes the decisions that we make force us to make purchases that we really didn't

need, if you know what I'm saying with this. For us, in order to achieve what you are talking about, I think there are two things we have to do. The first is pare down our classes, really do a good, comprehensive thorough revision of what we are offering, what we want kids to know and what we want them to be able to do, number one. The second thing is that we want to be able to replenish the courses that are thinning subscribed by having those options available. When you thin it down now you are going to be creating more sections into more classes. You are not going to have the doubletons and the singletons that we are now offering. We teach 165 different topics. When you add all the levels in it is 270 something. That is way too much for the populations we have. We can get closer to what you are talking about, but we have to do it incrementally because right now it is just too bloated to pull it off. We want to thin it down and maybe we won't have to do any of that stuff because those students will be there in person selecting courses and they will build up the class sizes in those areas.

Committee Member Girard stated thank you, Mr. Adamakos, That does make some sense to me, but one of the things that sticks out about what you said is trouble with the CTE students going from each of the three high schools to MST, which begs the question, how many of those CTE kids, because my focus on this anyway is fair specific to the smaller foreign language classes and the AP classes, how many of those kids who are taking the CTE courses at MST are enrolled in AP or German or Latin or some of the other specialty languages that have small enrollments throughout the district?

Mr. Adamakos replied that's a very good question. The thing is, if anyone wants to go to college now a days the minimum is three or four years consecutive of a foreign language. I don't want to be the person who denies someone from taking German, let's say, if I'm going to the CTE program in order to pull that off. I don't know the specific answer. I would have to look and see all the kids that are taking the particular subjects, but we do place the courses in places so that the kids who are going to our CTE programs are able to take their other schedule with us in either the middle or the end of the day or the beginning of the day.

Committee Member Girard stated I'm gathering you don't know that answer off the top of your head.

Mr. Adamakos replied I would have to look at it. I don't know off the top of my head.

Committee Member Girard asked could you look at that please though all of the high schools and find out how many kids who participate in MST's CTE program are also enrolled in German, Latin or any AP class? It seems to me, not that they aren't good students, but if they are going to the CTE program they are probably not enrolled in AP or German or Latin classes. Maybe some of them are, but I would be willing to bet the vast majority of them are not and if that's the case, I would think that would make the job of coordinating those classes that the board is interested in using technology to connect the schools would make it an easier class.

Mr. Adamakos stated good point, but the problem is, for example, our top level of foreign language is offered third period A so we know that anyone who is taking a CTE would probably be in block three, but at another school they have to offer it in the middle of the day because if any of their CTE students are doing it they have to move it around. It gets to be one of those things where you are constantly shuffling around. You don't want to deny anybody the opportunity of taking the course.

Committee Member Girard stated no, you don't, but I would think that you would have a better idea of whether or not that is going to be a problem by looking at how many students are enrolled both in the CTE program and those other classes so not to belabor the point, Your Honor, but I don't want to lose sight of what the question actually was.

Mayor Gatsas stated if I remember correctly three or four years ago there were over 300 classes.

Mr. Adamakos stated it is up there.

Mayor Gatsas stated there were over 300. I think they went through a paring down year to reduce the number of classes so that we could look at could we do some distance learning, but that has sat on the shelf for a while so if we have added more classes then you folks should look at it and reduce it.

Committee Member Beaudry stated you are absolutely right. That is one of the things that I was going to bring up. It was about six years ago because I was on the C&I Committee when Mr. Adamakos came before us with the principals about our course offerings and it was well over 300. I think we were almost double what other towns around us were offering. I'll give you credit, Mr. Adamakos, you said that you were going to run into problems with all that. I do remember instead of cutting classes because Central had what we used to call boutique classes, they just said we will have all those classes in the other two schools. Instead of cutting them down they offered them into your schools and I remember sports marketing especially where you had an inundated group of students wanting sports marking and we didn't even have any materials for them and it took us half a year to get it.

Mr. Adamakos stated we added 72 courses that year just so we could mirror image what Central and West were offering. That's way too many.

Committee Member Beaudry stated we talk about paring down, but nobody wants to give up their courses. Someone has a little niche they want to keep it. I don't know who is going to make that decision, but somebody is going to have to make the decision.

Mr. Adamakos stated we are there. We just don't have 2,000 students at every school anymore. The fact is that as the number drop and you have so few people asking for classes, instead of having tripletons and four of something, you have one of something so people are in conflict all the time. We don't want people in conflict. We want to have people taking good classes that they pretty much select. That's where we really need to bring it down again and get it back to a realistic number because our populations do not support the courses that we have to offer right now. It is inevitable. We have teachers that will probably be upset with us, but it is what it is, Mr. Beaudry. You just can't go anywhere. We are at the cross roads right now where our best practice through the nation is that we relook at what we are offering and make sure that we offer things that will prepare people for college or the workforce and have assessment that goes along with it that makes sure that they know what they are supposed to know. We haven't done that in quite a while. It is time.

Committee Member Beaudry stated I agree. I have a difference of opinion from the people that I have spoken to as far as the CTE courses. I'm being told that students aren't taking the CTE courses because they want to take the AP classes and their schedule conflict with CTE. A lot of students are not going to the CTE because of that and a lot of it has to do with band. We have talked about band before. If they have to be in band there are a lot of AP classes or CTE classes they can't make because of the way we schedule our band. I don't know how we can take care of those two, but the CTE program is wonderful and their numbers are down. I'm hearing it is because of the scheduling and how kids can get to CTE.

Mr. Adamakos stated one of the biggest reasons why numbers are down in CTE is because our numbers are down at all the schools. I'm 800 students fewer than I used to be ten years ago, 800, so that's a lot. That is a lot of people who have changed. Band is always a tough one. It is last period in the day for us. Sometimes people want us to move it first period, but we also live in a neighborhood and we can't have the band playing out on the field at 7:45 in the morning. We tried having some sports practices before school and that did not go very well. That is why it is at the end of day because that is the only period where we don't have any APs, period H.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I just want to say I think I have about three questions. I guess when I hear the words, and this is just a messaging thing, when I hear the words about trouble and trying to do something with CTE, I don't like the words trouble and CTE in the same sentence just because enrollment is down. I just don't want people to get the wrong impression. We all know what we are talking about. We are not saying anything bad, but when we say the trouble with CTEs… Principal Machado, when I was spending some time there I was trying to figure out why either enrollment was low for CTEs. I got the impression it was parent knowledge or lack thereof when it comes to taking an AP course or being able to get into college with a CTE, which we both know with what we have witnessed that that is not the case. Do you find that that is parents not having the right information to make that decision to do a CTE program or not? I'm starting with the basic questions first.

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Ms. Karen Machado, Principal of the Manchester School of Technology, responded there are a lot of reasons why the enrollment went down. Just like what Mr. Adamakos said, part of it is obviously enrollment period. There is sometimes quite a lack of knowledge from the parents' standpoint because when we are going out and giving information to our students, unless the parents come to our open house, which is twice, we actually have an additional open house just for parents to come on a Saturday, sometimes that message just doesn't get across. It is really hard for us to reach all the parents that we are able to. We would like everybody to know that students can go into CTE programs and take AP and foreign language because some of our programs are extremely high level and students need to have a lot of those courses to be successful in that CTE program.

Committee Member Bergeron asked so they can have it all?

Ms. Machado replied yes. As long as we can schedule them they can have it all. Most of the students come to us as junior and seniors to that is part of the reason why there is a conflict with some of those AP classes.

Committee Member Bergeron stated that makes a lot of sense. I don't know who can answer this question, whether it is you, Mr. A, but you said we have a lot of courses. I know this is a little farfetched, but do we ever track how these courses have been instrumental or successful in our students beyond high school? For example, why would we want to get rid of that class because 60% of the people who take it end up being successful in blank. Do we know information like that so we know not to mess with it?

Mr. Adamakos replied it would be hard to track that, Mr. Bergeron, but I will say this. We have to register all of our courses with the NCAA clearing house because we do have athletes that participate at the college level. When we have courses in our catalogue that are tough to explain, and I'm going to use that terminology because there is no other way to describe it, we are constantly writing back and forth to the NCAA if they will count that or not as an English requirement or will they count it as a math requirement. I know for a while we had an argument about business math, which a lot of our senior like to take a fourth math course, but they don't

want to calc and they want to take business math and the NCAA doesn't like that thing. What I'm trying to tell you is that although we don't track that I do know we have had issues in the past with some of our courses that have been created because outside agencies and the most important one with us, especially if you are an athlete, is the NCAA clearinghouse has not accepted some of them as an alternative to meeting an English requirement and some of our athletes have had a hard time becoming eligible as a result of that. That is something that we can work on with this examination and revision.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I guess my follow up to that question would be, is it safe to say that the NCAA clearinghouse has educators as part of these panels to make these decisions?

Mr. Adamakos replied I don't know the answer to that.

Committee Member Bergeron stated that is making big decisions.

Mr. Adamakos replied I don't know the answer to that.

Committee Member Bergeron stated that's kind of interesting. I just wanted to mention something on distance learning because we have had this conversation several times. It is not that I'm against distance learning. From the little bit that I heard from the students who took it the first time around, which I think it is important to ask them how they feel, but I think maybe perhaps it is environment that it is in from one to the other whether it is a small conference room in one location to another small conference room. I think that is maybe the important thing, the environment it is in at both locations. That is what I was told was the important thing.

Mr. Adamakos stated if I remember correctly, there is really only one school that does distance learning and that's Pinkerton. They do it with the Auburn Village School students who need to take algebra because they don't have an algebra teacher and their recommendation is a smaller environment with six to eight students. To put it in a bigger classroom it would be too distracting to them.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I'm not saying a bigger classroom. I'm just saying keep in mind that environment I guess.

Mr. Adamakos stated the feedback that I got from this thing was that we probably had the best environment when we did that trial run two or three years ago.

Mayor Gatsas stated that's a positive experience. You have to remember that one.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I'm just saying that nobody really asked the students there and there were some drawbacks and they didn't like it. Nobody truly knows why. I hear it was because it was just hard because you have one teacher on the other end and it may sound a little Charlie Brown-ish, but I think it all comes down to equipment. It all comes down to the best equipment, considering the environment and asking students, simple as that. I think it is a definite possibility.

Mr. Adamakos stated we put a minimal amount of money into our operation and the results were very similar. Pinkerton put in $10,000 worth of equipment and they had the same trials and tribulations that we had with the equipment that we spent.

Mayor Gatsas stated no, that equipment was donated. It was $10,000 per school that was donated.

Mr. Adamakos asked for us?

Mayor Gatsas replied for every school, all three schools.

Mr. Adamakos stated the situation was very similar.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I have just been asking the IT folks and when I'm in schools that's where I get some of my info.

These minutes will be approved at the 11/27/17 BOSC meeting.

Committee Member Want stated I know scheduling is very difficult and it is very complex and I appreciate all your guys do, but wouldn't it be simpler to just take one period, and this is from a completely uneducated person on this, but take one period, like first period, and just say that is going to be our distance learning period and then offer it at all three schools and say that's our period. If the kids can take it they can take it. If they can't take it they can't take it. Don't make it something they have to have, but pick a course. We offer certain AP courses more than once a day. Why couldn't we do that, just one period, and say everyone holds first period sacrosanct as far as that distance learning in all three schools?

Mr. Adamakos replied you will agree with me on this that kids who take one AP are more likely to take more than one AP at the same time and the sizes of the classes would be different. The problem with having just one period with one class, it will drive others out if there is a conflict with regards to that. We need to have some flexibility in order to determine which course that was. As a matter of fact, the course we did originally was economics because we had plenty of those so we had a larger pool of people that would want to try that particular course and it was first period.

Committee Member Avard stated a couple of things. First of all, with the paring down that you have talking about just some information about timeframe and how you intend to do this, do you think that you will get this done within the timeframe for this next course catalogue? Do you intend to bring forward a list of suggested courses that you want to cut to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to get the committee's opinion on this? Is this something we are looking at implementing within the next course selection?

Mr. Adamakos asked you want me to be honest about it?

Committee Member Avard replied I always want you to be honest.

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Mr. Adamakos replied if this conversation was taking place in March or February of this year we would say yes, but right now we are at a crunch time where it is going to involve a lot of conversations with a lot of people. I can't see it happening by next year. 2019-2020 is more realistic.

Committee Member Avard stated that's about what I guessed. I figured it was too tight to do it now, but I just wanted to make sure we weren't talking about trying to rush this for this coming school year.

Mr. Adamakos stated we want to do a great job with it, Dr. Avard. To get it done for the spring would be very difficult.

Committee Member Avard stated I would still like to see the conversation involve the Curriculum and Instruction Committee to make sure they are fully aware of what is being recommended to be cut in our classes.

Mr. Adamakos stated yes.

Committee Member Avard stated as far as the long distance learning, we are talking about how much the CTE classes at MST and the varying schedules at the three different high schools will make this difficult for long distance learning, we don't want to ignore the fact that the freshmen and sophomores who don't tend to take the CTE courses also could be involved in long distance learning and we could use some of the periods of the day for long distance learning for the lower grade classes, for freshmen, sophomore classes. We could do some offerings there too. We have eight periods a day that we could fill with long distance learning. Some of them could be for freshmen, sophomores. I just want to throw that in there are you are going through this process. I'm not looking for an answer, but I'm putting it out there for tonight.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I forgot to ask one question. Does Aspen either have a module or is there software involved in this master scheduling and is there some way that we could contribute, help, not help?

Mr. Adamakos replied we schedule the entire school district in Aspen. It takes care of al that stuff.

Committee Member Bergeron stated there are not additional modules that we are not investing in that would be helpful or anything like that?

Mr. Adamakos replied no.

Mayor Gatsas stated Dr. Vargas, special education update.

Dr. Vargas stated I would like to summarize where we are going here with the master schedule. Each one of the schools are unique in its own way. There will be some schools that will be ready that are at a different level and we will be advancing that recommendation. Let me just suggest you heard our colleagues here say that we have been doing what we have been doing since 1980 so this is a sense of urgency here. When I talk to parents and I can explain to them exactly what it is that we offer, let's say the English experience or math with great certainty, it is very difficult and I would urge you to go onto our webpage and put yourself in the position of a parent and try to navigate the number of courses that we have. Children are only 17 years old once. I'm pushing in the direction of a greater sense of urgency, not that I'm rushing anything here, however, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to determine what we want our children to know in terms of the kind of experience that we want them to have in our math curriculum, our science curriculum. There are best practices already in place. If you were to go around and I can give you a list of high schools, you have modelled what a course offering book ought to look like, which is the first step that we have to create. Then from your course offering book you can go and create your master schedule. Right now, unfortunately we don't have it. However, there are schools like West that are already engaged in this conversation as part of reimagining what is possible at West and at each one of our high schools. We will come back to you and give you this information. I just want you to walk with us with a sense of urgency because it is desperately needed. In this district there is a lot of narrative around what is going on and I think I have an obligation to you to make sure that I provide the leadership to get this done. There is

no time to lose here and I just want to make it clear, if you don't want me to rush things I understand. If you want me to take two years I would be more than glad. I work for you, but I don't think that that is the wise path for us to take. Everything that we do we would do it in a responsible way like I have been doing every step or every direction that I have given you is very methodical. It is with the engagement of our teachers, engagement of our parents and our community, but it needs to have a starting point and ending point. I thank you for the level of interest. I also would want you to know, as the principal from Memorial just mentioned, we need to have a conversation also about the various number of levels. For example, when you have a teacher that is offering one English class, but there are four different groups and we call one a level one, a level two, a level three or a level four and that particular teacher has to take four different attendances, we need to revisit that. I have asked each one of our principals to put a committee together, which I will be giving you more information to have that discussion in each one of our schools in terms of what recommendation or suggestion they have. I'm very pleased to tell you that the discussion that I have been having with the school principals have been robust, have been respectful, but I sense that they realize that there is a need to move forward here. I also would be providing you as much information as possible about the steps that we are taking as we move forward on this regard.

Mayor Gatsas stated Dr. Vargas, special education.

Dr. Vargas stated special education I have Amy and Sharon and Sherri if you could come up please. Let me just say that I want to thank Sharon and Amy Allen and Sherri who have been working very hard for us to respond to the urgent need. We have a serious problem and challenge in special education, but we are working very hard to make sure that we come to a joint resolution with you to… I have been told that in the area of special education there are many years that we have been experiencing some challenges. I am pleased to report to you that we are making, in a short period of time that I gave Sharon and Amy and Sherri and Karen, who is part of that team as well, and we are working as a team to make sure that we bring this to a resolution that keeps in mind the needs of our students and the needs of our staff and the families. I'm going to have Sharon give an update from the perspective of the work that we have been doing in the past eight weeks.

Ms. Sharon DeVincent, Executive Director of the Innovation Zone, stated we have been doing a lot of work. We have had multiple meetings with the DOE, Department of Education, the representatives from there. We had a list if things that we needed to accomplish. Part of it had to do with professional development. We have had a training session with the LEAs, which are the representatives at each school that oversee all the special education IEPs in the buildings. We have also done a training on November 7th. We had three concurrent sessions running. One session was on written prior notices, one was on eligibility determination, and the third one was on writing SMART goals or writing appropriate goals in an IEP. We ran those session, we did three different sessions throughout the day so we had a minimum of 90 educators circling through them, which was great. That was a great offering we had. We had people from the state come down and do the training so we know that they were getting the information right from the source, basically. We have had several meetings with them to talk about some fiscal topics. Karen DeFrancis, I can't get into the specifics of it, but we were able to get some good information on how information is calculated, that sort of stuff. I can't speak to that. I won't even try. We are currently working on updating our district manual for the new special education laws that are in place. It is just some minor changes and we were able to submit a draft on that. We basically had nine things we needed to work on. The two big things were timely evaluations. We just received a letter last week that we have met the compliance requirements for that and we are 100% completed with that particular item. Then we had indicator 13, what they call it, for transition planning for students who are transitioning between levels in and out of school. We are 100% compliant in that area as well. The state came in and did some file reviews where they go into buildings and they look at the files. They got feedback from the school saying we wish we could contact directly with you on this and not go through the district, that sort of stuff so we created a contact list and sent that to the state and the state send out their list for their next file review, they are doing one a month, and they have actually been getting them all resolved and all the information before the meetings so it has really sped up that process. There has been a lot of great communication and collaboration throughout the district to address these issues. Out of the 12 items we had, we have had nine that have been completed and addressed and we only have three remaining at this point. Most of those are more meetings and working out a few different small things. It has been good.

Dr. Vargas stated in addition to that we have been working on the preschool. As you know, when I first arrived I did find it curious that you are supposed to place a student even as late as June, that there is not an ending date. We convened a meeting with the State Department and also our preschool administrator, Amy Allen and Sherri who she is going to introduce in a minute who have been working on this to make sure we develop a program design that we can communicate with our parents that is not just one size fits all. In some cases, yes, a child needs to be placed in a classroom setting. There are situations where the child might not have that extensive need and we might be able to provide the support that that child needs in a childcare center or it might be a home when it is appropriate so we don't have a situation, which is almost impossible because then you would have to be creating classrooms as you go throughout the year. We are not there yet, but I would tell you that Amy and Sherri have been providing extraordinary leadership along with the director of early childhood education.

Ms. Amy Allen, Assistant Superintendent, stated I wanted to formally introduce Sherri Nichols. She is the federal projects director. I think we started at the same time at the district office. We are both saying we are new. We can't say that anymore. She has been instrumental in helping out in all areas of special ed, curriculum and professional development. IN addition, we have created a preschool leadership team that will convene their first meeting on December 1st to create that continuum of services to identify them and be able to get that out to our community members about what services we offer at the preschool level.

Dr. Vargas stated thank you so much. Let me just add that on the 27th you will get three candidates for the position of special ed director. We have some excellent candidates that we look forward for you to interview them. Hopefully at the meeting on the 27th you will be receiving that candidate. I just want to say that there are a lot of rumors, that special education has been dismantled. That is not the case. I don't have a problem putting the brutal facts on the table, but I also need your help that when you hear the wrong narrative about your district that you set the record straight and don't be part of it.

Committee Member Van Houten stated at this point, what is our hierarchy of personnel in special ed? You are innovation zone, federal projects coordinator—I don't hear anybody who is special ed in the mix. What is our hierarchy of staff who is overseeing the program?

Dr. Vargas replied what I'm trying to create is a cross functional team, which I have a draft of the organizational chart and I have some personnel issues that I want to talk in non-public, perhaps in the meeting on the 27th, but right now this team, Amy is responsible for the special ed department. Amy is a special educator administrator with certification and also vast experience in this area. I just had a parent who asked me that question and I said yes, because they had been told that we didn't' have anyone with knowledge or experience. That was my comment earlier. What I bring to you as your leader is that I don't believe in silos. For example, I have been dealing with special ed at the meetings because there is a need for me to be involved. By the way, that is in the curriculum audit, the silos throughout the district and territorial. If you are going to be a great district or a great organization you would be flexible and you would be having a situation where each one of us is responsible for the wellbeing of the child regardless of whether that child is special ed, general education or English language learning or whatever. We all own our challenges and we are all part of the solution to this district. Right now, to answer your question, Amy Allen is the person in charge for that division and ultimately the responsibility rests with me and you.

Committee Member Van Houten stated and while I don't have any problem with having that kind of coordinated approach I just don't know who is… For instance, I had a parent at an elementary level telling me that the secondary coordinator was trying to facilitate a placement. I don't get involved in those kinds of things, but I didn't know to whom to refer that person.

Dr. Vargas stated that's interesting that you say that because the coordinator for elementary is still in place. Perhaps the narrative that is going around, which is a personnel issue, that the person might have requested to move to the middle and high school, but that hasn't happened yet. That is precisely, Ms. Van Houten, what I'm saying that we need to work on as a district, that when narratives go on that you even haven't pulled the trigger when people are already saying what happened. Respectfully, I would say to you that I'm trying to create a culture here

of collaboration, a cultural solution, not a culture that is stuck in 1980 where course offering books doesn't offer the clarity that our parents need. That is what I offer to you and that is what I bring to this district.

Committee Member Van Houten stated and again, I get that, I just don't know what the hierarchy is.

Dr. Vargas stated I just explained it. I report to the board. Amy reports to me. Amy is in charge of special education. In the special education department we have approximately 10-12 people. Right now we have two vacancies. Tonight you have one of those positons before you and then we have the director and I just said to you that it would be here on the 27th before you. I don't know what else to say.

Committee Member Van Houten stated beneath that we have coordinators at the elementary, the middle and the secondary or?

Dr. Vargas replied we will have coordinators at both levels and we do have. There have not been any changes those positions.

Committee Member Van Houten stated I guess the organizational chart is something we need to look forward to seeing.

Dr. Vargas stated and the current organization chart, if you look at it, that hasn't changed and that's the one that you have to go by, not by what I said because I'm not supposed to give you an organization chart that doesn't have the approval of the board. Let me repeat, if you would like please go back to the current organizational chart. I think that you can almost plug in who was in charge of special education, that person right now is Amy Allen.

Committee Member Van Houten stated I'll do that. Thank you.

DRAFT

Committee Member Girard stated I will just say this before I ask my question. I'm not sure I care who is in what position. It seems that Dr. Vargas and the team he has assembled have in very short order provided this district that prior personnel were unable to deliver over a period of several months. I think we ought to be applauding the efforts of the staff involved in clearing up these serious issues with the Department of Education, thank them for their good work and look forward to future reports given the remarkable progress that has been made so far. Doctor, my question is about the new Medicaid system that we have. I understand that there has been a lot of training at the buildings. I have heard from a variety of people associated with this that it seems to be educating our staff at all levels so that we are more aware of Medicaid. I think I have even heard that we have discovered that we can bill Medicaid for 160 of our paraprofessional positions, which, given that we have somewhere in the ballpark of 400, is significant. Can you give us an update on the progress that is being made in recovering monies from Medicaid for services we rendered to our students that are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement?

Dr. Vargas replied what I would like to say, I want to thank everyone in the organization because it is a tremendous amount of collaboration on the part of teachers and staff, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, the unions. Everyone has embraced the concept that we should not leave dollars that we desperately need to serve our students unclaimed. I want to thank you and the credit goes to the entire organization and Karen DeFrancis and other who have been working with this. Being in place there has been tremendous buy-in. What I would like to do, I'll give you an update, perhaps in the next meeting to answer your question because I think your question deserves time for this board to see some of the challenges that we are facing and the progress that we are making. I think that you will get a thorough presentation around the progress that we have made in the past eight weeks in this area. I thank the board for supporting this effort. Again, it didn't take much time for you to know that there was a need for this and we did move forward. I believe the vote was unanimous and you deserve extraordinary credit for taking that step. The mayor played an incredible role in making sure that the dollars that are due to us for services that we provide to a population that needs significant support that we make sure it doesn't go unclaimed.

Committee Member Girard stated in as much as I received several complaints from parents and people in the buildings about the preschool program and how it was changed at the beginning of the year would like to congratulate the team including Marissa Nuremberg who I had the experience of meeting outside one of the polling places on election day and had a bit of a chat with her. The parents and the staff members who have follow up and have been very appreciative of the changes that were reserved to restore the program to order and I look forward to your future reports on the progress that you are making there and with the DOE. Finally, I have a question that may appear a bit out of the blue. A lot of your report so far, Doctor, has been about things that are in the works and reports that are to come and things in the future and you seem finally to be getting some traction in a number of areas that you have been working pretty hard on so I hope you will forgive the question but in as much as I believe your contract with the district requires an answer from you by December 31st as to whether or not you would like to renew or extend your contract for the third year and it requires us to approve that extension if you are so inclined, I would like to ask you at the time, and I realize it may be putting you on the spot…

Mayor Gatsas interjected I'm not going to accept your question.

Committee Member Girard stated so much as I see progress here, are you interested in extending your contract with the district for a third year as your contract is currently written?

Dr. Vargas replied the answer is yes, as long as this board wishes me to continue to serve and also this community. The answer is absolutely yes. I would not create a team and bring people around me only to leave them behind. That is not the kind of person that I am.

Committee Member Girard stated that's another reason why I asked the question. Clearly you have some key members in place and other key members who are on the way. Your Honor, I believe the superintendent's contract calls for him to be evaluated prior to the board voting to extend that contract. Would it be in order to ask the vice chairman, who I believe has the authority to direct that evaluation to be done, to have board members conduct their evaluation prior to the November 27th meetings so we can approve Dr. Vargas's desire of serving this

district for another year, which, frankly, I'm extraordinarily grateful year given what the last year has been like.

Mayor Gatsas stated that is certainly up to the vice chairman.

Committee Member Girard stated I'll defer to the vice chairman.

Committee Member Beaudry stated I will take care of that tomorrow. I'll have the clerk send out the evaluations, have them sent back within a week and we will compile the evaluations. I will meet with the superintendent over the evaluation and those will be confidential until we meet with the superintendent and talk about the evaluation. We are not going to do what we did last time and have the evaluations put out there before the superintendent even know what they said. It will be a little different, but the evaluations will be out. I want all members to sign their evaluations. There are not going to be any anonymous evaluations this year. If you have comments to make, you put your name on it. I will have that done tomorrow.

Committee Member Freeman stated Dr. Vargas, I don't even know where to start with special ed. I'm absolutely awestruck at how rapid and how quickly you all managed to assemble this and really tap into the State Department of Education and just pull this all together. I stand in awe of you. I really do. I had a couple of questions about the preschool services. You had mentioned that sometimes a placement will occur between May and June and that at that point it is not in anyone's best interest to put a child in early intervention that late in the school year so you would be tapping into having more home based services. Will that be going through the district or will that be going through a visiting nurse association?

Dr. Vargas replied we have a team right now that is working to explore the possibilities. We want to make sure that when you are serving the most vulnerable population that you take that into account. Again, when we move forward we move in a way that is responsible taking in account the interest of each child, as you know. Each one of those students is going to have an individualized education plan.

Committee Member Freeman stated the reason why I ask that, in my younger years as an occupational therapist I did work at a visiting nurse association and I did do pediatrics so I had an opportunity to do that so I was just curious if we would be pulling our own support staff out or would we be going through a visiting nurse association with therapists who have a lot of experience with this.

Dr. Vargas stated again, that's a good question. No decisions have been made, but the coordinator of early childhood education along with Amy and others are assembling a team and we are consulting and examining various models. This is something that is going to come before this board in which we would describe in one or two pages what the programs' services that are available to each parent given the unique needs of particular students. Again, we will be coming to this board and to you with as much information as possible as we move forward. Perhaps we would be able to give you an update on some of the things that we are looking into, which might or might not include what you are suggesting.

Committee Member Freeman stated one last question, I am looking at your numbers for the current preschool enrollment and they are not identified. The numbers are not broken up into identified as opposed to non-identified. Could you get me those numbers? I'm very curious. I know you have 135 referrals in the queue right now. I would also be curious to see the numbers that come out with that, the kids who have been identified as opposed to not identified, if they have been placed in early intervention or if they have been placed in regular preschool. I'm very encouraged by this, Dr. Vargas and your entire time. I know when we come back next year the Special Committee on Special Education will be offering as much as we can to help you with this and continue on the right track with it. Again, thank you very much.

Ms. Allen stated Ms. Freeman, I will send those numbers to you and the entire board by the end of this week just with the update, where we are at with what students are identified and which ones are considered side by side, early childhood, and where we are with those 135 referrals.

DRAFT

Committee Member Desrochers stated I have a question regarding special ed. Given the shortages of paraprofessionals that we have had, do you have any data about how many students are possibly out of compliance with the IEPs at this point in time? Is that something that you can provide to us? I know at the beginning of the year when I was doing visits to schools there were several concerns raised about students not getting the services that they needed. Do you have any data about that at this point?

Dr. Vargas relied we do and thank you for your question because that would allow me explain what is going on with our paras. We are meeting school by school because that is how you find out the needs of each child and we are discovering things along with the Medicaid provider, that we have some work to do. We have reported that to the state because the way that we are assigning paras in some cases cannot be defended. Let me give you an example. We have a classroom with nine children with special needs. Each child has an individual para assigned to them. In order to meet the IEPs of those nine students you would have to put nine paraprofessionals right in that classroom. Anyone with a special education background would tell you that that is not the appropriate situation. We are looking to make sure the students, particularly in a situation that we have difficulty finding paras. Some of you also have raised the issue that we need to pay them better. We better make sure that to accomplish the number of paras that we need, that we don't make the kind of mistakes that we are just writing in the IEP. That is one the challenges that we found with Medicaid, that in the IEP it says a full time para. The problem with that is that in an IEP, an individualized education plan, it has to say this child needs a paraprofessional to perform certain services, not just a para, because if the paraprofessional reads the IEP he or she won't know what she is there for. What is she going to do for that child? We are looking at that, but we are looking on a multi-front. We are just looking from the perspective of meeting the compliance, which is the easy part. Your IEP says full time para then you put it in there, but we need to begin to examine practices. Again, we are working very closely with our paraprofessionals union. We need to give them more training, which we have been offering to them, before we hire them, actually, or before we place them in the classroom. There are a lot of issues that we are looking into around the paraprofessionals, one of which is compliance.

Committee Member Desrochers asked is there a timeframe when we can expect to get some feedback from you?

Dr. Vargas replied absolutely. We have a lot of information right now. We want to make sure that we have that internal discussion with our principals, teachers and everyone around what is it that we need. For example, right now we have 172 paraprofessionals who are providing special ed services and we cannot collect a penny because of the way the IEP is written. Again, the unions, the paraprofessional union and everybody has been cognizant that we need to do a better job. I'm sorry to deviate a little bit, but for example, one of the points that we were making is how can Nashua get $700,000 more than Manchester for Medicaid reimbursement? We are finding the reason why. The reason why sometimes, which is fine, no one did it intentionally or there is no ill thinking here. People were doing the best they could, but that is an area that we need to be more specific, not just for paraprofessionals, but for any services that we put in the IEP. We better provide the reasons why we believe that a child needs specific services. The service provider needs those reasons.

Committee Member Bergeron stated Dr. V, I had a couple of questions from something you had asked us to do earlier. You asked us to go to the course offerings and do what? You said act as a parent.

Dr. Vargas responded imagine that you are parent of a ninth grader and you are coming in for the first time.

Mayor Gatsas stated we are on a different subject.

Committee Member Bergeron stated I'm going back because I wanted to ask you back then, but I couldn't because we moved along too quickly. You are asking us to go there, act like a parent and do what? I just want to be specific.

Dr. Vargas responded see what kind of clarity you get.

Committee Member Bergeron asked what kind of clarity I get in terms of choosing?

Dr. Vargas replied if you were sitting with your child and you want to explain here's what Memorial offers for ninth grade, tenth grade, eleventh grade and for twelfth graders.

Committee Member Bergeron asked what were the committees for that were set up in the schools? You said there were committees set up in the schools. I didn't quite keep up with that one.

Dr. Vargas responded we have two committees, two groups, carrying on this conversation. It is a very general charge: I want them to, pretty much what you are doing with the course offering books, and we have given them some guidance about what high schools are out there that have excellent course offering books. They will have a discussion. The other group is internally at each of the buildings because we have two buildings already that are having this discussion. One is MST that doesn't do leveling anymore and also West in the proposal, they promised that they are going to examine that, whether that is the best practice for kids. I asked the two other high schools to convene a committee internally in their own building and begin to have that conversation. In six weeks they are going to give you an update and they are going to be reporting to me, more or less, on where they are with their discussion.

Committee Member Bergeron stated basically what they are doing is trying to figure out what is relevant and what's not in terms of course offerings.

Dr. Vargas replied I wish that one of the principals was here. What kind of experience do we offer to our students? For example, that has a minimal floor, if you will, or skillset and the experience so if you are a parent, regardless of whether your child is taking AP or non-AP or if you are a college reading a transcript you know what that course means and what kind of experience is the student supposed to get and what kind of skillset they are able to acquire throughout the course.

DRAFT

Committee Member Bergeron stated I'm certainly glad you are doing that because of the distinctive honor we have gotten over the past couple of years over the PSAT we have recognized students that perhaps were qualified in certain areas that they hadn't considered, either AP courses or whatnot. I imagine that changes the thinking a little bit because you have some folks who weren't typically an AP student or whatnot and all of a sudden the whole trajectory is changing. I imagine that has an effect on that.

Mayor Gatsas stated the legal expenses, Dr. Vargas.

Dr. Vargas asked Karen, will you come and help us with the expenses since you are the one who normally writes the check?

Ms. Karen DeFrancis, Business Administrator, stated on page 32 we have a history of our legal expense for the past six years, full years, and then we also have it through September 30th of this year. You can see that we have separated that into the personnel line, special education and then all other legal so that would be any type of contract negotiations or reviewing of contracts, things of that nature. Then we have taken those numbers and also separated it by attorney. In looking at year to date right now, we are at just over $48,000. If we were to annualize that, take that number, divide it by three months and then annualize it, we would come out to about $195,000. Our budget is $185,000 so as of right now we are close to being on target for a budget. This does not include any settlements. This is just the legal fees. It also does not include our third party administrator's which include Frasier and CCMSI, which is our worker's comp. Those amounts we pay to the City Solicitor's Office to help with our risk management.

Committee Member Beaudry stated Karen, just so I can get it clear on this sheet, if you look at the percentages that are beside the numbers, is that the same time frame as we are today? I'll just go with the top on, personnel. This budget we are at 16% at $7,550. In FY17 we were $52,712 at 19%. Is that the same time period we are talking about or is that the full year for FY17?

Ms. DeFrancis replied it is basically just taking what we have paid to date in FY18. Out of the $48,000 we have spent on personnel $7,550. That $7,550 represents 16% of the total, but the total to date, which is just the three months. For the other six years it would be the entire amount for that year. If you look at FY17, the total amount in legal fees was $280,000, the personnel was $52,000 of that, which represents 19% of the total.

Committee Member Beaudry stated so we are already at 16%. We are at 16% of what we have spent right now, is that what you are saying?

Ms. DeFrancis replied the personnel line represents 16% of the total we have spent to date. We have spent $48,000 for July, August and September. That $48,000 is broken up between personnel, special education and all other legal. Right now personnel represents 16% of that $48,000. That can change. If the total expenditures at year end are $200,000 and the personnel is $200,000 of that, that number would be 100% of the total.

Mayor Gatsas stated Karen, I think I asked for this analysis, but what I specifically asked for is what did we spend in legal fees over the two issues that we had back in October and I don't see that here. What was actually spent in legal fees on the two issues we had?

Ms. DeFrancis replied I believe the two issues you were talking about were probably through McDonough and O'Shaughnessy.

Mayor Gatsas stated I'm not too sure. That happened in October, not in September.

Ms. DeFrancis stated as of right now we don't have any October bills.

Mayor Gatsas asked because they haven't been sent to you? I know we have asked for legal opinions.

Ms. DeFrancis responded because they bill on a monthly basis. I have not seen a bill. I have not received anything for October. These are just invoices we have received.

Mayor Gatsas stated I've never heard of a lawyer that by the 15th of the following month they don't send you a bill. I find that almost impossible to believe.

Dr. Vargas stated we could provide that.

Mayor Gatsas stated that was the question I had, what did we spend in legal fees on the two issues that we had, the Girard issue and the Tessier issue. What did we spend in legal fees?

Ms. DeFrancis replied I don't have that information.

Mayor Gatsas stated that was the question I asked. Maybe we can get that for the next meeting.

Ms. DeFrancis stated I will.

Mayor Gatsas stated what we actually spent in legal fees for those two issues.

Dr. Vargas stated that concludes me report.

Committee Member Avard stated Karen, when you had your projection for legal fees for this year and you said they were right on target for how much we had budgeted, did you include that we are going to be negotiating with at least three, possibly four bargaining units this year? Was that considered?

Ms. DeFrancis replied no. Right now that is just looking at what we have paid to date and annualizing that. Again, it could change.

Committee Member Avard stated but when you originally budgeted for that number, did you include that in your calculation that we are going to have at least three to negotiate with, and again, possibly four depending on how fact finding goes?

DRAFT

Ms. DeFrancis replied I would have to look at that. I know that we worked with Drummond Woodsum. They were the ones who actually recommended the $185,000, but I would have to look and see it that included negotiations or not.

Committee Member Avard stated that can be a big chunk. In the past I have been doing it and I don't know if I'll be doing it in the future, but I have been trying to minimize the amount used. That is going to be a big chunk with four groups to negotiate with.

Mayor Gatsas asked how did they possibly give you a number of $195,000 when over the last three years the average has been over $250,000?

Dr. Vargas replied the basis for that is that they assume that we are going to hire a full time lawyer. We have several candidates who are going to be advanced to you. I'm going to be putting a committee together to get through the initial interview. That was the reason behind. If we have an in-house lawyer, a lot of those questions that go to them could go to that individual.

Committee Member Bergeron stated Karen, I have a question. It seems like in the percentages here, in the data, I guess I'll ask, one case can actually skew the data. It is not like I should be looking for any trends here.

Ms. DeFrancis stated we did put that there just to see if there was any possible trending, but yes, you are absolutely right.

Committee Member Bergeron stated so don't read into it too much.

Dr. Vargas stated I think that concludes my report.

DRAFT

20. Board of School Committee Members' Communications.

Committee Member Avard stated it is a request for the next meeting. I would like to ask for our next meeting that the administration be prepared or get some information for us. I would like to know about the surrounding district and what they pay their substitute teachers and what the requirements to be a substitute teachers are, whether they have the two years of college education requirement like we have and how much they are paying them. Let's have a discussion about our substitute line at our next meeting if we could please.

Committee Member Connors stated I had a small request as well. When you were talking earlier about science standards, you and I have talked quite a bit about educating the board. On the board goals we also talked about a math curriculum. I have had a couple math teachers contact me and say what are you talking about, we have a curriculum. Would be it possible to have somebody come forward and dissect things and explain to everyone the difference between curriculum, standards and programs?

Dr. Vargas replied we could do that, certainly.

Committee Member Connors stated I think those terms get crossed a lot and it is hard to follow and understand.

Dr. Vargas stated we had a discussion about that today and the group has been great. As part of the work that you requested us to do I had a meeting and that is the kind of thing that we need to unpack and clarify internally and externally. It is not just for the board. I see a need throughout the organization to unpack it.

DRAFT

Committee Member Girard stated I just wanted to send a quick shout-out to the Central boys' soccer team who lost a hard fought game to Bedford in the state championship, Your Honor. It was a very worthy effort and having played the game for as many years as I did I thought they should be recognized.

24. Personnel Report.

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Erin McLaughlin	Reading Supervisor	Weston	$70,403
Christine Bouchard	Teacher - Elementary	Beech	$67,423
Mona Naccach	Teacher - Elementary	Green Acres	$67,423
Colleen Fehl	Teacher - Elementary	Green Acres	$55,130
Linda Whitmore	Teacher - Elementary	Gossler Park	$46,190

NOMINATIONS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Glen Connell	Teacher - Special Needs EBD	Beech / Webster	$48,425 / $37,205.31
Ehrin Kelly	Teacher - Special Needs EBD	Jewett / Green Acres	$41,720 / $29,273.50

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Maureen Hamel	Administrative Assistant II	Hillside	$17.62
Katherine Temple	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Green Acres	$12.19
Jill Connors	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Webster	$11.77
Madison Waters	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	McLaughlin	$11.77
Catherine Downing	Food Service Worker I	Gossler	$11.03

NOMINATIONS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Diana Peabody	Youth Specialist	Adult Ed	$16.00
Kerri Haerinck	Certified Instructor	Wilson	$15.50
Kim Roraback	Certified Instructor	Jewett	$15.50
Sandra Butler	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Webster	$11.77
Samantha Charland	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Northwest	$11.77
Devan Horn	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Hallsville	$11.77

DRAFT

Ronya Monroe	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	McDonough	$11.77
Jeffrey Pelletier	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Northwest	$11.77
Cassandra Raymond	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	McLaughlin	$11.77
Aliaa Saleh	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Jewett	$11.77
Brittany Seiger	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Jewett	$11.77
Georgia Spangler	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	McDonough	$11.77
Kristin Wells	Paraprofessional - Special Needs	Smyth Road	$11.77

TRANSFERS: CERTIFIED STAFF		**To**	**From**
Julie-anne Ackroyd	Coordinator - Special Needs, Elementary	Administration	Administration

*On motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Avard**, it was voted to approve the personnel report.*

29. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member Van Houten stated there has been a lot of conversation among educators and those of us in the district about Senate Bill 193. It is coming to committee tomorrow. They have postponed so I'm not sure what will happen and there is a potential for some amendment. For those who are not familiar with it, it is essentially a voucher bill, education savings account bill. From my perspective it does have a potential to have major impact on public education. I think that impact could be very negative. It could impact us financially. It could impact us in terms of have and have-nots within in our schools. Again, some of this is going to be worked out tomorrow. It is not all etched in stone as some people believe it to be. I'll be happy to answer questions, but my point now is that I do intend to be at the hearing and I have been following this and the hearings all summer, despite the fact that I am not a member of this committee. It would not be a timely request to ask Dr. Vargas to write a letter to deal with the issue, but I will be there and I would be willing to testify. My point is simply, if it is the will of the board to bring forward some kind of a consensus from this group to specify our feelings about SB193, I would be more than willing to do that, bearing in mind of course that a full vote will come to the House probably sometime in January once the session begins. My suggestion would be given that the

impact this might have on public education that we encourage the Education Committee vote it ITL, inexpedient to legislate SB193. I don't know if I have any support for that, but that is my recommendation and I would be glad to carry that and convey that to the committee in testimony tomorrow.

Committee Member Van Houten *moved to allow Committee Member Van Houten to testify against SB193 on behalf of the Board of School Committee. The motion was duly seconded by* ***Committee Member Connors****.*

Committee Member Girard stated I think it would be improper at best for us to weigh in on legislation that hasn't been finalized yet and I think the last time this board weighed in on Senate Bill 193 it weighed in having been misinformed by its opponents and after Commissioner Edelblut spoke to many members of the board, I forget if it was during his tour or whatnot, I had a change of heart because they realized that the information they had been provided about the bill was wrong. Rather than us weighing in on a bill that hasn't been completed yet and won't go to the House floor until January, why don't we see what the final piece of legislation looks like, have it delivered to us in advance of any votes so that we can read it, get our questions answered and then we can discuss it intelligently, unless of course we want to vote on something we haven't seen yet, which never really works out terribly well.

Committee Member Beaudry stated I have a little different spin on that. We have done it in the past. I think Dr. Vargas should look at the bill. The bill is readily available and make the recommendations on behalf of the district of what can hurt the district in that piece of legislation. It is in committee. You don't want the bill to come out of committee ought to pass because it is going to be harder to defeat something once it gets to the full board. Your work is usually done in committee assignments. I would have the superintendent look at the bill and write something up and submit it to the chairman of the committee with the concerns that the district has with the drafting of that bill.

Committee Member Van Houten stated just to clarify, I'm not talking about responding to a specific bill or specific language at this point, simply to give our general censuses if there is one about the gist of the bill, the gist of using public money for non-public entities in education, the idea of the financial implications of this, the idea of the implications for education in a different format for our young people. I submit it to you in that sense, not that there is a final bill. I think at the point at which we are ready to vote at the House of Representative then a formal letter might be forthcoming and put out to all the members. I also encourage the individual members here on the board to make their feelings known to those members of the education committee tomorrow. Again, it is short notice. I will be there. I will be testifying that I believe we should ITL bill, that I believe it is not good for public education and that public education is good for everybody.

Committee Member Freeman stated I have a real uncomfortable feeling about asking anyone to support legislation if not everyone sitting on this board has had an opportunity to peruse it and vet it. It is a very complicated issue and right now there is much talk about more amendments being added to it as well as the bill being completely thrown out and restructured. I don't believe in a lot of ways that this is the appropriate forum or time to bring up a bill that has not even gone through committee. There is so much infighting on the Education Committee at the State House around this bill I think it would be presumptive and potentially damaging to us to even take a stance on this, given that if it is the wish of the board to appoint a representative to speak against this bill I would ask Dr. Vargas to do it as opposed to a legislator or a member of this committee. Given that, I would oppose anything that would appoint anyone on this committee to go and speak in front of the State Board of Education, whether it is in opposition or if it is to approve a bill.

Committee Member Girard stated again, now we are going from bad to worse. We don't even want to talk about the language of the bill. We want to talk about the gist of the bill, which has been characterized as taking money from public schools and giving it to private, when that is not at all what the bill does. In fact, this body not too long ago authorized the superintendent to approach neighboring towns and school districts in an attempt to start marketing many of our magnate programs here in the city to students in surrounding towns. The way this bill is written,

if he is successful in those efforts the money that is being talked about here would follow that child from Bedford, Goffstown, wherever they come from, here to our School District and could be a net plus to us. This is a lot of the usual scare tactic. What is even worse is we don't even have a bill. This bill, by the way, has been in discussion for weeks and it comes up now, tonight. I asked this board once in two years to support legislation and it had to be tabled until everybody got a chance to read the bill and it was pending before a normal committee, which is fine, I didn't have a problem with that, but why are we going to apply a different standard to what was a simple, straightforward bill on parental rights to this which is a very complicated bill which could actually open up a lot of opportunities for this district. We don't even know what we are voting to say other than oh well, using public monies for private schools is bad, which is a significant misrepresentation of what this bill has always been intended to do.

Committee Member Beaudry stated I would like to put an amendment on this motion to allow the superintendent to look at the bill and make a decision whether he wants to put something in writing to protect the district or how that bill is going to affect the district. To just say we oppose the bill without seeing it, I do have to agree we have been arguing about this quite some time that we are passing things without looking at it first.

Mayor Gatsas stated but seeing the bill has nothing to do with it because of the amendments that could be flying around up there tomorrow. He either needs to go up and sit through that whole hearing to see the amendments that are before him before he takes a position. Having him look at the bill tonight, read it and give us your opinion for tomorrow is not how it works.

Committee Member Girard asked so why don't we wait until we have a bill that we can actually look at?

Committee Member Girard *requested a roll call vote on the motion to allow Committee Member Van Houten to testify against SB193 on behalf of the Board of School Committee. Committee Members Girard, Terrio, Beaudry, Avard, Ambrogi, Langton, Georges, Freeman, and Mayor Gatsas voted nay. Committee Members Connors, Desrochers, Van Houten, Want, Bergeron, and Tessier voted yea. The motion failed.*

These minutes will be approved at the 11/27/17 BOSC meeting.

TABLED ITEMS
(A motion is in order to remove any item from the table.)

25. Report of the Committee of Coordination/Administration

To approve School District policy Administration 208: Residency Requirement.
(Note: Tabled 3/28/2016.)

This item remained on the table.

26. Report of the Subcommittee on Finance

To receive and file the RFP for Special Education Behavior Intervention Services.
(Note: Tabled 8/8/2016.)

This item remained on the table.

27. Transgender healthcare benefits.
(Note: Tabled 4/10/2017.)

This item remained on the table.

28. Minutes of the October 10, 2017 Board of School Committee meeting.
(Note: Tabled 10/23/17.)

Committee Member Beaudry stated per Matt Upton's legal opinion I would like to pull off number 28 and move to have the minutes enrolled.

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*On motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Girard**, it was voted to remove this item from the table.*

Committee Member Van Houten stated Your Honor, there is a non-public element there. Should we not discuss that in non-public?

Committee Member Beaudry asked we have already had a legal opinion that the board minutes can be approved. That was the legal opinion. I move to approve the minutes.

*On motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Girard**, it was voted to approve the minutes. The motion carried with Committee Members Bergeron and Van Houten voting in opposition.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Georges**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Langton**, it was voted to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II(a, b and c) for the dismissal, promotion or compensation or any public employee; the hiring of any person as a public employee; or for matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person.*

Committee Members Ambrogi, Langton, Georges, Want, Bergeron, Tessier, Terrio, Connors, Beaudry, Avard, Desrochers, Van Houten and Mayor Gatsas voted yea on the motion. Committee Members Freeman and Girard voted nay. The motion carried.

*On motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Terrio**, it was voted to return to the regular session of the meeting.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Terrio**, it was voted to seal the minutes of the non-public session.*

These minutes will be approved at the 11/27/17 BOSC meeting.

*On motion of **Committee Member Terrio**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Beaudry**, it was voted to allow Dr. Vargas and Don Menswar the ability to go out and find a hockey coach by Friday and do a phone poll with the School Board. The motion carried with Committee Members Bergeron, Van Houten and Tessier voting in opposition.*

***Mayor Gatsas** recessed the meeting to meet with legal counsel under the under the provisions of RSA 91-A:2(b).*

***Mayor Gatsas** called the meeting back to order.*

ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business, on motion of **Committee Member Beaudry**, duly seconded by **Committee Member Ambrogi**, it was voted to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.*

A True Record. Attest.

Board of School Committee Clerk

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These minutes will be approved at the 11/27/17 BOSC meeting.