

JOINT GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 30, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium-City Hall

-MINUTES-**CITY COUNCIL:****Present: President, Councilor Paul Lundberg; Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Ken Hecht; Councilor Jen Holmgren; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor James O'Hara****Absent: Councilors Cox, LeBlanc and Nolan****SCHOOL COMMITTEE:****Present: Chair, Jonathan Pope; Vice Chair Kathy Clancy; Melissa Teixeira; Michelle Sweet; Joel Favazza; Anthony Gross****Absent: Mayor Sefatia Theken****REPRESENTING CITY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. & BOARD OF HEALTH:****Present: Karin Carroll; Dr. Richard Sagall; Claudia Schweitzer****Also Present: Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent; Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent; Gary Fritsch, School Dept. CFO**

Council President Paul Lundberg announced that this meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law.

1. Call to Order of the School Committee:

School Committee Chair, Jonathan Pope opened the special joint meeting of the School Committee with the City Council at 7:02 p.m.

2. Call to Order of the City Council:

Council President Paul Lundberg opened the special joint meeting of the City Council with the School Committee at 7:02 p.m.

3. Flag Salute & Moment of Silence: The Moment of Silence was dedicated in memory of Betty Rich a former city and school employee who recently passed away.

4. Recognitions

Mr. Pope recognized the opening of the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute this morning at its new headquarters on Main Street which he indicated bodes well for the community.

5. Comments from the Council President - Councilor Paul Lundberg

Council President Lundberg explained that the City Charter suggests that the Council and School Committee get together periodically, which they try to do twice a year. One of the events leading to this meeting, he pointed out, was the passage by the Council of the Zoning Ordinance related to Adult Use Recreational Marijuana establishments; as the product is legal now in a retail setting in the community. Prior to the legislative action by the Council, the Mayor formed an Ad Hoc Committee whom he indicated did a great job in identifying what the city had to do along with Zoning and Public Safety aspects addressing issues surrounding health and safety. He reported that during one of the P&D Committee discussions, Councilors Holmgren and Gilman suggested that there be a joint meeting adding the Board of Health to bring them all up to speed on the issues identified by the Ad Hoc Committee as areas of concern. **Council President Lundberg** recognized Councilor Gilman and School Committee members Kathy Clancy and Melissa Teixeira as members of the Ad Hoc Committee.

6. Comments from the School Committee Chairperson - Jonathan Pope

Mr. Pope expressed that communication is what makes things work well and looked forward to this forum.

7. Joint City Council/School Committee with members of the Board of Health:

I. Social and Health Impacts and issues of Legal Recreational Marijuana in our Community - Presentation by Karin Carroll, Gloucester's Public Health Director (documentation previously placed on file with City Council):

- Brief review of certain Marijuana Baseline Health Study Report of Findings June 2018 from the Mass. Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health such as 21% of adults used marijuana in past 30 days -- highest use is between ages 18 to 25 years. There are very few marijuana-related ER admissions compared to other substances at this juncture; 34% adults surveyed self-reported driving under the influence of marijuana; 71% of users are white; there are 375 fatal crashes/yr. in Mass. -- alcohol-related deaths are decreasing while marijuana-related deaths are increasing.

Tony Gross, School Committee questioned the statistics of fatalities in crashes. **Ms. Carroll** clarified that the number of fatal crashes came from statistics by the Mass. Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health (noted above) saying that the number of fatalities may or may not have been attributable to the use of marijuana or alcohol. She pointed out that there had been a decline in marijuana-related crashes previously, but of late there has been a spike which she indicated was an area of concern.

- A brief review of previously instituted Zoning Ordinance amendments about one month ago related to locations for adult recreational marijuana establishments;
- Board of Health (BOH) regulations to be instituted were touched on as being developed to allow for oversight of food products, waste, youth access and hours of operation -- regulations similar to tobacco and alcohol;
- Health Director and Police Chief will serve on the city's Marijuana Establishment Host Community Agreement Committee;
- Recommendations for Health & Safety were touched on encompassing matters such as: the training of Drug recognition experts on the police force (10 officers to be trained ASAP); Additional training for SRO; Public Consumption Laws; enforcement of illegal buys for minors (compliance checks) Emerging Products (awaiting training guidance from MPTC -- Police guiding agency); negative effects on youth driving under the influence of marijuana--possible partnering with local driving schools; community complaints; industrial accidents. Associated costs, where known, were also briefly touched on.
- Pictures of several types of marijuana edibles were shown, "CBD" products;
- Neighbor complaints and management of same were touched on;
- Statistics of Lifetime Substance Use for Massachusetts High School Students & GHS Students were briefly touched on;
- A chart of Public Health recommendations and cost source was briefly reviewed covering advertising (restricted by the Cannabis Control Commission "CCC"), limit to time and place; food waste inspections; housing/second-hand smoke issues; workplace drug policy for COG; social norming campaign--evidence based strategies similar to alcohol and tobacco strategies; cessation/recovery services; robust compliance check program similar to tobacco; additional research and surveillance;
- School/Youth Recommendations and Cost (Source) was touched on based on the city's Marijuana Task Force suggestions such as local program separate from law enforcement be offered to youth based on state program. It was noted that the focus will be placed on positive youth development and "protective factors" such as academic success, social connection, family dinners, parental monitoring, engagement with school environment.

Councilor Holmgren asked about social norming. **Ms. Carroll** noted that it is reminding that 84% of students don't smoke, as an example. They know from research social norming influence youths' perception of substances. She added as a strategy, it is only effective in the long-term which is expensive. One advertisement won't change the perception, she pointed out.

Councilor Gilman clarified that it was she and Kathy Clancy thought it was a good idea for the joint meeting saying that she was on the Marijuana Task Force, an Ad Hoc Committee, and that Ms. Clancy is on the Program Subcommittee for the School Committee. She expressed concern about the city's students and how they're being educated and use of funds through Host Agreements to ensure they're giving the schools adequate monies to do the

best type of education possible, and what they need to best educate students and their parents, she added. She asked if there was data since the legalization of marijuana at the end of 2016 if use has increased over time.

Tracy Nicolosi, Vice President of Addiction Services with Lahey Health, lauded the city for its comprehensive step-by-step analysis of the issues surrounding the legalization of marijuana, and for staying ahead of the issues. She advised she spent a year working for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) in Boston in preparation for the legalization roll out. The unit at BSAS dealing with youth services recognized what was becoming prevalent was parents “normalizing” the use of marijuana in their children who say that, “at least they’re not using heroin.” She suggested intervention with parents on what this means as to their perceptions about marijuana and how it relates to the health of their children, to treat marijuana as they do their prescription drugs.

Mr. Gross noted that between 2005 and 2013 lifetime use of marijuana percentage of students in Massachusetts was an average of 43%, similar to today.

Councilor Holmgren asked how much of the tax money that will come in as revenue to the city from retail marijuana establishments will go towards the proposed Health Department programs. She indicated that it looked to be a “significant” amount of money they’ll need to spend, and wanted to ensure those funds were available to them. **Council President Lundberg** explained the revenue stream; that on the sale of marijuana there is a 17% state sales tax, on any marijuana product sold in the city; 3% in state revenue is returned to the city which goes to the General Fund. The city will negotiate a Host Agreement with each marijuana establishment that will pay the city up to a 3% fee that’s earmarked for enforcement and education. That is where the money will come from for the city’s education, outreach, and enforcement, he explained.

At **Councilor O’Hara’s** request Ms. Nicolosi’s reviewed her professional resume recounting that she was a licensed mental health counselor for 17 ½ years treating with the opioid dependent population. She then spent several years working for managed care companies and then for the state Opioid Treatment Authority, and now works for Lahey Health as Vice President of Addiction Treatment Services. **Councilor O’Hara** asked that based on Ms. Nicolosi’s experience will the legalization of marijuana have an increased or decreased impact on youth. **Ms. Nicolosi** suggested that the state of Massachusetts has been very planned and purposeful in their roll out. She suggested if the product would be appealing to children and is there a way to talk to parents to de-normalize how marijuana is used. When youth need in-patient treatment marijuana is not usually involved. She expressed concern for synthetic marijuana and its use (K2 or Spice). She expressed a comfort level with the controls the state has put in place and that she was more concerned about synthetic marijuana. In terms of prevention, early intervention is very important with children as young as six years old.

Claudia Schweitzer, Board of Health member, expressed that compliance checks will be very important which keeps shopkeepers “on their toes.” She urged funding for that program to ensure compliance and keep marijuana out of the hands of the city’s youth.

Councilor Gilman noted she and Karin Carroll attended a Happy Valley (Medical and Adult Use Marijuana city permitted Cultivation Center and retail outlets) forum. She noted learning that the THC-laced products are more prevalent in the medicinal marijuana products rather than recreational marijuana. **Ms. Carroll** noted many of the products are the same, but that a counselor at the medical marijuana facility guides their clients in their choices, and suggested it would depend on the product. She asked what the current school district education program is for marijuana, alcohol and nicotine.

Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent, touched on general instruction from teachers in elementary school about healthy bodies and habits not specific to drug and alcohol use and provided the following overview: Drug education starts in earnest in middle school. Two years ago with the help of the Health Department and Lahey Health, the District adopted the Botvin Life Skills Curriculum. In seventh grade the curriculum focuses in depth on marijuana specifically, myths and realities, brain changes under the influence, legal issues. In ninth grade there is a return to marijuana use with the Botvin Life Skills Curriculum and additional resources. A key component in that year is students conducting family surveys by talking to their parents on parents’ perceptions on marijuana use. He noted a statistic that over 50% of adults believe that there are little to no significant consequences to marijuana use. It is one of those moments where the parents are learning from their students, he pointed out. He reviewed that the partnership brings speakers to the schools on a variety of substance issues. They’re trying to educate the students and parents that a teen brain is very different from an adult brain and that they have to treat a developing brain very differently -- the speaker series is helpful for conveying such information, he advised. He added parents that attend these presentations come away with a deeper understanding of the issues. He mentioned the importance of social norming for parents, not just students when speaking of limitations and expectations, an added benefit for impacting parents. He pointed out they would like to see many more of these opportunities which will need citywide help to get parents to come out and understand what their students are facing.

Dr. Richard Safier added that they're committed to fostering environments that teach respect, self-respect, community and enrichment. The more children are directly involved with their peers in a healthy environment it promotes growth fostering opportunities to stay negative behaviors. He indicated it is important to foster an engaging environment in the schools to lower the rate of substance abuse in the student population.

Kathy Clancy, School Committee member, pointed out that many children and students have reached out asking the district and their teachers in helping to set expectations for their peers. She conveyed she's heard from parents that they want help to send consistent messages to their children. Having speakers come in takes funding, she highlighted. Parents are looking to their schools to take the lead on education surrounding these issues, she added.

Ms. Carroll noted the state has two campaigns currently running -- one aimed at parents about vaping; another on adult use marijuana. The Health Department will look to grants to run their own campaigns. There is a consistent message that this is an adult use product and to be able to answer questions posed by adults.

Councilor Gilman put forward that when it comes time to spend the impact fee (from the Host Agreement), how can they make sure the schools have an opportunity to have a say in the process of how that money is to be distributed. She pointed out that the "lion share" of funds is the training for drug recognition experts and inspections, but reiterated her concern there be enough funding for the schools for their educational component for students and parents.

Melissa Teixeira, School Committee member, expressed agreement with Councilor Gilman, speaking to the community's struggle with substance abuse, marijuana being a small part of the issue. She highlighted that this conversation can help address so many other issues within the city's schools. She conveyed that the issue now is that marijuana will now be more easily available, noting that marijuana is not a new problem. She asked that educational programs can be expanded on all substances in the schools, not just marijuana. She suggested it is about how the city and schools work together to get state funding to strengthen school curriculum to cover a full range of substances. She urged they leave the meeting with a commitment to work together not just to get information out to the public but as to what can they do as a community to address all substances that are abused.

Council President Lundberg advised Ms. Teixeira's point was well taken, that it is not just marijuana but all other substances. He conveyed they have an opportunity to use this money to go beyond marijuana issues. **Ms. Carroll** responded affirmatively, noting that best practice is about life skills; a positive development curriculum. It is the protective factors for youth that are important for prevention of high risk behaviors and mentioned briefly some strategies.

Council President Lundberg noted that a goodly portion of these issues falls upon the Board of Health and the city's Health Department. He suggested that because of the convergence of the Host Agreements, and the regulation of retail establishments, that all of them may have a role in this matter saying perhaps they should have an on-going group that could be of assistance. He pointed out it is important the city doesn't lose track of this money, mentioning that the educational portion from the Host Agreements was generated from state regulations. He advised he'd be open to suggestions, asking that if Ms. Carroll would like, it may be possible to convene an Ad Hoc work group comprised of Councilors and School Committee members to support and advise the efforts for her department needs in order to promulgate their work moving forward.

II. Joint City Council/School Committee

- **Update on City Facilities Planning Study**

Council President Lundberg noted issues to be included in the facilities study that the Administration is funding, mentioning that it came up last year with the Council of the housing of the School Administration and Pre-K. He advised they don't want to let it go like the last time, but want a plan to have the proper facilities "queued up." He mentioned the importance of the School District's Pre-K program and that the Council is committed to partner with the School Administration to put this front and center.

Mr. Pope noted the building housing the School Administration and Pre-K program is currently leased, a lease that expires in 2½ years (summer of 2020). This is what they fell back on last time which he indicated was not a good plan. They'd explored with KBA (a consultant) some possibilities of housing their facilities at the High School and O'Maley and weighed the option of buying the building the city is leasing.

He advised they're in the process of looking to build a new elementary school. It was mentioned they looked at the possibility of including facilities a new Pre-K in that facility but the Pre-K portion wouldn't be subsidized by the MSBA but the infrastructure would be in place. It wouldn't be as expensive as a stand-alone, it was noted. They're asking the Mayor that in the Dore Whittier facilities study they look at where they can house the School

Administration and Pre-K and giving it some priority. It takes time to build, and they need to move forward sooner, he pointed out.

Mr. Pope mentioned a number of other facilities issues of concern -- Beeman and Plum Cove Elementary Schools have 15 modular classrooms. Some of the units are coming to the end of their life expectancy before they ever get to build a new school which he indicated will be problematic. He noted the floor in the High School Field House has to be replaced, which will be costly. Track meets can't be held at that facility, in a building that is only 20 years old, he noted, and he highlighted that the MSBA now requires facilities be built to last 50 years. West Parish Elementary School is a great facility; he pointed out, and is doing very well.

Councilor Holmgren asked about lunch trays at West Parish, advising parents raised funds for compostable trays. She asked in the plans for the new schools if there will there be dishwashers and funds for compostable utensils and trays. **Mr. Pope** noted they've not hired a designer yet for the new school, and there will be conversations on that. He expressed his understanding that they don't need dishwashers if there are compostable trays. They need money in the budget every year to pay people to remove the compostable products or trays that can be reused. He noted it is good to run the experiment at West Parish School this year to see if it is a viable option. With the Styrofoam ban, it is "disingenuous" the schools are still using them. He conveyed they are in the process of closing that building project out with the MSBA. The total cost of the building including all the design and swing space was \$37,958,047 -- the budget was \$39,539,111 and came in \$1.5 million under budget. Additionally, the MSBA will reimburse the city (for a number subject to change but no less than) \$13,636,265. The net result is the school cost about \$24 million to the city's taxpayers. They are in the process of closing out the roof project at GHS budgeted at \$5 million and came in at \$4,045,705, \$897,000 under budget with the MSBA reimbursement of \$1.4 million for the cost of the roof, he noted. He pointed out that it was discovered during the project that the four large air-conditioning units on the school's roof were at their lifespan and needed replacement (about \$1 million) that came from the overall budget but won't be reimbursed by the MSBA.

- **Update on East Gloucester/Veterans' Building Project, including financial options**

Mr. Pope conveyed they are in the process of hiring a designer. The RFS went out with only two responses which caused concern with the MSBA and the School Building Committee. The two respondents were Dore & Whittier, the architects of the West Parish School, also the same company the city has hired to conduct the facilities survey and another company, Studio 3G. It was determined that the MSBA would interview both companies, he reported explaining that the MSBA has a standing design review committee made up of 12 members and the city can add three members. It is that committee that will make the decision as to which company will be hired as the designer.

Mr. Pope advised that the state evaluates the district's vocational programs and their special education programs annually. Through that evaluation, the state indicated that the floors in the shops are in need of repair, and needs some priority. He then introduced Gary Fritsch, the School Department CFO, in charge of all non-educational functions.

Moving forward **Mr. Pope** indicated that they are going to build a new combined school to replace the East Gloucester and Veterans Memorial Elementary Schools. It is going to require a debt exclusion override. He indicated for that to happen there will need to be a plan that the majority of people support which is why it is important they have a designer in tune with the needs and desires of the community. He added they'll also need the support of the leaders of the community for the debt exclusion. The alternative, he highlighted, is concerning. He indicated that East Gloucester Elementary School is in "desperate" need of replacement and isn't fulfilling its educational requirements. To keep these current buildings running is "spending good money after bad" with no help from the state, he advised.

- **Educational Assessment of Needs by School Committee under GCO Sec. 18-24**

Council President Lundberg highlighted the receipt of a packet of letters (placed on file) transmitted to the Council in accordance with GCO Sec. 18-24. He noted one of the letters relates to the School Committee's request for a feasibility study and development of an action plan for the Administration and Pre-K. He noted a letter regarding 18 modular classrooms that are reaching the end of their lifespan. He advised the letter outlines that with a new East Gloucester/Veteran's school that it would eliminate the need for three of the modular classrooms. He asked if they're asking that the modulares be replaced with new modulares or be replaced with some kind of other new construction. **Mr. Pope** advised this is going to be a problem and they need to think about how they resolve it. Highlighting that there are a number of things in play he advised they've approached the Rockport School

Committee about how they may find efficiencies by working together. They have gotten some response, and he expressed hope that they'll conduct discussions with Rockport this winter. Replacing the modulars is the "worst" solution but may be the only one open to them, he added. **Council President Lundberg** noted this is an assumption on the census of the student population which at some point has to enter the conversation. **Mr. Pope** pointed out the modulars won't make it to the construction of a new modern building. He suggested Dore & Whittier could look at the modular situation too.

Council President Lundberg asked if the GHS Field House floor is similar to what they just experienced with the Newell Stadium bleachers of insufficient construction. **Mr. Pope** reviewed the issues associated with the building of the Field House briefly advising the original plans called for a certain method of laying down the floor but that it didn't get built near to the original specifications. The floor failed as soon as it was used, he highlighted. They need professional help to come up with a plan to formulate a remedy for the situation and lead to a resolution. It was suggested it would cost about \$1 million to fix the floor, but that no cost study has been done.

Council President Lundberg noted the letter about the condition of the flooring in the vocational section of the high school which he termed as unacceptable.

Gary Fritsch, CFO noted that the three shop floors in need are: electrical, carpentry and machine tool technology. The old wood floor is being replaced by a new plywood floor done by the DPW in the electrical shop now in process. The carpentry shop needs either a new tile floor or removing the existing tile floor with a new plywood floor which is to be done. The machine tool technology needs leveling by grinding, patching and sealing the floor. DPW estimates the cost is between \$80,000 and \$100,000. **Mr. Gross** added that much of the information they've gotten has been through the "great work" by the DPW who has become a "true" partner with the School District in maintenance of their facilities. The transition from their former to current CFO in working with the DPW has also been a smooth one, he reported.

At **Councilor Holmgren's** request through the Chair, **Ainsley Smith**, Clean City Commission (CCC) Chair, 14 Pine Street, shared an update those gathered on the West Parish School compostable lunch tray project. The Clean City Commission was approached by a West Parish parent last year when the polystyrene ban was voted in, who expressed concern that language about lunch trays was removed from the final ordinance language. They connected the 5th grade Green Team at the school and associated staff with the CCC. The students did the research on polystyrene and paper products, environmental and health effects, overseen by parents and staff. While they were unsuccessfully obtaining grant funding, they were successful in crowd funding the project. She reported that the difference between the polystyrene trays and the compostable paper trays came out to \$2,300 including \$600 for compostable services. The polystyrene trays cost \$16.60 per case and the compostable trays cost \$42.55 per case. The school covered the \$1,200 they spend annually for the polystyrene trays, and she mentioned that the Food Service Director, Martha Jo has been very accommodating.

Council President Lundberg noted that the meeting has now covered all the agenda items and now it is up to them they get these matters into the planning queue.

Mr. Gross mentioned a question that arose when GCO Sec. 18-24 came to their attention. He pointed out the School Committee is giving the Council the information and not asking for Council action because the Council doesn't have the ability to appropriate funding capacity but was more about making the Council aware. He asked about what the Council's thoughts are on the Ordinance. **Council President Lundberg** advised that the School Committee under the City Charter is responsible for providing the educational programming necessary to provide public education in the city, and the city is responsible for providing the facilities for them to do so. He pointed out that when the School Committee advises the Council as to the necessity for having additional and/or improved accommodations, that's because the School Committee has determined an educational need for those accommodations, and have outlined that in these letters. He advised that is what the city has to evaluate -- the Mayor and the Council -- and the costs of providing those facilities which will become part of the public discussion. If they go forward with the new combined East Gloucester/Veterans Memorial Elementary School it will require an override in order to fund its building which means going to the citizens of Gloucester. To get to that decision they have to know what is needed, and the School Committee has provided that information.

Councilor Gilman noted that the city is undergoing a capital overview survey to look at everything and suggested this documentation is supplying information as a component of that process. These requests are no different than a fire station's repair or replacement. After all they are city facilities, she pointed out.

Kathy Clancy, School Committee member, expressed the hope of the School Committee that the Council would advocate for the students of Gloucester to make some of these repairs.

Councilor O'Hara recounted his concern previously expressed at the last joint Council and School Committee meeting and at several City Council meetings regarding the flooding of Gloucester High School twice last winter,

repeating his call for future planning for re-siting the High School. He urged proactive planning and to not continue to “throw good money after bad” for the school’s repairs.

Joel Favazza, School Committee member, noted this is the time where the Council, School Committee, and Administration owe the citizens of Gloucester and future generations “to get this right.” Acknowledging it is difficult to plan comprehensively for future needs, he cautioned that if pieces continue to be developed in a vacuum they get locked in as they happen and that in hindsight they may have missed a viable solution. As they get into building and rebuilding schools they need to decide what the educational concept will look like and develop a plan for the next several decades to have flexibility to deal with future changes. He touched on the concerns for the Field House and the modular classrooms. He suggested in thinking about what they’re able to do with limited resources and time, that the district has an “extra” elementary in terms of school student population. He further suggested that by closing down Plum Cove School there was enough room across the elementary schools to accommodate those 200 students not causing overcrowding, not going beyond their 25 students per classroom. This action, he pointed out, would save \$1.8 million annually, with half of the classrooms modular. He expressed there is a daunting amount of hard work ahead, and it is about doing what is right for the majority of the people in the city.

Ms. Clancy pointed out that the opinion just expressed was one School Committee member’s perception noting that their target classroom size, since she’s been a member of the School Committee, has been around 20 to 22 and never was 25 students per classroom. **Council President Lundberg** pointed out that there is an educational programmatic component that they need to consider.

Councilor O’Hara noted the surplus at West Parish; he asked if that money could be used to correct the parking issues at West Parish. **Mr. Pope** responded that it isn’t really “surplus” as the money hasn’t been bonded yet. He recounted that the Council authorized the Treasurer to borrow up to that amount but the borrowing hasn’t actually taken place yet -- it isn’t money in the bank, but is about the borrowing. He suggested that the Councilor refer to John Dunn, the city’s CFO. **Councilor O’Hara** asked about the parking access issue and its resolution, rather than the temporary fixes at West Parish School. **Mr. Pope** advised they’ve solved the pick-up issues but the parking is still problematic during the school day, and during events held there in the evening. Dore & Whittier looked at the issue and did some quick estimates provided to the Administration to use the field to make additional parking, he advised. He noted that the Administration advised they won’t spend that kind of money right now. Plan B would mean off-site parking with transportation provided which they’ll try as an experiment in the spring, he pointed out.

Mr. Favazza expressed his thanks to Ms. Clancy for her corrective statement. Saying he wasn’t advocating for one position over another, he conveyed they need to ensure they stay focused to avoid becoming “hyper-focused” on one issue.

Ms. Teixeira asked when the facilities study is expected to be completed and how facilities will be prioritized for needs, expressing concern for school facilities. **Council President Lundberg** advised that the Administration is at the beginning stages of figuring that out. He indicated he thought the discussion they’ve had this evening was instructive this evening about not just fixing a building but what is its purpose and its use going forward. He expressed hope that the Administration is thinking about this as part of the evaluation. They don’t know what the biggest priority will be and hopefully the study will inform their decisions, he noted. He advised they’re all particularly sensitive to the Pre-K issue in light of the “unsatisfactory” resolution the last time.

- **School Emergency Preparedness Planning**

Council President Lundberg highlighted a letter (previously placed on file) about an incident at the O’Maley Middle School in the packet of information provided to the Council this evening suggesting that the Council read the information provided. There is no Administration representative, including Police, Fire, DPW and the Building Inspector present, he pointed out. **Mr. Pope** noted that following the incident the next day a meeting was held in the Mayor’s office that included the CAO, the Chiefs, DPW, the Superintendent, the Principal and support people. He advised the letter (on file) is a summation of what came out of that meeting. The protocol calls for a designated Incident Commander, and at the time there wasn’t a fire, **Mr. Pope** conveyed in response to a question from **Councilor Memhard**. Other issues came to light; it was a way to find out what goes wrong in a real situation and lessons were learned. There were some resolutions and retraining with a review of protocols as well as a tune up of how communication is undertaken, he recounted.

- **Other issues**

Councilor O’Hara expressed concern about a Halloween dance at the O’Maley Innovation Middle School and the safety of students milling about outside at the end of the event, advising that he spoke to Mr. Pope this morning about student safety in light of this situation. **Councilor Gilman** offered that if such an issue is raised she urged that

the Councilor reach out expeditiously to the Principal and Superintendent of Schools. **Council President Lundberg** noted that any Councilor can reach out to the appropriate city officials in communicating their concerns.

8. Discussion: N/A

9. Adjournment:

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the Special School Committee meeting at 9:05 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the Special City Council meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

- Packet from School Committee dated October 30, 2018 comprised of:
 - Letter to Mayor re: Preschool and Central Office dated October 25, 2018
 - Letter to City Council re: Preschool and Central Office dated August 22, 2018
 - Letter to City Council re: Modular Classrooms dated August 22, 2018
 - Letter to City Council re: Field House dated August 22, 2018
 - Letter to City Council re: CCTE (Shop Floors) dated August 22, 2018
 - A Report on the O'Maley Incident regarding the storm of September 18, 2018 dated October 9, 2018