

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
IN JOINT SESSION WITH  
BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**September 18, 1996**

**6:30 PM**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Soucy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were nine aldermen and ten School Committee Members present. Mayor Wieczorek was also present as a member of both Boards.

**Board of Aldermen -**

**Present:**

Aldermen Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Hirschmann

**Absent:**

Aldermen Wihby, Elise, Robert

**Board of School Committee -**

**Present:**

School Committee Members Stewart, Zebrowski, Labanaris, Gatsas, Healy, Paradis, Desrosiers, D'Allesandro, Lamontagne, Higgins

**Absent:**

School Committee Members Dumont, Johnson

Mayor Wieczorek stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues of mutual concern noting it was another meeting between the School and Aldermanic Boards and asked School Superintendent Bernard if he had any opening remarks he wished to make.

Alderman Pariseau stated he wished to start off the discussion by trying to get Mr. Houle to address the issue of the schools and why they were in the condition they were noting people were told things would be done and they weren't even done and could not understand it.

Mayor Wieczorek asked if Alderman Pariseau had anything specific or was his merely making a general statement.

Alderman Pariseau replied he had just read through the comments submitted by the Principals noting that one of them had stated that Mr. Egan at Bakersville had said the

teachers were told in June to take everything off the classroom walls, so they could be washed during the summer and the teachers did that, however, the walls weren't washed. Alderman Pariseau stated it was the general condition of all of the schools and they were dirty.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he had also read all of the reports noting they were not all quite what Alderman Pariseau was leading people to believe because he thought what he was saying was that 23 schools were not in decent shape to open which was not the case from what he saw and knew there was construction going on at a few of the schools and there was still some construction, so they couldn't expect it to be clean while there was construction debris noting they had run through that last year or the year before at Wilson School when they were talking about the fact that it was dirty and dusty and there was still construction going on.

Alderman Pariseau stated he believed it was Mr. Adamakos who had said that gum was waxed over in the hallways and stuff like that.

Mayor Wieczorek asked Mr. Houle if he wished to address Alderman Pariseau's concerns.

Mr. Houle stated generally speaking the schools in terms of cleanliness were what was considered substantially complete at all schools in terms of school occupancy and there were some problems and was not denying it noting PBS staff had visited all of the schools and determined what the punch list was on items not corrected or those that needed work as part of the summer school cleaning and the contractor's had begun to undertake that corrective work on weekends and did not deny that there were problems with walls, problems with floors, but there was thousands of square feet of floor at Memorial High School noting they did not all contain gum on the floor under the wax.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated for three years giving Green Acres as an example indicated the walls had not been washed in three years and floors had not been stripped and in looking at some of the other schools, some of the other Board members went around and looked at the contracts that were signed which stated the cleaning company would be penalized a percentage of money, but it didn't take a genius to figure out that if they were penalized \$50,000 out of a \$1.8 million contract they were making out in the deal. The custodians the schools might have had before maybe weren't up to where they should be which was fine, but they got this company in noting that some of the schools on the outside (i.e., shrubbery not trimmed, litter all over the place) in looking at the reports some of the schools were understaffed, last year when they went through this a school had 54 custodians for a year noting that was one for every three days, they

didn't wear uniforms and it seemed that there was a different criteria and when they had started the whole process didn't know if it was presented correctly because they weren't comparing apples-to-apples, there was a substantial savings, but comparing a 183 day schedule to 240 is what was signed noting they had gone through the whole first year of a \$700,000 savings but there was nothing done in the schools, not a thing and had mentioned in the spring and summer and the last School Board meeting where Mr. Houle had told him that he would be held responsible for that and the schools were not up to par. The teachers and principals were sick and tired of filling out reports and had indicated they had learned to live in filth, at some of the schools the carpets were a mess and had never been cleaned in looking at the contract some of the schools were supposed to have lawn mowers, snow blowers, trim the grounds and yet none of the work was done and asked when would it get done. The people he represented were asking him when it was going to get done. A facade was presented where the halls in front of the principals office were cleaned prior to a meeting and it looked beautiful, but go into the locker rooms and there's mold growing noting it was just a mess and he agreed with Arthur Adamakos that the place was a mess, so it was a run around situation because people called him, he called the Superintendent, they called Mr. Houle and they're told to call "your" Alderman and he did not think anyone knew who to deal with and asked who could they go to for the final answers, who could the people be directed to get the final answers and get things done and why did they get the run around, call the Alderman, the Alderman say call PBS and PBS says "we're working on it" but it doesn't get done. It just a circle and that's the bottom line. School Committee Member Gatsas stated he was not saying that privatization would not work or would work, but they had been with the process for three years and did not really see a plan for everyone to deal with it. He had seen someone painting the bleachers at Memorial High School with a one inch brush to polyurethane the bleachers, use of time, time management, and talking about repairs Memorial High School really didn't have leakages and problems in the locker room, but since it's been fixed they've had blockages with the vents and stuff. At Wilson Street School the new addition and the old addition had a leak in the roof that had been there for months and was ruining the ceiling coming down noting reports had been sent, but nothing had been done to date for over a year. The people he represented believed that the Mayor and Aldermen did not get into the schools to see the problems noting he brought the problems to the table and did not know what to tell people. School Committee Member Gatsas in reference to the Wilson Street School stated the contractor should be held to the contract and the City should not pay anything additional to the contractor to fix it.

Mr. Houle stated he was unsure if that was the same leak noting it was where the new building met the old building and had been a problem and knew discussions had been held with the architect and the contractor on several occasions and it was unfortunate that

it had not been resolved, but generally speaking he was in disagreement with School Committee Member Gatsas' overall assessment noting the schools where there were problems were not completely dirty. There were a number of schools where the Principals were quite pleased and were more than satisfied with the cleanliness of the schools.

Alderman Clancy stated why don't we mark that down, right now, we'll make it a number one priority to fix the leak at Wilson Street School.

Mr. Houle replied yes, Sir.

Alderman Clancy asked that he be notified upon completion.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated he would like to know who Mr. Houle works for as he has the majority of the schools that he was responsible for and he could recall when former School Committee member Carol Resch and Alderman Cashin were present noting the question was "you work for us" and the answer was "I don't have to answer to you" and asked does he have to answer to "us" or not, that's the bottom line.

Mayor Wiczorek stated it's a little tough when you're going to have about 25 bosses that you're going to be answering to noting he can't be doing that with everyone that calls him to put him on a different project, the guy will be crazy before he's done.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated he understood that, but the people in the schools had concerns and when the Buildings and Sites Committee of the School Board brings up those concerns and the response is "I don't work for you", who does he work for and asked do they have to contact Donna Soucy every times there's problem and she has to call him up and felt if it was brought up from a Committee, it should be addressed in a timely manner.

Mayor Wiczorek stated he did have a Committee he reported to, an Aldermanic Committee and reiterated he would not have 12 School Board members and 12 Aldermen and the Mayor and 23 school principals calling him all the time, how would he get anything done and hoped that Mr. Houle was making notes on what was being said this evening so they could take some action on it and reiterated no one could put him in a position to try and satisfy that many people noting it was not possible.

School Committee Member Gatsas asked who then was in charge.

Mayor Wiczorek replied he was in charge.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated so if he call Dick asking that Wilson Street School will be fixed.

Mayor Wiczorek stated you're calling him with a problem and he's got a lot of people that call him with problems and he can't address each of the problems simultaneously, it's not possible, so he hopes what you do is set some priorities.

Mr. Houle stated what I would really hope, Mayor, is that the problems of the schools are funneled to the department through the principals. Secondly, Councilman Gatsas, I doubt if I ever told anyone I don't work for you, I may have said that I work for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the projects as they relate to the Joint School Buildings Committee for capital improvements as defined by State law. I think it's difficult, certainly I do work for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, there's no doubt in my mind about that.

Alderman Shea asked what is the rate of turnover among the custodial services, is there still a heavy rate of turnover.

Mr. Houle replied there was a substantial turnover at the beginning of the summer, no question. The contractor was running an ad, I think, almost every week and he had an open order at the Unemployment Office and has been routinely interviewing and bringing new people on board. There are a couple of things: number one, people leave and number two he sees people aren't producing so he fires them.

Alderman Shea asked could you give me a ballpark number of how many custodians there are in the school area.

Mr. Houle replied about 80.

Alderman Shea stated the rate of turnover is maybe 30 percent, 40 percent.

Mr. Houle replied, I honestly can't answer that.

Alderman Shea stated it is a problem, though.

Mr. Houle replied, it is a problem, no question about that.

Alderman Shea asked have you been trying to address that problem.

Mr. Houle replied one of the ways we addressed it in the current contract, in the invitation to bid is that we required the contractor to work two hundred and forty odd days noting the 183 was in the first two years and require them to provide the employees one weeks vacation and I believe 10/11 paid holidays. We found that in prior years the turnover was caused, in fact, by the contractor saying to the employees it's Christmas week, there's no work for you and letting them go, that was a problem and we corrected it in the current contract.

Alderman Shea asked how does the savings that were initially received when the custodians were let go and the contract was signed, now that these people are working 240 days, paid holidays, how much of a savings is the City accruing now through this particular program.

Mr. Houle replied, I cannot give you a direct answer on that. In general, I can say that the bid amount for three of the four areas that we've divided the schools into was bid at the same rate as the last year by WF&F. There was an increase in custodial costs for the Southside area.

Alderman Shea asked would it be possible to get those figures.

Mr. Houle replied, yes it would.

Alderman Shea stated if you could get the figures to me, I would appreciate it, thank you.

School Committee Member Zebrowski stated I had a question, I was reading over the report and I was concerned with the complaints about the supervisors and about how a lot of the schools didn't have on-site supervisors and it mentioned that there were approximately 80- custodians, how many supervisors would there be.

Mr. Houle replied there are four. We required a supervisor for each area.

School Committee Member Zebrowski stated they supervise all of the schools in that area.

Mr. Houle replied that is correct.

School Committee Member Zebrowski asked who assigns their work, does your department assign their work or do they get a list from the principals when something happens in the schools or do the principals have to call you.

Mr. Houle asked what work are you talking about.

School Committee Member Zebrowski replied let's just talk about the day-to-day cleaning.

Mr. Houle replied the day-to-day cleaning is specified in the contract.

School Committee Member Zebrowski stated if something unusual happens in the school and the principal needs something done immediately do they have to call you.

Mr. Houle replied the day custodian is currently pretty much available to the principal for day-to-day matters, there's no matter and that is generally a good working relationship, I think, in every school.

School Committee Member Zebrowski asked and if there's extra help needed is that something that could be arranged immediately.

Mr. Houle replied, it may be. Everything is pretty much a matter of dollars and cents. The cleaning custodians work second shift and in this current contract the day custodians at the three high schools are increased from one to two, so each high school now has two day custodians.

School Committee Member Desrosiers stated I think there's a lot of frustration on this and I understand Mr. Houle has a lot of responsibility, but I think we're all kidding ourselves if we think these schools are as clean as they should be, we really are. When Arthur Adamakos comes in front of the full Board and Arthur isn't the type to complain and talks about how filthy Memorial is and then you start talking to some students who go to Memorial who tell you the school is filthy, now when teenage girls tell you a school is filthy, imagine how dirty is really is because teenage girls are not the neatest kids in

town and teenagers girls are saying it's filthy, it's dirty and I assume they're talking about the bathrooms because they mentioned the bathrooms and it's three years in the making, my question would be are we holding these companies responsible and taking away money when they're not doing what we tell them to do. John mentions there a clause that says there's a percentage that we would get kicked back to us, well, based on some...but, based on the schools that weren't cleaned at opening the way they should have been, did we get money back because this City should. If they are not living up to their contract to us, it's just like private industry, you get the money back. If we're not making these people give us money back, they're never going to correct the problems. We're going to be going through this for the next ten years because they don't have anything to lose, so I guess my question is, are we ever getting money back from these cleaning companies because they are not living up to that contract.

Mr. Houle replied the answer for summer cleaning is we are requiring that they do the cleaning. They are doing cleaning overtime, they've been...the past two weekends they've been at the high schools, they will continue, that's been our approach, the summer cleaning is going to get done this fall one way or another in all buildings on an overtime basis. It will get down, we are forcing them to work on it now. During the school year when something's not done, a bathroom's not done, we take the money because there is no way that you can wash that toilet room or bathroom tomorrow and say we've got it. So, when we know that hasn't been done and our inspection has increased significantly this year, they will not be paid for those items not done.

School Committee Member Desrosiers stated, so you saying that in the past we have gotten money back.

Mr. Houle replied that is correct.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I knew that we had instances with some of the cleaning companies where we didn't.

Mr. Houle stated normally any principal whose forwarded the deficiency notices to us from the teachers toward the end of last year that was automatic, it got to be no argument any more, we just docked it and that was the end of it.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I know when we had some complaints at Memorial, I think it was last year and I called you and said, Dick, go down and find out what the problem is because it was the bathroom flooding over and he comes back and reports to me that there was a tonic can in the toilet. Another time he reports that a roll of toilet paper is in the toilet and I say, what's the matter with these boys and he said it wasn't in the boys

room, it was in the girls room. So, you know I think there has to be some responsibility shared with the student, they have to assume some responsibility for the cleanliness of their school.

School Committee Member Desrosiers stated and you're right, but when I went into the ladies room, it not only was things like that, it was dirty. I'm not talking about toilet paper or coke cans in the toilet, it was dirty and the locker rooms your skin could have crawled, so I understand what you're saying. The students have to be responsible as far as doing things that are damaging, but it's certainly not our students problem to clean up toilets or locker rooms.

Alderman Domaingue stated, your Honor, because of all of the controversy surrounding this issue, because I have so many schools in Ward 8, I made it a point this year to visit the three elementary, the junior high and the high school and I tried to reach them all the week before school opened, but I missed one. I went into Green Acres and I'm looking here at the report and I will tell you that Jack Devine told me that he was ready to open and the report says the edges of the Library carpet need cleaning and he's right. What the report doesn't say is that the reason that the carpet edges need cleaning is because they did such a job on the linoleum floor next to the carpet and put such a shine on it that some of the wax from the machine spilled over onto the carpet and that's what needs to be cleaned. It wasn't a matter of dirt on the carpet, it was a matter of wax on the carpet. When I went through these reports from the principals, I have to tell you that each one of the principals was very positive in the manner in which they approached the problem that Public Buildings Services has with getting the schools done on time probably far more so than I would be and the reason is because I agree with Committee member, the Committee member from Ward 9 next to me, Mrs. Desrosiers, because they ought to be done. We ought not to be doing summer cleaning in the fall and we need to tighten up that process. But, when I look at the report from Jewett Street School, I called the Jewett Street School Principal, I think the Thursday before school opened and I said, Miss Sweeney, I may not be able to get out there tomorrow because I'll be at Southside and I'll be at Memorial High School, but I want you to know that I'm going to come and take a look at that school and she said not a problem even if you don't get out here because we are ready to open, we are clean, we have one problem area and that's the cafeteria. And, as I look at this report I'm wondering if I spoke to the same person because the report says that the cleaning crew only started Tuesday, September 3rd which was the day before school started, there seems to be a conflict here. Because if the school is clean and ready to go the Thursday before, why am I looking at a notation that says they had only started the following Tuesday. Memorial High School was the last school in my ward to be done and I can tell you that it was definitely in need of cleaning long after I visited it and I visited it three times over the course of the Labor Day weekend. They had some

serious problems in something as simple as changing water. When I looked at the chalk boards and I looked at the counter tops and I looked at the hall floors, it appeared that they were in such a rush to get it completed that they didn't bother to change the dirty water often enough, so I saw streaking wherever I looked. There's no question in my mind that the walls were never touched. But, Arthur Adamakos' frenzy before the School Board was a little more than what I had encountered when I saw him each of the three times I went to Memorial High School he was very calm and he was very patient and I think all of our principals needs to be given credit on that, that they were all very patient this year with the level of cleaning. But, I would not characterize the schools as filthy, there were some bathrooms that needed to be done, there were some areas where toilet paper and paper towels were not supplied and before we go any further at Memorial High School across from room 304, I am told by a parent that there are no hand towels and if you look at today's newspaper Health Department's across the nation are concerned about bacteria and I think if we're going to encourage young people to wash their hands we ought to give them the proper hand towels so that they can dry them. I would say to you that I walked away from this process knowing that the situation had improved from the very first year it was implemented. I'm not fully satisfied with it as an Alderman and I'm prepared to do whatever is necessary on my part to work with Public Buildings Services to see to it that the level of cleaning is brought to where it should be. We do have professionals working in these buildings. I think the Joint School Buildings Committee has gone a long way this year in trying to address the breathing problems, the ventilation problems with your help, your Honor, in the high schools. But, I want to also while I take a moment here to commend Principal Baines whose sitting with us tonight because of all the Principals I had to deal with, of all of the schools that I saw that left me most uncertain as to how they would be able to open, it was West High School and I walked into that school and I walked to a Principal who was very calm despite the chaos of the science labs still being under construction and some of the heating and ventilation systems still being worked on and the general cleaning to be done and he was magnificent because he was as calm as could be and he said Mrs. Domaigne no matter what, we will open tomorrow, it will be a little inconvenient but school will be fine and I was very impressed with that attitude.

School Committee Member D'Allesandro stated for the last three years we've been constantly talking about the cleanliness of schools. If the schools aren't clean when we open then we set a very poor standard for the rest of the year. It appears that in most instances some people have one definition of what clean is and other people have another definition of what clean is. I think the fact that there is a massive turnover in help would lead everyone in the room to believe how could we maintain any kind of a standard if we don't know what that standard is because of the fact that there is a constant turnover. I was over at West side High School and saw the chaos there and I also saw people who

were entrusted to clean the building who had no idea of what they were doing. As a matter of fact, they had a very difficult time communicating with one another, so I'm sure that they were just people who were brought in. So "A" I think we have a significant problem in terms of the turnover of the people and the standard that we set for cleaning the buildings and until that's established we're going to get dirty buildings. By one standard or another because there is no basic standard for taking care of the buildings and with people turning over at a rapid rate that standard has to be reinstated every time people come in. I haven't seen the same people in the buildings many times and I try to get around to the buildings in my area, the school in my area is Parker-Varney School, it's directly in Ward 10 and that school was chaotic prior to its opening last year, it was better this year, it was in absolute chaos last year. So, if we've gone from the catastrophic to the acceptable that's a quantum leap, but what's happened to the other institutions, I don't know. The second point I want to make is that we do spend millions and millions of dollars to create physical plants that are the property of the public and we do the public a disservice if those plants aren't maintained. The leaky roof at the Technical School has been leaking since the day that building has been built and the only think you're sure of is that all of the buckets are out on a rainy day. To me, that's a vocational exercise - moving those buckets underneath the water in order to catch it - that's a travesty; that's a building that cost millions of millions of dollars and every time it rains those buckets come out. The ventilation system at Manchester High School West won't be operative until November, but it is improving and again that's a quantum leap because we've been cited by the New England Association for that problem for a number of years, so again, pleased to have it done. But, in summation, if we don't have consistency in the cleaning of the schools and consistency in terms of a standard we're never going to get clean schools and if we don't have clean schools, students are going to behave exactly the way their environment appears. If they're in a filthy environment ,they're going to adapt to it. If they're in a clean environment, they're going to adapt to it. We are human beings and we adapt to our surroundings and we have to set a standard. I have been told by students that Manchester High School Memorial that they refuse to go into the bathrooms. Young women who have attended that school tell me that in four years as a student at that school, they have not been able to use the ladies room. To me that's an indictment, that's an indictment...in four years at that school those young women have not gone to the bathroom at the school and more than one young woman has said that to me. Awful situation and when you go in there I can empathize with the can in the toilet and the paper in the toilet, that's a behavioral pattern and that behavioral pattern will manifest itself in a filthy environment and you're going to do exactly what that environment dictates what you do do and if it's a clean environment you respect that environment. So, we have to teach some lessons to our students, but we also have to teach those lessons to the people that work for us. We have a multi million dollar investment in those buildings and if we don't maintain them, as I say, we're committing a

disservice to every citizen of the City of Manchester who have come before us and those who are going to come after us, those buildings are going to be around long after we are.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I am going to ask the members of both Boards not to be redundant. If we're already covered one area and I know we covered the area with turnover, I don't want to do that 24 times. We've already made a note of that.

School Committee Member Lamontagne stated I just wanted to say that in response to Mrs. Domaingue saying that Mr. Adamakos was in a frenzy the night he approached the Board of School Committee and told us about the condition of his school, I thought he was eloquent, dramatic, but I didn't think he was frenzied at all. I thought he was really calm, cool and collected for the condition he found his school in. I just wanted to defend Arthur because I thought he did a super job telling us about the condition of his school.

Alderman Reingier stated I was going to switch the subject if I could, just a quick question. Last summer, I got a copy from the State Department of Education of a booklet that's given out to people who are moving to the State who are looking for school districts and they're comparing school districts like comparing test scores and this booklet has the third grade test results, the *Educational Assessment Report* and I was looking at it and I noticed that for both math and language the City of Manchester's students tested below the State average and also below the scores of Concord, Nashua, Portsmouth and Keene. The booklet also notes that in the fall of 1996 the schools and districts will be asked to evaluate their performance over time and analyze the trends and report those trends at the local level. So my question is, what are the current plans for the school district to address this issue of test scores, is there any analysis being done now or is there any that is planned and what is being done to address the relatively low test scores.

School Superintendent Bernard stated the assessment testing program that the State has set up is one that, of course, we started off with getting some baseline data, some baseline information and that is where we proceed from. Now, what we're trying to do here and there is a meeting in terms of answering your first question now in terms of the plan for how we approach this, the State has offered a series of sessions coming up during the month of October, all through the State and we, a team from Manchester will be attending one of these to first begin with that part. They have hired consultants to help us in setting up that kind of a plan, so that's a bit premature, but we will be doing that. In terms of the Manchester scores themselves, I think we have to be careful here in assessing how low they are compared to others. Remember, you're talking about some baseline data that what you want to look at is what kinds of gains are you making through the year, how good is the job that our instructors are doing through the course of a year in our schools

and I think when you look at the gains made from year one to year two you're going to see that we fall well within the adequate and certainly satisfactory range for educating students, they're going up, they're making gains, there is teaching being done. No, maybe you can't compare us to some other communities in this State and I wouldn't imagine you could, you've got a totally different kind of a democratic group here. I don't think that we have a population...that's not what the point of the testing is as a contest between us and other places in this State. The point of the testing is for us to look at ourselves and say do we do a good enough job. There are some teachers in the City or some schools in this City that didn't make the gains that other schools did and why and there may be other reasons for that that have to do with the socio-economic balance between them, but we'll find that out as we get to it and we'll deal with it, but those are the parts of the plan that we'll respond to, Alderman, and we will be doing that.

Alderman Shea stated I'd like to address this to Len. Len I realize having worked in the School Department that the major expenditures for educating our students is devoted to Special Needs, but a concern that I've always had is and I'm not sure how the School Department can address it, but there are children that are in the primary level that are really being neglected, in my judgment, and I realize that a lot of the money for Special Needs comes from the federal government, the State and so forth, but I think we're really missing a large segment of our population. The kids that are talented and gifted don't become that way when they enter Memorial High School or Southside, these kids are talented when they're...particularly throughout their life and I think that nothing is being done to help these kids and you're going to have more and more problems developing at the junior and senior high schools - dropouts and so forth - unless Manchester decides to do something for these kids in the lower grades. I don't say the first grade necessarily, but by the second and third many of these kids can take foreign languages, they can be improved in the science areas and I think that the School Department has to look towards programs that are going to start identifying these kids and helping them and what is the School Department doing, if anything, for this, I'd like to know.

Mr. Bernard stated I can tell you that last week, about a week ago today, I was informed by the federal government, by Washington that we had received a \$477,000 foreign language grant and that starts off at elementary schools, that's not for non-English speaking students. It's for students who want to take French, Spanish, German, various languages beginning with French at the elementary school, working your way up through junior high and French and Spanish and then at the high schools state-of-the-art summer school program...all this is paid for by the federal government. National Foundation Grant - we're waiting any day now for a half-a-million dollar announcement that, hopefully, we've got something there with a science grant. We just received a math grant, we've got the technology grant. I guess my response to you, Alderman, in terms of

what we're doing for gifted students...what we're doing for gifted students is solely, totally based on the initiative of our staff to go out there and to write federal grants because if we're not getting it from the federal government and from that source, it ain't going to happen. I'm sorry, but it's just not going to happen. gifted and talented programs, like it or not, is one of the first things to hit the cutting room floor when you're going over a budget and before you can start with gifted and talented you have to first get just the basic three "R's" and that's what we're trying to do, we're trying to teach the three "R's" and we just don't have enough in terms and this isn't a slam, I'm just telling the truth. The fact is, we don't have enough money to put that into our budget as part of the general fund.

Alderman Shea stated you mentioned that there was some money received and is that program going to be starting soon.

Mr. Bernard replied yes, we've just signed the papers now the foreign language program starts right away.

Mayor Wieczorek stated another thing, Alderman, I know that what we do is get into trouble with these unfunded mandates that come down from the federal government, this is a problem for us and I know that originally when they started with special education we were getting 40 percent. Len, what did we get this year.

Mr. Bernard replied 8 percent.

Mayor Wieczorek stated so you can see what happens with this. We're talking about a 12 million dollar budget, if I remember correctly for special education and instead of them paying 40 percent of it, they're paying 8 percent and we have to make up those deficiencies with the mandates that they send down here and that obviously takes money away from other things you can do and it's a very difficult situation and a delicate problem to deal with because you want to make sure that you give your kids the best education that you possibly can, but when you have other people from somewhere else telling you what the priorities in your community are, it makes it very difficult. And, one other thing, if I can finish with that is that with the busing program, I think our total budget is a million seven if I remember correctly and about a million one of that is for special ed, right. So, you can see what's happening with the money here.

Alderman Shea stated many people coming into the community look for programs that will help their particular child and in many instances if a community does offer a program for either talented or gifted kiddos at a lower level these people will tend to settle into

that area. If they don't, they will look for a community that possibly may include that in their school budget.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I was notified last night by the Finance Department in our committee meeting that there could be a fiscal problem of about 1.3 million dollars because the last two weeks of the school year for the School Department's budget they don't want it accrued into 1997, the auditors don't. So, we'd have to take care of that this year.

Mr. Hobson stated the actual amount that we informed the Finance Department, Kevin Clougherty and Randy Sherman, that we will be carrying over in FY97 is approximately \$218,000. The budget overrun which is directly attributable to three areas are special ed, transportation, tuition and for paid staff in terms of tutors and educational assistants that amount was almost \$1.3 million. We've paid for a large portion of that overrun almost \$575,000 for Medicaid revenue. The additional dollars we got from revenue from retirements and such that were due back to us, so I was notified of the problem this morning with Randy and we talked about the issue and we both came to the same conclusion that it is approximately \$217,000, we know about it, the auditors know about it, City Finance knows about it, it isn't \$1.3 million to be carried into this year.

Alderman Hirschmann stated this \$218,000, this is separate from the \$250,000 that you are going to absorb, it was on the same memorandum to me, it was a \$250,000 figure.

Mr. Hobson replied, I believe the \$250,000 is an inflated \$218,000. The exact amount that Randy and I discussed this morning was \$218,000.

Alderman Hirschmann stated and you're going to absorb that in your budget.

Mr. Hobson replied, yes, we are. We're already feeling it.

Alderman Clancy stated I noticed that the Beech Street School has an increase of 98 children this year over last year. I'm quite concerned about the overcrowding, especially in the 6th grade down there. As I notice here, most of the grades down there have 33 people in their class and that's kind of a lot of pupils to have in a class compared to some of the other schools. I'm not saying that the School Department is doing a bad job, but the school kids in the inner-city area they don't have when they go home at night time, a lot of them are from broken families, they don't have the attention given to them that the other schools have, so I wish this could be addressed and maybe have the numbers toned down somewhat.

Mr. Bernard stated I find myself in a position where, Alderman, I certainly agree with you that there are a number of classrooms here that are too high. I've been to Beech and I know the sixth grades there and these numbers are right - 33's and 32's - and that's too many students. But, we have to make some choices. I have to make some choices of do I put higher numbers in the fifth and sixth grade or higher numbers in the first and second grades and, I believe, based on a lot of things that Mr. Shea was talking about that those primary grade children, if you're going to cut down on numbers, you've got to cut down there because that's where the priority is. Unfortunately, we've got to let those fifth and sixth grade teachers teach to a higher group of students. As you can see when you go through this, you look at places like Green Acres, you can't do anything about it, there still high even at the primary grade. The other issue, the case in point that you're using here for Beech Street, you can't put another teacher in there because there isn't a room to put a teacher in. So, then the other alternative is you put an aide or a tutor or somebody in the room and then you run into problems, number one of people bumping into each other and, number two, and the biggest problem is a money problem. You start dealing with hiring tutors or aides for every one of these classes with 32 or 33 students and the bank is broken and we just cannot afford it and the teachers were told that on the first day and they're doing a great job at keeping their head up and working it out and trying to teach as best they can. I, frankly, have some concerns when you get to April, May and June, it's going to start telling on the old patience here, but I think they're up to it and they're going to have to be because we don't have any choice here right now. We just can't add any more staff.

Mayor Wiczorek asked, Len, how much of an increase did we have in the enrollment this September over the previous year.

Mr. Bernard replied almost 300 students it was, 278.

Mayor Wiczorek asked are they mostly inner-city schools or are they spread out.

Mr. Bernard replied it's spread out. Actually, the highest increase was at the junior high level, I believe, when you look at the numbers, the differences. But, you look at some places that went up like, for example, Wilson, I think Wilson, Weston and Beech were high. So, the inner-city seemed to gain more in terms of the elementary schools than the others. High schools you had Memorial went down a little bit and West and Central went up. Central went up a lot just before school started and that's when we were really concerned and we're still concerned about it, but they were like 200 or 300 students higher and then a lot of those were no shows on the first day of schools. Now, what we always tell people is let's wait and look at the September 30th numbers because that's the number that the State uses because during the month of September, particularly at the

high school, you get the students coming in, they trickle in. So, we'll give the Board another enrollment sheet, they're meeting in October based on the September 30th enrollment.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated speaking of the enrollments Mr. Bernard spoke about, we addressed this briefly at the last meeting about the high school enrollments and Mr. MacKenzie spoke to us when they talked about the Middle School and I think that we, as two Boards have to decide on what's going to be happening in the next few years with the surrounding towns also because Mr. MacKenzie mentioned that the enrollment from their own City students is going to be at capacity within three to five years. So, I think that we should start planning on something if we're going to take the out-of-town students or if we're not going to take them to make up that lost revenue there. But, I think we should start planning in some respect that way, too. So, everybody's in the same field.

Mayor Wiczorek stated there's no question as the outlying towns gain population, but that's only at the high school level. They're not coming into the elementary schools or the junior high schools.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated you're absolutely right, but I think that Auburn their lease with Pinkerton is up this year, is that correct, is that what he said when we met with them and we're absorbing all of those Auburn kids that would be going to Pinkerton and they're all going to be coming and I know it's revenue for the City, but we're going to be faced with either putting an addition on Memorial somewhere down the road or eliminating some surrounding towns and keeping our enrollment equal.

Mayor Wiczorek stated, I think you're right that a decision has to be made somewhere down the line on whether we're going to be the keeper of all of the high school students for surrounding towns or whether we're going to make a change in our policy because you're right, some kids going to Pinkerton decide they're going to come here and when our capacity is used up that's it and yet, we can't tell them that next year you can come because, I believe, it's a two-year notification isn't it, Len, that you have to give to the schools.

Mr. Bernard stated our contract with the towns is open-ended, we don't have an agreement there.

Mayor Wiczorek stated it's the State, three years.

Alderman Soucy stated, Len, we've talked a lot about problems that we're obviously in the thick of like special ed and the cleaning issues and those kinds of things, we seem to be always putting out fires, but there's one issue that concerns me because it's an issue that's happened a couple of times in my ward and I know that John has gotten the calls and I've gotten the calls and it's something that I think we can plan for ahead and that's redistricting. If we're going to be doing that with the Middle School that seems to be one of the most controversial, painful issues for parents when they have two children and one child is going to one school and then the other child ends up at another grammar school - the transportation issues are a problem, the timing issues, those kinds of issues - with the new Middle School coming what kind of steps can we take in advance to start preparing these parents to start realizing either making their own scheduling changes or what have you, so that we don't have the kinds of nightmares that we're had. I know the Smyth Road issue, these are people from Ward 2 and they're just calling all of the Aldermen and the School Committee people because they were just so irate about the different redistricting configurations and that they had been shuffled more than others and what kind of plans does the School Board have now and what kind of long-term plans can we implement so that we get people in tuned to this issue and let them know that it's going to be coming and let them know what they can expect.

Mr. Bernard stated when the Middle School was slated to start in September of 1997, Bob MacKenzie and I well in advance of that were looking at getting started with developing, he has some computer software and using our technology grant as well, we're going to put together some demographics that we could use in determining, we had a pretty good idea of what we wanted to do, but both in terms of scientifically approaching it with the population that should be going to various schools and then setting up a game plan to tell these people like over a year in advance that this is what is going to happen. Of course, when the Middle School got postponed one year that did as well. So, the plan now is that we're going to be looking at this spring to start putting that together so that sometime, I would imagine either during the summer or perhaps in June of this year we're looking at September of 98 as the opening of the school and parents would have a year to plan for that.

Alderman Soucy stated the sooner the better because I never get school calls, John gets them all and that was one issue where people reached out and were very, very upset.

Mayor Wiczorek stated on the accreditation with all of the things that we were going through and I know that we've tried to address some of those problem areas this year, they're going to be back, I'm assuming.

Mr. Bernard asked they being the problems or the accreditation group.

Mayor Wiczorek replied the accreditation group. Hopefully, we've addressed some of the problems, major problems. How are we going to be set when they come in because some of the major things they talked about are problems that we're already trying to deal with now.

Mr. Bernard replied, for example, Bob Baines, we call him the magnificent Bob, he is one example of someone who had to submit a progress report to the accreditation board and this was back in the spring and he carefully worded a letter and he did a good job with it because he is Bob Baines and he put together a letter that showed, really put the strong points to the science labs and the ventilation which he should and in just kind of a way that's not really to stand out and red flag it pointed out the budget and the increase in population and the fact that the budget wasn't as high. Now, you never know with this...when the accreditation team comes back because they are going to look at this, you're not dealing with idiots here, they're going to look at the financial report of the school district and they're going to look and they're going to see where we are in terms of funding and as I stated in my opening day address, you not only have to provide the equipment and the space, but you have to supply the beakers and the test tubes and the bunsen burners and the equipment for the science labs and all of the things necessary to operate those high schools. So, if we're in any kind of a problem at all, it's not because of science labs not being appropriate, it's not because of any of those kinds of things. If we have any kind of problem at all now, it's going to be because of the...what would be called the effort on the part of the City of Manchester to fund the high schools and that's where we are. I guess Bob is here if you want him to say anything about it.

Mr. Baines stated the best analogy I could give. First of all, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen vested two million dollars at West High School this summer in that ballpark with \$1.5 million for the science and about five to six hundred thousand dollars for heating and ventilation. But, it was described recently you bought us a new car but there's no gasoline for the car. Right now, we have a science chemistry lab, a new chemistry lab...approximate cost to equip the lab is about \$800,000 and the money is not there to do it. The science supply budget was cut by about \$26,000 and I've asked all the teachers to put together a budget impact report for me delineating what things cannot be done in terms of experiments, that can't be done in chemistry because we can't buy the chemicals, labs that cannot be done in biology because we can't do the labs. This is the worst year in my seventeenth year now as Principal that I've ever seen in terms of not being able to buy the basic supplies and tools to do the job in the classrooms. So, it's unfortunate that these two things happened simultaneously because we're in a position, I think, to make a real in road in the fact that our schools have been on probation for a long period of time but it's an incredible situation to be in that we cannot put the gasoline in

this brand new car that the City just invested \$1.5 million in for a state-of-the-art science facility and we're not giving the teachers the tools to do the job and that needs to be looked at.

Alderman Cashin stated, Bob, did you say we spent \$1.5 million give or take and you need \$8,000 to furnish them in order to make them work.

Mr. Baines replied we had to add a new chemistry lab, Alderman, because of the increase in science enrollment. The enrollment in science is just leaping incredibly and we have a brand new science lab that we cannot equip right now, it's about \$8,000 and it's about \$26,000 to provide the other necessary equipment and supplies to bring those labs up to the State which they require because they are brand new and it opens up many new opportunities for kids in science and science enrollment is almost 1,700 students in almost a 1,900 pupil school enrolled in science education and we just do not have the basic tools, right now. I have budget impact reports from all the different departments to show you exactly what the problem is but it doesn't make a lot of sense to me to invest \$1.5 million and then short change a department approximately \$35,000 to do the job, it just does not make a whole lot of sense, but that's the situation we're in and I hope I haven't exaggerated it and that's the sad state we're in right now and it's sad for us who fought so hard to get these problems corrected to be in this state right now. In our back to school night the other night it raised some concerns, School Committee member Higgins was there and she heard the parents talk about these things, even talking about United States History textbooks that go back now to 1982, they were talking about a book that referred to, that talked to the students about the BeeGee's as being a prominent musical group of the time, but those are the types of things that we're facing right now and it caused quite a stir in the auditorium, didn't it and it's sad because we're not talking about lots of money here, but we've got to the point where we just are not giving the teachers the basic tools and then you're asking us to address concerns about test scores and all those other issues that are near and dear to all of us who have kids in this school system and as you know, I do too. We just have to correct this somehow, a way has to be found to give the teachers and students the basic tools to learn and we have a responsibility as a community to do that.

Alderman Cashin stated \$30,000 would solve the problem.

Mr. Baines replied that is in science, Alderman; that's how small it is and then you get into the other areas.

Alderman Hirschmann stated, your Honor, I supported both of those projects for Principal Baines and west Manchester and I'm really surprised because I don't have in

writing anywhere or a phone call or a conversation with anybody in the City saying we're short \$8,000 or \$30,000 for those supplies and I'm an Alderman from this City.

Mr. Hobson stated at the last Finance Committee meeting of the Board of School Committee and at the full Board of School Committee meeting, we addressed the fact that the school district coming from our principals we have received approximately \$677,298 in requests for things like supplies, films, textbooks, subscriptions, different kinds of physical classroom equipment and furniture and of that \$677,298 that are requisitions today on September 18th, these were requisitions above and beyond what has already been purchased to open the school. Left to spend for the school district's budget and in those line item areas is just shy of \$250,000, so there is a deficit of \$428,000 and I don't want to give people the impression that we haven't and I don't think Mr. Baines was trying to do that that we haven't bought any supplies, we've purchased \$320,000 in supplies so far this year. The principals requested \$445,000 in supplies to run the school system from their perspectives. So, if the money is not in the line item, the money's not in the line item, I don't really know what to tell you, but that's reality and what we have done just so you're aware, we are taking steps to make budget transfers wherever we can, we just made two moves in the central administration office, we deleted a number of positions and made some moves in changes, we saved a hundred thousand dollars in central office staff, so we could put more dollars into the field. But, obviously our budget is 80 plus percent people driven.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the way this was portrayed tonight, if the Aldermen are going to come forward in the future and build science labs and do these things you have to come up with \$8,000 for the Principal at West High School. Is he asking me for the money or is he asking you for the money.

Mr. Baines replied I was stating what the case is based on a question from Alderman Cashin. Where the money comes from, to be honest with you does not concern me, but I don't think it's fair to have these teachers without the tools and the students without the experiences to utilize that \$1.5 million investment and that's what you're facing right now, that's reality.

Alderman Domaingue stated, Mr. Baines, the figure that I heard this evening from you was \$30,000, where are we.

Mr. Baines stated to equip the new chemistry lab in terms of the beakers and the balances and all of the other necessary tools for the lab is about \$8,000 for that one lab. In terms of the rest of the money, we're talking about the basic supplies such as the specimens, repairing microscopes, replacing microscopes, providing more chemicals for chemistry

experiments, that type of situation. Almost one-half of the amount requested for specimens was not authorized and the impact is that there will be some organisms students will not see because they are not available. So, the normal experiments that you have been doing in the science classes last year, the year before we're not going to be able to do this year.

Alderman Domaingue stated we have three high schools, but I need to ask the Superintendent, are the other two high schools in need as well in terms of science. Science is a very important and key subject area for our students, we need to hear this.

Mr. Bernard stated this is in your packet that I sent to you as well and shows you under supplies and we could break that down for you.

Alderman Domaingue stated I appreciate what you're saying to me that it's in the packet, but what is in the packet is very general. I think what you're hearing from the Aldermen tonight is that we were very supportive of wanting to see those science labs in place. We even pushed the schedule ahead if I remember correctly to make sure that they would be done. It's a little disappointing to hear that in one high school I'm lacking the supplies, the basic supplies from what I understand from the Principal at West that are necessary which amount to \$8,000, but I'm asking now beyond that what the breakdown might be for the other two high schools.

Mr. Hobson stated Central's science lab request in terms of last year and this year was almost identical in total to what Mr. Baines was requesting for this year because they got a little bit of a run started last year. Mr. Baines was starting much of this right from the get go. The issue, obviously, that Len Bernard has to grapple with every day is that he doesn't just have...obviously he's got multiple schools that he's got to deal with and if you look at the supplies line item which much of the stuff that Bob is talking about comes right from there - supplies - and it's \$115,000 over what we have.

Alderman Domaingue stated my outlook on this is that Mr. Bernard has several areas, several schools he has to be responsible for and you have a Board of Aldermen here that try every year at budget time to be as responsive as they can be to several departments which have their own budgets and have their own areas they need to spend the money in, but when you talk about science or math in today's schools we need to desensitize before we get to this kind of a situation because I know that this Board would be responsive, that's the feeling I've gotten from several members. So, we need to be a little bit more sensitized to that need and I would hope that when you brought your concerns before the Board of School Committee, Mr. Baines, that they tried as hard as they could to be able to fund that \$8,000, what I'm hearing is that it just wasn't there.

Mr. Baines stated I would be glad to sensitize you people as much as you would like in terms of these issues.

Alderman Domaingue stated, I try individually as an Alderman to visit the schools on a regular basis because having been a School Board member I'm a little bit familiar with some of the problems that have been encountered over the years, but I think all of us can use an update from time-to-time.

Mr. Baines stated I would be glad to organize a meeting with Aldermen and math and science teachers at my school to really hear first-hand the problems that we're having in terms of meeting the needs of these kids and I think it would shock you.

School Committee Member Desrosiers stated I know at Memorial this year they're still going to be doing some exercises or experiments out the window in some of the science rooms because of the hood vent that hasn't been installed for the third year, so Memorial has problems too. I understood that in the future Memorial was going to have new science labs along the way. But, there's a brand new hood and vent in a room that's been stored there for three years, purchased and everything, never been installed and in one of the science teachers room it's all covered up with plastic and nothing works and they do their experiments out the window and they only can do a few in the winter time because it's dangerous to begin with and they'll be doing that again this year, unfortunately..college chemistry and so on. So, I think we have problems in all of the high schools, but I understand Mr. Baines' situation where you have the car but not the gasoline to run it.

School Committee Member Lamontagne stated I'm on the Finance Committee along with Ms. Desrosiers and Ms. Labanaris and at the last Finance Committee meeting that we had, we were given a request and the amount that each principals wanted for their schools and I must say I know that Mr. Baines is there, but by far, his was the largest request there on the list of the three high school principals. But, no where I don't think I saw in the report that we were told that "X" amount of money was needed to furnish a new science lab, we weren't told that. So, what we did after deliberation and after looking over everything we tabled all of the requests until next month and we said that our priorities was to get a desk and a textbook to every student in the schools and that's why we directed the administration to do it at a Finance Committee meeting. We weren't told we had to furnish a whole new science lab, we weren't told that.

School Committee Member Desrosiers stated I'd like to follow up on that. When Mark came to the Finance Committee and showed us that we had \$700,000 worth of requests

and all we had was \$200,000 give or take a few dollars, what the Finance Committee directed to Mark and then the full Board agreed on is that he had to go back to all of the principals and have them make a list of what their priorities were. We don't have the money. So, each principal prioritized his wish list as far as what is the most important thing to me. Not having equipment in the science lab is a new thing for me too. So, when we asked to prioritize then Mark was going to come back and we were going to spend the money we had by priority. But, from the School Board's perspective the most important thing to us was that each student have a book and a desk and that's where the money had to go first and then we would look at the other priorities. But, I also want to point out to both Boards when this budget, when we got the bottom line we did not get what the Superintendent felt we needed to run the schools, nobody did. I understand certainly that Manchester doesn't have the money. But, somewhere along the line not having the money these are the areas that we're going to start showing that we're suffering in. So, this isn't going to be anything new to find out that our schools are going without. I think that the Superintendent tried to present that case when he presented his budget that if we didn't get the money we would start hearing that students in schools were going without items they truly needed. At Len's address when the schools opened that is what he told the teachers. We don't have the money this year be prepared. So, this shouldn't be shocking to anybody sitting on either one of these Boards that we're now hearing about going without because we said from day one and I'm probably the most conservative School Board member there is, I always voted against the budget because I always felt we could cut it. This last year, I just felt we were cut and we were going to be hurting and we are, so if you're going to start hearing a lot of the kids going without, so don't be surprised, this is just the beginning because special educational...Mark came to me tonight...special education we've got 15, 16 students who now need tutors at home and that's more cost to this district and special education as you alluded to, Mayor, is killing us and that comes out of really the 20 percent we have to spend and the only place to take special education funds are out of our line items and the greater special ed grows, the more our line items are going to suffer and the more sad stories you're going to hear of chemistry labs not having the things they need. But, the bottom line is we're going to have to make hard choices as to what is important for the three "R's" and books and desks and chairs were it. So, this is the way it's going to be.

Mayor Wiczorek stated I think what's happening with the special ed is that we're getting more and more young people that are coded and they recognize that what they do is get better services and individualized plans if you're coded and I think at some point somebody has to redefine what the qualifications are for special education because if you don't this just goes on and on and it is, you're absolutely right eating an enormous part of your budget.

Alderman Cashin stated, Dick, when you submitted the budgets for the science labs, in that budget there was no furnishings.

Mr. Houle replied, yes. A great many furnishings were provided. The architect is here if you want a detailed report. In terms of science materials for experiments, no.

Alderman Cashin asked why wouldn't that be part of the package, Dick.

Mayor Wiczorek stated the architect was here, why don't we ask him because when they put the package together...

Mr. Houle introduced Mr. Fred Matuszewski of CMK Architects.

Alderman Cashin stated I don't think it's the architect's responsibility to pick out test tubes and stuff like that, somebody should have put that into the budget.

Mayor Wiczorek stated let's first define what it is he does and then we'll go from there.

Mr. Matuszewski stated and we were responsible for the design of the West High science labs. The items that were included in the science labs, of course, were all the casework, the utilities, the gas, the water, the outfitting of those labs. But, that includes student desks and some furniture items. Items that will have a lifetime of 20 years which this bond is supporting. The material that was not included are beakers, science specimens, equipment that is included for the instruction that does not have a lifetime.

Alderman Cashin stated I understand that. Okay, so he put in a life of 20 years. Why didn't someone add to that as an addendum what it was going to cost for the beakers and whatever else it took to run those labs so when it came to this Board, to Joint School Buildings they would have had a bottom line.

Mayor Wiczorek asked whose responsibility is that.

Alderman Cashin stated this probably wouldn't have happened if this Board had been aware when they voted the bond and it didn't include these items.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you couldn't bond those anyway.

Alderman Cashin stated fine, it could have been an addendum and it could have been budgeted separately and it could have been funded separately, so at least you could have funded the whole package.

Mayor Wieczorek stated no, Alderman, you only fund the bottom line, you don't fund their budget.

Alderman Cashin stated when you're on Joint School Buildings, your Honor, you generally know what the cost is going to be and I used to ask, now does this include furnishings this and that. It doesn't make any difference, it's the total cost. If you had the total cost at least you would have known that you weren't going to fund the \$8,000 or whatever it was and at least you would have been aware of it and that's the only point I'm trying to make here.

Alderman Pariseau asked if the money that was provided for the upgrading of the labs has it all been expended or is there some left we could use.

Mr. Houle replied there could be a little left, but again, Alderman, this is bond money and the life expectancy of whatever we purchase with it is supposed to be 20 years.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you can't just turn around and use it for disposables.

Alderman Pariseau stated it's still related to the labs.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it is, but not in the broad sense that they talk about bonding a project because a bonded project has to be for 20 years. If you have a beaker that's going to last 20 years, I'm going to get you a lot of business.

Alderman Domaingue stated it's repetitive, your Honor, I was just going to agree...when you talk about funding locker rooms out of Joint School Buildings Committee you don't talk about whether or not you're going to put an addendum as to how many uniforms you're going to need for the students who are going to be taking those sports, it's a different category and I think it would help the Joint School Buildings Committee if they knew if their full report to the full Board that in order for those science labs to be up and operational completely that the School Department would need an additional "X" amount

of dollars for that program. I think that would be helpful, but again, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen only supply the Board of School Committee with the bottom line, we don't direct how they use the money, that's their decision to make.

Alderman Sysyn asked if it's instructional material who would be responsible for saying how much money they need for it, the principal, wouldn't it.

Mr. Bernard stated in terms of the cost of the things that they need for that science lab, Mr. Baines has already submitted that and as we already said we're now looking at a prioritized list.

Alderman Domaingue stated I just have a question of Mr. Houle going back to Alderman Clancy's original concern regarding the Wilson Street School roof, where are we with that.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I thought he made a note.

Mr. Houle stated the leak at Wilson School, call Alderman Clancy when the work has been completed.

Alderman Domaingue stated I thought Alderman Shea was of the same opinion that when CIP, Mr. MacKenzie came back in with an addendum to the CIP budget, we had funded the Hallsville School, some work at Hallsville and we thought that included the Wilson Street School roof.

Mr. Houle replied the acoustics, the ceilings, caused by the noise from the roof. The roof it still separate and that will not require any funding.

Alderman Domaingue stated it will require an agreement if I understand correctly between the architect and the City.

Mr. Houle asked for what, Alderman.

Alderman Domaingue replied for fixing of the Wilson Street School leak.

Mr. Houle stated it will be fixed, it will not require an agreement, it will not require any money.

Alderman Domaingue stated I'm glad because I was going to ask how long we were going to let it leak while the two parties were at odds.

Alderman Cashin stated could be ask the CIP, Bob MacKenzie, to look into CIP and see if there is any funding that we might be able to come up with to solve some of these problems, it's ridiculous to have a \$1.5 million science lab that you can't use. If anybody else did that in business, they'd get fired.

Mayor Wiczorek stated, Sean, why don't you make a note of that for us to check with Bob tomorrow.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated I just wanted to know where on the Middle School status with the Airport, I had heard somewhere along the line was changing its runway and I'm saying the way it would change would go over the school and I just wanted to know if that would be a permanent change or a temporary change, if it's permanent would that affect the sound and the acoustics at the new Middle School and how is that going to change because I know that all came up for discussion, it was going to be...someone was going to get back to the School Board and I haven't heard anything since the spring time about it and I know we're in the planning stages and I just wanted to know is it going to be a permanent change and how does it affect the Middle School.

Mayor Wiczorek stated I would assume that when changes are made it would be permanent, but my suggestion is that you have Mr. Testa come down to the meeting and explain that portion of it.

Alderman Domaingue stated either that or this Board or Committee member Gatsas could attend next Wednesday evening between five and eight PM at Memorial High School, the final public hearing on the Airport's 5-year Master Plan update. They have all of the maps there and will show you which runways they're extending and what direction the flights will take and what percentage is being moved from the main runway to the now shorter runway.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated thank you very much, but I just wanted to make sure when we're putting our proposal together for money that we don't find out that we're short because of the soundproofing and all of that goes into that because I know we're allocating money in small segments.

Mayor Wiczorek stated that's why it's a good idea to be at that meeting so you can address that concern and get an answer.

School Committee Member Gatsas stated it was brought up in the spring time and I still haven't gotten a response, so I don't think I should have waited six months to get a response.

Alderman Shea stated Hevey School is being considered for the Chandler School children, but I wondered if there was anything planned for the Chandler School, is there something that is going to be done with that or is it just going to be vacant.

Mr. Bernard stated I think one of the things we're looking forward to now is if we're able to move the entire staff and students from Chandler over to the Hevey School then we would close that right down and be able to save a little bit on electricity and heat which is considerable for that small building, that portable soaks up a lot of electricity. So, we would see no use for instruction at this time for that building, we'd like to close it and that would be the point of moving.

Mr. Houle stated regarding the Alderman's concerns regarding Chandler, I did receive a telephone call today from the New Hampshire Commission for Historic Preservation. They received calls from a neighbor and they are interested in pursuing the use of that or the reuse of that building for housing.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented without unanimous consent, on motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk