Town of Farmington Board of Selectmen/School Board
Joint Public Session
Farmington High School Library
Wednesday, June 16, 2021

**Selectmen Present**: Paula Proulx-Chairman, Neil Johnson-Vice Chairman, Doug Staples, Gerry Vachon, Ken Dickie
**School Board Members Present**: Joshua Whitehouse-Vice Chairman, Mary Barron, Tim Brown
**School Board Members Absent**: Charlie King-Chairman, Joel Chagnon
**Others Present**: Ruth Ellen Vaughn- Superintendent, Arthur Capello-Town Administrator, John Drury-Police Chief, Scott Orlando Police Captain, Brian Cisneros-Business Administrator

**1). Call to Order:**
Vice Chairman Whitehouse called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance**:
All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Board of Selectmen/School Board Joint Meeting:**
Vice Chairman Whitehouse said this meeting was requested to discuss the **S**chool **R**esource **O**fficer program as a whole, the reports required for the SRO **M**emorandum **o**f **A**greement in December and June and personnel performance as it relates to the SRO program.

**4). Non-Public Session:
Motion**: (Brown, second Whitehouse) to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c, i) Reputation, Safety and Security passed 3-0 by a roll call vote (Whitehouse, Barron, Brown-aye).
**Motion**: (Johnson, second Proulx) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Proulx, Johnson, Vachon, Dickie, Staples-aye).

**5). Public Session:**Vice Chairman Whitehouse reconvened the public session and began with the draft memo.
Mr. Brown asked if the videographer could put the memo up on TV so the audience can see what they are talking about.
Mr. Capello said he couldn’t do that here but the Selectmen released the memo last week if anybody wants it.
Mr. Whitehouse said the first item is the intent of the letter objectively sets the SRO program up for failure. He said it puts the school in a negative light whether intentionally or not and that the difficulty for an officer to make extra money working details as stated in the draft memo seems to be aimed at the school.
He said they don’t set the officer’s hours and they would be willing to pay overtime to the SRO at school events beyond the contract. The union contract and salary is outside of School Board control and the School Board is willing to pay the SRO for their time and value and if overtime is earned it should be paid he said.
Mr. Whitehouse said the next item is the contents of the draft letter are not pertinent to the program as a whole i.e. the wages at Wal Mart, details and overtime.
Mr. Johnson said they are still addressing a draft memo and asked to give the principle people involved an opportunity to come up with what’s required under the MOA and then discuss that. He said this is only one side and their side (school) had no input to it. The Chief and the Superintendent are supposed to get together and give us both their assessment of the program he said.
Mr. Whitehouse asked why this was sent to the Board of Selectmen prior to the school.
Mr. Johnson said it wasn’t sent to the Selectmen and that they had another issue and they questioned whether the Chief had set up a meeting for the six month review.
He said the Chief presented it to them at a later meeting saying this was what he was sending to the Superintendent and they said okay and had no comments about it because they figured they would work out the issues and concerns.
Chairman Proulx said it is not for the Selectmen to comment on and that was something those two (Chief Drury and Mrs. Vaughn) were supposed to work on as part of the MOA for a final draft for one memo for both boards. Right now all you have is the Chief’s draft memo and we don’t have a combination of the two as they sat and worked out the details she said.
Mr. Johnson said it was just a starting point. He said the only reason the Selectmen saw it was they had another issue they were addressing.
Mr. Whitehouse asked if the memo came to the Selectmen in a purely circumstantial manner and it wasn’t anything to do with actually addressing it.
Mr. Johnson said they made zero comments about the entire memo and just gave it back and said okay give it to Ruth Ellen.
Mrs. Vaughn said her concern was the e-mail she got on the 4th. She said she missed the one on the 14th and 21 days later she got a follow up that says “Here’s my first draft (this is the first time she saw it) I shared it with the Board of Selectmen to get their initial feedback”. That says to me that it’s already been presented as a fait accompli and you have already released it to the public she said.
Mr. Johnson said he understood that interpretation from the way it was worded but it didn’t happen that way exactly.
Mrs. Vaughn said had that just been clarified but it wasn’t.
Chairman Proulx said it should have been asked.
Mrs. Vaughn said she did follow up with the e-mail chain that day and they have that in front of them. I hear you she said.
Mr. Johnson said she needs to fix her (e-mail) spam.
Mrs. Vaughn agreed and said she gets between 100 and 250 e-mails a day and some of them end up in the wrong folder. She said when the Chief sent her this one she went back and did a search and there it was.
Chairman Proulx said that wasn’t a big deal because there are no time constraints on this.
Mrs. Vaughn said she is seeing it 21 days later after it has already been released. That’s my frustration and it had already gone to you she said.
Chairman Proulx said it came to the Selectmen as acknowledgement that it was done.
Mrs. Barron said but it wasn’t done.
Mr. Staples said this side was done.
Chairman Proulx said the Chief showed that he did what they asked him to do.
Mrs. Barron said it should not be sides. She said the direction is for two people to sit down and do it. This (repot) doesn’t exist because it doesn’t follow the direction of the MOA and that is you set a date and you do it she said.
Mr. Dickie said he agreed and this is his (Chief Drury) interpretation of how it’s going and they need to get her (Mrs. Vaughn) interpretation, work it out and come out with a mutual agreement and then it comes to both boards to agree.
Chairman Proulx said this is not the official report and the Chief was trying to get things started with a conversation so these two would meet.
Mrs. Barron said it should have stayed within the two parties that are under direction and it should not have even been presented to you folks because of what you’ve read before any School Board members or officials you’ve already got a pre-determined notion of what’s going on with the SRO.
She said now 2 weeks later if they had gotten together and a memo had come out what is it you are going to concentrate on, what are you going to focus on- the first parcel of information that came out.
Chairman Proulx said she didn’t think so and without going back over it she couldn’t remember what was in it. She said all it was for the board was here it is, he did it and they said good, see you later. We had another issue we were dealing with and we didn’t have any feedback to this she said.
Mr. Brown said part of the communication problem with both boards lies to a certain extent with both boards. He said the MOA says “twice per year the Superintendent and the Police Chief will report in writing to both the Select Board and the School Board. Any Issues that are unresolved will be put in writing to both boards”. He said they are telling them to write a report but they are not telling them what that report should contain. He asked if it should contain the salaries at Wal Mart or if it should contain the life safety issues in the school, how this program benefits, what the SRO is working on, any problems encountered by staff personnel, etc.
Mr. Brown said his frustration with the memo that was sent to the board which is a public record at this point is that it is talking in hypothetical’s that has no information attributed to the SRO program. There’s nothing factual or concrete or useful to evaluate investing taxpayer money in this program in what you’re calling a report. Its garbage and it’s set up with the tone that I want the program to fail and if you can read that with any other outcome you’re better at comprehending the English language than I am he said.
Mr. Johnson said he would accept that and the first page and a half of the draft is all compliments on how things have changed for the positive. He said there may be superfluous stuff in there but if it had gone as it was intended that superfluous stuff and some of the issues that may have been encountered would have probably been discussed and hopefully resolved and they would have gotten the report they were looking for. If you want to be more specific in the memorandum that’s fine he said.
Mr. Brown said he will because before they leave here today, at least under the 12 month evaluation period that we’ve invested taxpayer money in they need to set goals and objectives for what the report should be. He said paragraph 1 tells him the SRO’s total calls for a year, how many she did including on school property and off school property. The whole first paragraph was about this officer’s yearly performance realistically has nothing to do with the school or provides me as a School Board member with any information to what’s going on on our campuses. It’s not what I expected when I signed the MOA he said.
He said the second paragraph talks positively about the program and the third paragraph starts talking about one concern he had was keeping the SRO position that has been historical for years. He read that problems encountered are that the SRO feels left out at many activities and still seems an outsider to our schools. I question the accuracy of that statement and the reason I question it is as we read down it talks about the SRO receiving information from our employees as far as after school fights and drug arrests that were made in town because of information that has come out of the school district. If she is an outsider she’s not going to get that information so it’s one way or the other he said.
Mr. Brown said the SRO can be asked to do many tasks some not necessarily along the lines of the MOA. He said she does want to help but doesn’t want to do welfare checks on students not logging into the system. He said that’s a legitimate concern in the report to be discussed and the MOA says the officer won’t do truancy positions however the School Board voted because of the high number of truancies in this district which is somewhere in the 80’s that they were going to start charging parents. So under juvenile law a school official or truant officer can file a CHINS and under the adult system the only one that can file that violation complaint in district court is a Police officer to prosecute that RSA for truancy he said.
He said if a kid is not in school there’s a problem. These kids aren’t sitting home twiddling their thumbs saying I don’t want to go to school today. They’re breaking into cars and into houses and I see them congregated downtown-I don’t see any cruisers but I see the kids he said.
Mr. Johnson asked him what he is looking for.
Mr. Brown said he is looking for identifying the community problem and getting help with the problem.
Mr. Johnson said our officers were specifically excluded from being truancy officers by the previous board.
Mr. Brown acknowledged that and they also had a meeting where they were in communication with the SRO and they said because of the numbers in the community, approx. 84 or 85 kids out in the community they have to start holding parents accountable for truancy. That’s an adult complaint in adult district court it’s not the juvenile truancy he said.
He said in order to do that they have to do welfare checks but these welfare checks aren’t just for students that aren’t in school. He said in December they seemed to have a row of them but it’s not a constant problem.
Mrs. Vaughn said when she has requested welfare checks it’s been because there is a specific concern literally about the welfare of the student. She said she hasn’t looked at it as a truancy issue and if they have a kid where they have a concern that’s when she contacts.
She said there is an issue around charging parents and of those truant students it’s a very small number that rises to that level of being charged.
Mr. Brown said his expectations in signing the MOA was that he is really not concerned with the societal problems of what our wages are, what our benefits are and he is more concerned with the crimes that are occurring within our buildings, how many sexual assaults they have. He said he filed a Right-to-Know request when he ran for election and got some of those statistics and was pretty startled by what was going on in our schools.
He said he was not overly concerned about the turnover within the Police Dept. as it’s not a School Board issue. He said they are down staffed but they are consistently down staffed and have been according to the Town Reports for almost a 10 year period.
Mr. Johnson said that is incorrect. He said the Town may have been down but the dept. has not. There has been a 3 year period where they were fully staffed and only has been recently that they are down other than when somebody resigns and the time it takes to get refilled he said.
Mr. Brown said maybe he misread the documents. He said another issue he wanted to put on the table was going back to the wages and the SRO can’t make money. He said he has seen the SRO in our buildings with a really strong drive to work and showing up at functions, etc. If she is there in the capacity of a Police officer and it’s over her 40 hour contract it should be compensated at the district level and compensated as overtime as required by law. So while an SRO may not be able to work details or patrol overtime there’s a significant occasion if they’re asked to work overtime within our buildings.
He said for example there’s a sophomore movie on Saturday night and the students invited the SRO to attend and she said she would try to be there. He said if she’s there in the capacity of an SRO they should be paying that bill for those hours that she’s putting in to build those relationships for that program. So while you can say it looks like everything’s doom and gloom within the school district it’s not if we identify those issues and do the right thing he said.
Mr. Johnson said he agreed and that is a topic for discussion and they have to expand upon this. He said Mr. Brown was right if they are spending time here and it’s beyond their 40 hours that they’re scheduled for then some accommodation has to be made for payment of the overtime.
He said that was an issue that should have been outside of this memo and negotiated between the boards to work that out.
Chairman Proulx said that is for the next MOA to make sure that it gets done.
Mrs. Barron said since she has been on the board every time that it has been brought up that she needs to be compensated for that everybody in that room has agreed. She said they were waiting for this type of thing to happen so they could open that conversation. We respect her, we respect the fact that the Chief can’t use her on other details unless it’s an emergency and we know that she said.
Mrs. Vaughn said it’s not waiting until the next MOA and they are willing to pay her Saturday.
Vice Chairman Whitehouse said while they are going member to member, board to board it would be important to offer Chief Drury an opportunity to respond as they go through this draft and to Mrs. Vaughn as well.
Mr. Brown said as a board member one of his ultimate responsibilities is for the safety and security of the kids in our school district. He said in January and February of this year he asked for data on the number of Police calls that were responding in our district and what the nature of the calls were with no suspect, victim or witness information as he just wanted to know what problems were occurring within our school district.
He said he got an e-mail copied to the Superintendent and the Chief in January that said they had approx. 23 calls for service for the first month and the second one said the number was 17. He said that tells him absolutely nothing and it takes about 20 seconds to generate that data by address on what the calls are at our facility. Its public record and not something I’m asking as a board member and it should be readily available he said.
Mr. Brown said they can’t set policy, direction, procedures or change procedures if they don’t know what is going on in the buildings. He said the only thing he knows about performance on Police calls is that he asked over the last 5 years other than mental health evaluations how many of the students have been physically brought out of the buildings in handcuffs and he was told none. He said he hasn’t seen the number of sexual and physical assaults, vaping incidences and drug offenses reported and asked how they manage a safe school environment if that information isn’t there.
He said when he envisions a report in a 6 month interval on an MOA program that is the type of information he is looking for, this is where we’ve been effective, these are the programs that have been enacted and two examples are in the draft memo (music and gym). He asked what their societal problems are, what crimes are occurring in the schools and how they guarantee to the taxpayers a safe school zone.
Chairman Proulx asked if as School Board members didn’t they know that.
Mr. Brown asked how they would know that.
Mr. Staples asked if they get reports.
Mr. Brown said they don’t get reports from the Police.
Mr. Staples said they get reports from the schools.
Chairman Proulx said they have Principals and a Superintendent and knowing Ruth Ellen as good as she is she has got to be giving them that information.
Mrs. Vaughn said she has the Safe Schools reports but it doesn’t mean that she gets all of her calls because not all calls generate a Safe Schools report.
Chairman Proulx suggested they specify that in the next MOA because she didn’t know what their concerns were.
Mr. Brown asked if she was telling him he has to specify in an MOA to get a public record.
Chairman Proulx said if it’s a public record he could make a RSA 91-A request.
Mr. Brown asked if as a board member if they want this information from the Police Dept. she wants him to file a RSA 91-A request.
Chairman Proulx said if they want the SRO to be doing this it should be part of the MOA. She said the SRO is supposed to meet with the Principals and the School Board if anything happens that is a crime according to the MOA. Your Principals should know anything that should be coming up and if you’re not getting those reports from the Principals and you want it from the SRO then we should specify that so she keeps all those details and records not only with the Principals but also with the Superintendent to pass on to your board she said.
She used the example of if the Selectmen wanted to know the number of accidents at the DPW and they wanted it from the Chief that would be something they would set that up and they would expect him to give them that information. She said if the MOA is written in a way that the SRO is supposed to communicate the crimes and whatever is happening with the Principals then it doesn’t go any further than that. But if you want something further than that I’m sure they will accommodate it. If you are not getting that information now and you need a different route to do it then I would say put it in there she said.
Mr. Brown said he needed a daily or monthly Police log which is a public record of all the calls for service on any school property. That’s a pretty simple request that isn’t happening and I can’t understand why the only way for me to get that is to file a 91-A which is stupid he said.
Chairman Proulx said she didn’t know who he asked or anything about this issue. She said they are not the people involved and they helped negotiate the MOA but that is all they can go by unless the Chief and the Superintendent got together and she said to the Chief that this is what they would like to see because we are not getting this information and that would be something that would go forward in the final report to both boards. This is where they could say they would like to see a report for whatever term they want to put in there. That would be helpful and that’s an improvement and that is what we are looking for. That’s the things that should come to the board and say this is how we can make this program better she said.
Mr. Brown said that was their whole request in asking to meet today. He said these are the frustrations they’re seeing in the program in the last year, this is the information he is not getting and this is the information he would like to see to evaluate the program if they’re going to continue the program.
Chairman Proulx said the MOA states the report is done twice a year but that may not be enough for them and maybe that’s something that should be part of the report. She said maybe they need more information and the direction needs to be more than twice a year.
She said if she knows what you’re having a situation with or what more information you need you should convey to the Superintendent so when she meets with the Chief they talk about it and that’s the report that they submit so we can make the program better.
Mr. Brown said he has done that and he could provide her with copies of the e-mail that say here’s the information-17 calls for service and 23 calls for service and copied to the Police Chief.
Mr. Johnson said that is just what he said that he wanted to know the number of calls for service on school property.
Mr. Brown said he asked for the number and type of calls for service.
Mr. Whitehouse said the statistics could be handled by a new MOA or an addendum. He said the thing that bothered him most was the last paragraph which states: “With the current political climate continuing the position of SRO although not impossible would be difficult”. He asked Chief Drury what he meant by that and if he meant local or national and why it would make continuing the SRO position difficult but not impossible.
Mr. Johnson said they had this discussion generally speaking but not specifically this line. He said the climate in the nation has changed in the past couple of years where 3-4 years ago they were getting 20 applicants for an open position and now we are getting less than none.
He said it’s a manpower situation and there aren’t people applying for Police positions. He said the pool of candidates for first responders has disappeared in the last couple of years and he didn’t know if the school district was finding this with general employment and its true everywhere but it is specifically a concern for the Police Dept.
Mr. Whitehouse asked as it relates to the SRO program how they could ensure the left’s attack on law enforcement doesn’t become an issue to eliminate the position here in Farmington.
Mr. Johnson said they’ve discussed other options for the Police Dept. and about specifically targeting the SRO and having candidates when required. We don’t have a solution but we’re looking for it he said.
Mr. Whitehouse asked if it was something where a wage adjustment might be necessary.
Mr. Capello said that is why the comment about Wal Mart was in the draft to show the economic climate out there to put the school on alert because they pay 80% of the bill and they may have to look at a wage adjustment to get a qualified officer as an SRO. It was more of an informational thing to say this is a possibility down the road and going into budgetary times we may have to increase the salary for an SRO or advertise specifically for an SRO. You guys pay 80% of the tab and we felt it was information you should have he said.
Mr. Brown said he had no issues with anything Mr. Capello said and the position of this board is people need to be paid what they are worth. He said the decision on those raises is going to rest with the taxpayers either at a special meeting if they decide to do it out of this year’s budget or at next year’s election.
Mr. Capello said they were trying to make people aware because ultimately the taxpayers are going to decide but if you’re not aware of it you can’t support it or argue it.
Mr. Barron said she didn’t think there was a single member of the School Board that isn’t aware of what wages are and what they’re fighting with. She said in order to keep the schools safe and as clean as they were during COVID and to get the right people in here to do that work they offered signing bonuses. She said she appreciated the information and as an employer she has had people leave to go to Wal Mart.
Mr. Brown said Officer Morin is grossly under paid for the job she does and he has no qualms with that.
Mr. Capello said the intent was to be transparent and to give everybody a heads up. There was no other intent other than to be transparent. We all know the issues but it’s a lot easier to support when you have somebody backing it he said.
Mr. Brown said it’s easier to say it’s because of the work environment and the difficulty recruiting personnel we anticipate increasing cost items in the future. We can prepare for that and support that and we have supported it. I’m the biggest voice on the board that says I saw the SRO at Deliberative Session and asked if she was on the clock and if she wasn’t they need to pay that overtime. The same thing with the 3 officers that were at graduation I don’t expect the Town to pay for those 3 officers he said.
He said he was not about the pay and he loves the job she does. He said his interpretation of this memo was that the SRO program is doomed and that is a concern. He said it goes down to their interpretation of the way it is written in the last line: “continuing the position although not impossible…” is putting on the line that this program is going to be doomed in the future and some of the information is pointing the finger at them. That’s my interpretation of this memo and I’m reading it very, very, very negatively he said.
Chairman Proulx said that was not the intent and it was just telling them how hard it is to bring officers in right now and they will work very hard to make sure the SRO is supported.
Mr. Brown said regardless of the intent if it creates the perception in his mind as a board member that that’s the intent that perception becomes a reality until it’s cleared up.
Chairman Proulx said if it had followed proper channels he probably would have heard exactly how he would have put it because Mrs. Vaughn would have said they are going to hear from the Selectmen because they are probably going to hike the bill.
Mr. Brown said if this went directly from the Chief to the Superintendent or the Superintendent back to the Chief he wouldn’t have that concern.
Chairman Proulx it didn’t come to the board and she got a call from (School Board Chair) Mr. King on Friday and he left a message saying something about a memo that had gone to the Superintendent and she did not know the Chief had sent that message to her. She said she then called Mr. Capello and asked him what memo and when it had gone to the Superintendent.
She said Mr. Capello said it was probably the one from the Chief about the MOA and suggested that they bring it up on Monday. We were unaware that that was sent over until Charlie King called me because Ruth Ellen had sent it to him. We didn’t get it, we didn’t request it for that reason, he (the Chief) brought it over because he sent it to her and Charlie called in she said.
Mrs. Vaughn said when she and Mr. King met with the Chief and Capt. Orlando on June 7, it had been sent to her on the 4th and the message with it said this has already gone to the Selectmen and we were told in that meeting that it was given to you on the 17th and that it was discussed in non-public session on the 24th. That is why you had the response from the board Chair that you did because we were told you had it before he had followed up with me and it had already been discussed in non-public session on May 24 she said.
Mr. Brown read the e-mail from Chief Drury dated Friday, June 4, 2021 at 7:48 p.m. as follows: “Ruth Ellen, Here is my first draft for the MOA. I have shared this with the Board of Selectmen to get their initial feedback. Thank you for taking a look as the final report should come from both of us for both boards. I didn’t hear back from you from the last e-mail a few weeks ago. Have a good weekend, Jay”.
He said the message they saw says that this draft went to the Board of Selectmen on June 4.
Mrs. Vaughn added “for feedback”.
Mr. Johnson said he believed that it did.
Chief Drury said that was when he showed it to them for feedback on their part.
Mr. Johnson said that was part of the other issue the board was discussing.
Chairman Proulx said she hardly read it because it wasn’t for them and then apologized and said she stood corrected and didn’t realize it because it wasn’t something that they dealt with.
Mrs. Barron said it looked like it was a done deal to them and the content was in what they reviewed as a done deal/a lot of negatives/no discussion from their side.
Mr. Johnson acknowledged that but that was not the case and it was brought in based on another issue.
Mr. Dickie said it boils down to a communications breakdown.
Mr. Whitehouse said the contentions between past boards might have boiled over to today and that might have been the cause of misinterpretations and miscommunications. He said an addendum is needed to MOA to clarify the reporting requirements and other expectations whatever they may be. He said there is a third item and then made the following motion:
**Motion**: (Whitehouse, second Brown) to direct the Superintendent to meet with the Police Chief, the SRO and the Director of Student Services by the end of next week to finish the memo;
**Discussion**: Mr. Brown asked if it makes sense for the School Board to direct the Superintendent and for the Selectmen to direct the Police Chief on what they see as boards as expected information in this joint report. He said he would like to know the nature of the calls by month of the different things the SRO is dealing with. In generalities there is a lot of team building and communication with the students and I don’t expect a daily tabulation on that but maybe in generalities what she does as part of that program he said.
He said any issues she identifies within the school district such as an SRO alluding to feeling like an outsider. He said that is not what he’s seen in this district but if that’s an identifiable problem they need to work on it and that type of information should be in the report.
Mr. Brown said the School Board is making this motion and they can’t direct the Chief to do anything. He asked if it would be better to have a consensus of both boards.
Chief Drury said he could make a copy of it right now and fulfill most of Mr. Brown’s obligations now that a consensus has been reached. He said it took them 7 hours to redact all the information needed for he and Mrs. Vaughn to file a report and it’s all here and all done.
Mr. Johnson said they are going to have to find a way to streamline it because there is no way they are going to waste that amount of time on a monthly report.
Mrs. Vaughn said she is privy to those things that happen on campus so they may not have to do quite as much redaction for her and then they can narrow it down for the board.
Mrs. Barron said they don’t mean to be burdensome but they cannot fix a problem that they don’t know exists.
Chief Drury said they want to work with them to solve the problems. He said he wrote the draft to be positive to move forward like an evaluation and we all have room to improve and that was his goal with the memo.
Mr. Capello said the Chief didn’t need to “eat” the memo as it was never intended to get to this point. He said this was a communication between him and Mrs. Vaughn and it got out of control with a lack of communication on everybody’s part. You were doing what you were directed to do he said.
Mr. Brown said with all due respect and the perception of his board is if it was a memo from the Chief to Mrs. Vaughn he wouldn’t have an issue. He said the memo that went from the Chief to the Selectmen whether it was on an unrelated issue or not and an e-mail that said he already sent it to his board is what got their feathers (ruffled).
He said there is a communication issue on both sides and room for improvement on both sides.
He asked Chairman Proulx about a comment made at last Monday night’s Selectmen’s meeting that the School Board is hiding something and that he would like to know what they are hiding.
He said the comment was said by Mr. Staples during the public meeting Monday night.
Mr. Staples said that was in reference to the School Board wanting to meet in non-public session when it should have been in public session like it is. He said there was no reason for the meeting to be in non-public which they found out and came out.
Mr. Brown asked if none of the issues discussed on the video he talked about is a non-public issue and if he wanted him to stream that live tonight so the person can see it.
Mr. Staples said they talked about nothing really in non-public session and Mr. Brown came up with some concerns they said that’s not for non-public and then they came out.
Mr. Whitehouse said there is a motion and a second and called for the vote.
Mr. Brown said he would vote no because they should have a consensus vs. the motion.
Mr. Whitehouse withdrew his motion.
Consensus of the members was to have a meeting between Chief Drury, Capt. Orlando, the SRO, the Director of Student Services and the Superintendent by the end of next week.
Mr. Capello said they could also leave it up to the two people that are meeting to determine who should be there other than a board member. Let them decide who should be there that’s their job he said.
Chairman Proulx asked if the threat to get rid of the program is gone.
Mr. Brown said they don’t have a full board present.
Chairman Proulx said a majority of their board is present.
Mr. Brown said it is not on the agenda and it’s something he is going to digest from what they talked about tonight. I think our board will bring it up at a later date and the discussion will take place when they have a full board he said.
He said if the School Board makes the decision to end this program it’s not the intent to cause financial harm to the taxpayers. He said they have a contract that runs to Oct. 31 and there is some federal regulation that if they don’t complete it there is a possibility of having to pay it back whether the federal government would come after that or not he doubts it but he is not going to take that chance.
He said if they have to come to a resolution the discussion with his board at a later date is how they resole any of their perceptions from now until the end of the grant so that financial harm doesn’t come and if they are going to continue the program how they resolve those issues long term. He said they are required to give a 60 day notice if they are going to end the program and his vote would be for a 120 day notice so the grant remains solid and nobody can come after either the Town or the school district.
Mr. Whitehouse said the second item for consensus was for an addendum to the MOA to clarify reporting requirements and other expectations to avoid future issues.
Mr. Johnson said Chief Drury and Mrs. Vaughn were going to work that out and they can determine the information that is needed and how they are going to get it. He said he was not opposed to having it put in the MOA but he would like to see it written out. He then suggested they finish out this contract because they are going to have to negotiate a new written agreement within the next few months and to just put it in that agreement.
Mr. Brown asked for a prediction of the timeline to have a sit down and do the new MOA.
Chairman Proulx said they have not set a time line and have not put it on the agenda yet.
Mr. Brown said in December 2020 Police Standards and Training came out with a sample MOA for school depts. and towns and as they get into the process he would like to look at their guidance and make sure the format that we’re using is consistent with what they recommend.
Mr. Capello said they talked about reimbursing the SRO for when she is here such as for the student movie on Saturday and asked who has the authority to authorize the overtime.
Mrs. Vaughn said she has the authority to authorize overtime for the SRO.
Mr. Johnson asked how that is handled now and if it comes out of the Town budget.
Chief Drury said it comes out of the Police Dept. budget and when she works a basketball game or something like that they have split the cost with the school district in the past.
Mr. Whitehouse asked what the split is between the school district and the Town.
Mr. Johnson said 80% of the SRO’s salary is paid by the district and 20% is paid by the Town.
Mrs. Vaughn said if she is doing the overtime for the district they should pay that bill.
Mr. Brown said there should be no split for overtime if she is here for the district they own that and they are not afraid of paying that bill.
Mr. Johnson said that is something they could put in the next agreement and he wouldn’t be upset about continuing with it the way it is for the next 3 months. He said it wasn’t part of the MOA and they normally covered most of it and it wasn’t an issue to them. He said they didn’t want to impact the School Board’s budget because they had set figures and recalled the headaches they went through to get these figures with the grant funding, etc. involved. We can work this out and we appreciate the offer he said.
Chief Drury said the last 2 lines of his memo say “I feel as Chief of Police this is a worthwhile position and is important to the community. It fosters good relationships with the Police Dept., the students and the staff of the Farmington School District”. We want to make this work and make it a success he said.
Mr. Whitehouse said the district as a whole agrees with that statement whole heartedly.

 **5). Adjournment:
Motion**: (Barron, second Whitehouse) to adjourn the meeting passed 3-0.
**Motion**: (Johnson, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

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Paula Proulx, Chairman Neil Johnson, Vice Chairman

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Gerry Vachon Ken Dickie

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Douglas Staples