

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGHRegular Meeting

Date: October 17, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Ms. Beverley Lord,
Mr. Bruce Gardner, Ms. Marilyn Weiss, Mr. Chris Connolly

SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Debra Spinelli, Dr. Amy Berdos, Mr. William Yukna

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Alex Shilcusky

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Connolly moved, Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2016, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

B.I.T. Auction

Three members of the B.I.T. Auction Committee, Ms. Diana Griffin (Burrell Elementary), Ms. Jenna Strickland (Taylor Elementary), and Ms. Sarah Francomano (Burrell Elementary) joined the meeting to update the committee on the status of the upcoming B.I.T. Auction. Details such as ticket sales, items up for bid, volunteer opportunities, donations, online ticket purchases, online bidding and fundraising were discussed. The 21st annual auction is scheduled for Friday, November 4 at the Cross Insurance Pavilion at Patriot Place starting at 7 p.m. Former New England Patriot Matt Light will be the emcee for the evening.

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Spinelli introduced Athletic Director Rich Cormier who joined the FPS staff in July 2016. Mr. Cormier shared a bit about himself and his background. He noted it has been a great fall athletic season in Foxborough and discussed plans for winter and spring programs; i.e., the Positive Coaching Alliance, leadership development, and improving communication among students, coaching staff and parents. Questions and discussion with the committee followed.

FHS Overnight Travel

Boys' Basketball Coach John Gibbs joined Mr. Cormier and addressed the committee to request approval to travel to Orlando, Florida with the varsity and junior varsity boys' basketball teams

in December 2017 for the KSA Events Holiday Basketball Tournament. The structure of the tournament, travel dates, travel package information and the cost per player were discussed. The request is being made early so that a discounted price can be reserved and fundraising can begin.

Gardner moved; Lord seconded

Approve overnight travel to Orlando, Florida from December 26-31, 2017 for the FHS Boys' Varsity and Junior Varsity basketball teams

Vote: 5-0-0

Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Yukna reported on a transfer of scholarship money in the amount of \$31,740.74 from the Easter Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Ruth & Dexter Stripp Memorial Scholarship Fund to be administered by the Foxborough High School Scholarship Fund.

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Accept the transfer of \$31,740.74 from the Easter Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Ruth & Dexter Stripp Memorial Scholarship Fund, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Mr. Yukna asked David and Ellen Feldman to join the meeting to be publicly recognized for their tremendous volunteer work resulting in the completion of the softball/baseball facility at the high school. The committee and administration acknowledged their gratitude for all the hard work and personal time the Feldman's dedicated to this endeavor. Mr. and Mrs. Feldman also thanked their many friends, family members and contributors who donated to this project.

2016 MCAS, PARCC and Baseline & Benchmarks Report and Review of Results

Ms. Spinelli introduced Dr. Amy Berdos to present the 2016 MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) and PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) results and the 2016 Baseline and Benchmarks Report. The information discussed included: 2016 MCAS Results for English Language Arts and Mathematics for grade 10 and Science Engineering Technology for grades 5, 8 and 10; 2016 PARCC Results for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics for grades 3-8; Foxborough Public Schools Baselines and Benchmarks Report; Transition Plan for MCAS Science and Technology/ Engineering (STE) Tests; AP (Advanced Placement), SAT and ACT testing at the high school; and a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student achievement and comparison to state averages.

Curriculum Director Ms. Alison Mello and Department Heads Ms. Shannon Wasilewski, Mr. Paul Charpentier and Ms. Laureen White joined the meeting and reported in their area of expertise. Ms. Dianne Casilli and Ms. Sue Carle were not able to attend.

It was noted that Massachusetts has chosen not to continue with PARCC testing and will replace it this spring with a new Next-Generation MCAS. Dr. Berdos discussed the state's transition plan for this change and noted the following:

- MCAS will continue in Science for grades 5, 8, and 9/10;
- 2016 Science Standards will not be fully assessed on MCAS until the 2018-2019 school year;
- MCAS will continue to be a graduation requirement for grade 10 (ELA, Math and Science) at least through the Class of 2020;
- In the spring of 2017 grades 3 through 8 will take the new Next-Generation MCAS.

The committee commended Dr. Berdos, Curriculum Directors and Department Heads for the depth and thoughtfulness of their presentation.

Ms. Spinelli cited a recent *Foxboro Reporter* article that reported 68 perfect test scores from Foxborough High School students on standardized tests (SAT, ACT, MCAS AP). Congratulations were extended to all the students.

Warrant Approval (Municipal Modernization Act)

Mr. Bill Yukna reported that the Municipal Modernization Act is part of the Governor’s package of a number of modernization acts to improve the efficiency of local government. This would allow changes in warrant signing procedures. Discussion followed regarding the current signing procedure requiring three School Committee member signatures versus adopting an optional procedure requiring only one School Committee member signature. After discussing the pros and cons, the following motion was made.

Connolly moved; Lord seconded
 Move to table this discussion for a future meeting
 Vote: 5-0-0

FY '17 Budget Update

Mr. Bill Yukna reviewed the FY '17 Budget Summary dated 10/17/16 and noted it is very early in the year and, therefore, shows very little change. The next update will have more significant changes to the salary accounts as two administrative positions have been filled on an interim basis. Mr. Yukna advised caution in the area of out-of-district tuition as this item can change very quickly. The budget currently shows a small favorable variance of \$317.

Gardner moved; Weiss seconded
 Approve the FY '17 Budget Summary dated 10/17/16
 Vote: 5-0-0

October 1 Enrollment Update

Ms. Spinelli noted the student population is relatively stable. Kindergarten enrollment is up from last year, and tuition for full-day kindergarten was reduced to \$ 2,500. First grade remains a smaller group. Total enrollment as of October 3, 2016 is 2,631 students in grades Pre-K to 12.

Other Matters

Ms. Lord congratulated Dr. Berdos for being selected as the 2016 Administrator Award recipient by MassCUE. Ms. Lord read the contents of the announcement letter. Dr. Berdos was congratulated for this well-deserved achievement.

Ms. Lord also stated that she is proud of the 43 FHS students who garnered 68 perfect scores on standardized tests.

Ms. Spinelli noted that security/video surveillance signs are up at all schools and are visible in entry locations.

Student Representative Alex Schilcusky reported on voter registration for students who will turn 18 by Election Day.

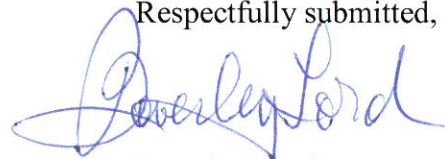
Mr. Yukna gave a brief update on the progress of the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) and the Burrell project. The feasibility agreement has been received and a meeting is scheduled with the MSBA on the 9th.

Ms. Belanger reminded everyone that the U.S. Army Field Band will be performing at the high school on Sunday, October 30th at 2:00 p.m.

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverley Lord
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2016

B.I.T Auction flyer

FHS Overnight Travel

Easter Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Ruth & Dexter Stripp Memorial Scholarship Fund

2016 MCAS & PARCC Results and 2016 Baseline & Benchmarks Report

Municipal Modernization Act

FY '17 Budget Summary of 10/17/2016

FPS Enrollment as of October 3, 2016

Approved: 11/7/16