

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: January 25, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Melissa Lynch (Mical Henriquez was not present)

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Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

***Visitors***

None.

Mr. Gardner welcomed back Ms. Lord who missed the last meeting. Student representative Melissa Lynch shared some exciting news about college acceptance.

***Approval of Minutes***

Weiss moved; Udden seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of January 4, 2016, as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Spinelli announced that FPS was one of 425 school districts in the United States and Canada selected as part of the College Board's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual AP® (Advanced Placement) District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. The dedication and hard work of staff to achieve this milestone were commended.

***Teaching and Learning Highlight***

Athletic Director Ms. Caitlin Brown discussed the Athletic Department's partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance. This is the first year of a three-year affiliation with the Alliance, a national non-profit organization whose mission is to transform the culture of youth sports to provide a positive, character-building experience for student athletes. During her PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Brown described key components of the program which included becoming a triple-impact competitor; the ELM Tree of Mastery (Effort, Learning and Improvement, Embracing Mistakes); the role of a leader and the ROOTS (Rules, Opponents, Teammates, Self) of honoring the game. Ms. Spinelli noted this is one of the many great leadership opportunities provided at the high school. Discussion and positive remarks from the committee followed.

***Eagle Scout Ken Eva: Ahern YMCA Path Eagle Scout Project***

Ms. Spinelli commended Eagle Scout Ken Eva on his Eagle Scout Project to widen and enhance the path between the Ahern Middle School and the Foxboro/Invensys Branch of the YMCA. Before proceeding with the project, Ken Eva met with Mr. Yukna and Ms. Spinelli to review plans to clear and rejuvenate the path. Ms. Spinelli noted her appreciation that the path has been cleared and widened and is now safer. The committee extended their thanks to Ken and to all those who helped complete the project.

***Proposed 2016-2017 FHS Program of Studies***

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and Department Heads Ms. Sue Carle, Ms. Lauren White, Ms. Shannon Wasilewski, and Mr. Paul Charpentier presented the proposed 2016-2017 FHS Program of Studies. Course changes and additions in the math, English and science departments were outlined and discussed. The addition of a foundational Exploring Computer Science class to the math department was highlighted. Ms. Spinelli briefly summarized the six main sections of the curriculum – Human Computer Interaction, Problem Solving, Web Design, Programming, Computing and Data Analysis, and Robotics. Appropriate staff will be attending summer professional development that is associated with this course. The committee and Ms. Spinelli extended their thanks to Department Heads for their work on the new course offerings.

Belanger moved; Lord seconded  
Approve the 2016-2017 FHS Program of Studies  
Vote: 5-0-0

***First Reading of Policy JKAA – Restraint Prevention***

Dr. Sandra Einsel, Director of Special Education, joined the meeting for the first reading of revisions to policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students. Ms. Belanger and Dr. Einsel cited changes in the law which required the need for the policy revision. Dr. Einsel remarked that the changes reflect best practices to not physically restrain students but instead use other means of redirection. It was noted it has historically been Foxborough's practice to not physically restrain students unless the safety of a student is jeopardized. Ms. Belanger read the proposed revised policy in its entirety. Questions and discussion followed the reading. A second reading will be scheduled for the next School Committee meeting.

***Approval of the 2016-2017 School Calendar***

Ms. Spinelli introduced discussion regarding two 2016-2017 school calendar options that were previously provided to the School Committee, one with a student return date of September 6 (a traditional return after the Labor Day holiday), and the other August 30 (students returning before the Labor Day holiday). Results of a staff calendar poll showed a slight preference for the traditional calendar (112) versus the early return (97). The pros and cons of both options were discussed.

Udden moved; Belanger seconded  
Approve the 2016-2017 FPS School Calendar with a traditional start date after the Labor Day holiday of September 6, 2016.  
Vote: 3-2-0

### ***FY 17 Budget Public Hearing and Vote of Recommendation***

Mr. Yukna presented an FY '17 Operating Budget Adjustment, recommending a further reduction of \$24,912 to the FY '17 Transportation budget due to lower fuel costs, reducing the fuel account line item by \$43,800 for FY '17 as compared to the FY '16 budget. This changes the overall budget to \$32,969,309, or an increase of 3.9% over last year. There were no further questions from the committee regarding the budget since the last meeting.

Udden moved; Lord seconded

Approve the FY '17 FPS Operating Budget Request in the amount of \$32,969,309 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

### ***Approval of FY '17 Capital Improvement Plan***

Mr. Yukna recommended an increase in funding of \$100,000 for the Burrell School MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) Feasibility Study based on discussion with other school districts that are currently in the initial phase of the new MSBA program. These funds will not be expended until such time as the MSBA invites the Town into the Feasibility Study phase of the Burrell School project. No other CIP requests have been changed.

Weiss moved; Lord seconded

Approve the FY '17 FPS Capital Improvement Plan Request in the amount of \$1,285,500.

Vote: 5-0-0

### ***School Committee Vote on Subcommittee Appointments***

Ms. Spinelli explained every three years collective bargaining opens for our bargaining units. The Foxborough Education Association (Teachers) and Educational Assistants are entering into negotiations this year which necessitates subcommittee appointments. After discussion, the following appointments were made.

Udden moved; Belanger seconded

Appoint Ms. Belanger and Mr. Gardner to serve on the negotiation subcommittee for the Foxborough Education Association (Professionals); and Ms. Lord and Ms. Weiss on the negotiation subcommittee for the Foxborough Education Association (Educational Assistants).

Vote: 5-0-0

### ***2016 District Report Card***

Ms. Spinelli noted each year for the last four years FPS has developed and distributed a District Report Card which is mailed to every address in Foxborough. This document outlines the vision, mission and values of the Foxborough Public Schools and provides an overview of the past year's accomplishments and achievements. It is also an important strategy toward Objective 4 in the FPS Strategic Plan – *“to maintain strong support for public education within the town of Foxborough.”*

Dr. Berdos outlined this year's highlights and revisions, reviewed per pupil expenditure, and discussed items within the *Technology Highlights*, *What's New?*, and *Did You Know?* sections of

the report. Discussion with the School Committee followed. In order to avoid confusion with the annual district report card issued by the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), the committee decided to rename the FPS document “Community Report” rather than “District Report Card.”

### ***Acceptance of Donations***

Four donations were brought to the committee for consideration.

Weiss moved; Lord seconded

Accept a donation from the Partners in Patriotism Fund in the amount of \$1,500 for the Credit Fair for Life, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Accept a donation from the Rotary Club of Foxboro in the amount of \$500 for School to Career programming, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-1 (Udden abstaining)

Weiss moved; Udden seconded

Accept a donation from JED Insurance and Financial Service Agency in the amount of \$100 for the Credit Fair for Life, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Belanger moved; Lord seconded

Accept a donation from the Grade 8 Elves in the amount of \$155.00 to the Sam Berns Community Field concession stand, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

### ***Other Matters***

Ms. Spinelli noted the following:

- The World Languages National Honor Society Inductions will be held on Wednesday, January 27 in the FHS auditorium at 7 p.m.;
- Thirty FHS students performed at the 2016 Southeastern District High School Music Festival this past weekend;
- Last Saturday’s Ahern Winter Carnival was wonderful;
- She received a letter from Representative Jay Barrows congratulating FPS for earning a ranking of 46<sup>th</sup> in the recent Niche Public School District Rankings.

Ms. Belanger noted that School Committee Student Representative Mical Henriquez earned a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award at the Southeastern District High School Music Festival in the composition contest. Congratulations to Mical.

Ms. Lord reported the Winterfest Concert is coming up this Thursday.

Dr. Berdos reminded everyone that district Professional Development will be held this upcoming Friday. There will be no school for students that day.

Ms. Weiss reported two items: 1) the FHS Black Light Dance has been rescheduled due to weather; and 2) the Boys' Basketball Team will be playing at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence on Sunday, January 31.

Mr. Udden announced he will not be running for reelection to the School Committee. The Committee expressed appreciation to Mr. Udden for his service.

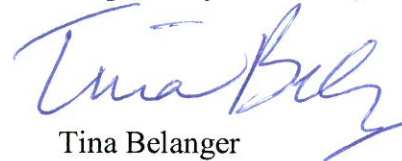
The committee decided to cancel next week's School Committee meeting (February 1, 2016).

Ms. Spinelli noted the next Superintendent's Coffee and Conversation scheduled for February 23 will be rescheduled as the special Town Meeting will be held that evening.

Udden moved; Lord seconded  
Adjourn the meeting  
Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger  
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of January 4, 2016  
College Board 6<sup>th</sup> Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll Press Release  
Positive Coaching Alliance PowerPoint Presentation  
FHS Computer Science Course Curriculum  
2016-2017 FHS Program of Studies  
Policy JKAA: Physical Restraint of Students  
2016-2017 School Calendar Options  
FY '17 Operating Budget Adjustment  
FY '17 CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Budget Adjustment  
January 2016 Community Report

Approved: 2/22/16