

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: December 21, 2015

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 was not present

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Were not present

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

***Visitors***

None.

***Approval of Minutes***

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2015, as amended

Vote: 4-0-0

***Flipped Learning in Grade 8 Honors Math Class***

Ms. Spinelli introduced Ms. Noa Lai, Ahern grade 8 math teacher, and six of her 8<sup>th</sup> grade math students who presented the concept of flipped learning. Ms. Lai described her experiences with planning and implementing flipped learning and showed a video of a flipped learning lesson. Students expressed their thoughts on why this instructional model works so well in their math class. Ms. Lai's model involves assigning a short video which introduces a math concept for students to watch for homework until they are confident with the material. Extensive note-taking is assigned for the at-home video lesson. The next day's class is spent applying and mastering the concepts. This "flips" the classroom as the "passive" learning takes place during the homework assignment and the "active" learning takes place in the classroom. Students reported they can watch the video as many times as they like until they understand the material, and that the videos can be saved and used as a study guide.

***2015 MASC Outstanding School Partner Award Recipient***

Ms. Spinelli was pleased to introduce Mr. Patrick Murphy, Hockomock Area YMCA  
Invensys/Foxboro Branch Executive Director, who represented the Foxborough Branch of the  
Hockomock Area YMCA as recipient of the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School  
Committees) Outstanding School Partner for 2015. Particulars of the MASC nomination were  
discussed, as well as the wonderful partnership between the Hockomock Area YMCA and

Foxborough Public Schools and all the programs they support in the schools and the community. Mr. Murphy expressed his thanks to the committee and looks forward to continuing to strengthen the partnership. Discussion with the committee followed.

### ***2016-2017 School Calendar Options***

Ms. Spinelli proposed two versions of the 2016-2017 school calendar – one with a start date of August 30 (before Labor Day), and the other with a start date of September 6 (after Labor Day) – for the committee’s consideration. The two calendars have been brought to FPS administrators and to the Foxborough Educators Association for their review as well. Discussion among the committee ensued. The calendar will be brought forth at the last School Committee meeting in January for a vote.

### ***Preliminary Discussion of Proposed FY '17 Budget***

Ms. Spinelli explained this presentation is of the Preliminary FY '17 Budget and represents a first view of what a final budget may look like. The goal for this meeting is to understand the basics of the budget, including what has changed. The school budget timeline was outlined. Further budget discussions will continue at January School Committee meetings, with a vote scheduled for the last meeting in January.

Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Yukna highlighted the following areas during the PowerPoint presentation: FY '17 Budget Message; Budget Process; Administration’s Preliminary FY '17 Budget Request; what’s new in the school budget; and what is driving incremental costs. The FY '17 Budget Request represents an increase of 3.97% over last year. Other items discussed included a budget comparison from year FY '09 through FY '16, enrollment data from FY '12 through FY '16, staffing clarifications, major components of FY '17 changes, outside resources used as budget offsets, and FY '17 budget allocations. Next steps to finalize the budget are continued review by administration, monitoring of available revenue changes, further School Committee discussion, a School Committee vote on January 25, 2016, and presentation to the Advisory Committee on February 3, 2016.

### ***FY '16 Budget Update***

Mr. Yukna will present the FY '16 Budget Update at the January 4, 2016 School Committee meeting.

### ***Acceptance of Donation***

Ms. Spinelli presented a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Pilot House as part of its grant program in honor of its employee, Mr. Michael Dunn. As in past years, Mr. Dunn has generously designated this donation to support the FPS Preschool Program.

Belanger moved; Lord seconded

Accept the Pilot House donation in the amount of \$500.00 in honor of Mr. Michael Dunn to support the FPS Preschool Program, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

The committee expressed many thanks to the Pilot House and Mr. Dunn for the continued support.

***Other Matters***

Ms. Spinelli reported she was informed by the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) that it has recommended the Burrell School Statement of Interest move forward to the next step in the approval process. Their board will be voting on this recommendation on January 27, 2016. Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Yukna described the many projects needed to be done at the Burrell.

Ms. Spinelli noted that the holiday concerts have been wonderful, including performances by American Sign Language students.

Udden moved; Lord seconded  
Adjourn the meeting  
Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger  
Secretary/Clerk

**Attachments:**

Regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2015  
MASC Outstanding School Partner for 2015  
2016-2017 School Calendar Options  
FPS FY '17 Preliminary Budget  
Pilot House Associates Donation

Approved: January 4, 2016