

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGHRegular Meeting

Date: June 19, 2017

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Bruce Gardner, Mr. Chris Connolly; Ms. Beverley Lord; Ms. Marilyn Weiss was not present

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: were not present

Mr. Gardner opened the meeting and read the agenda,

Recognition of Retirees

Ms. Spinelli and the Committee recognized FPS employees who retired during the 2016-2017 school year. There were sixteen retirees in all, with eleven in attendance, totaling 371 years of service. Those retirees in attendance were presented with a gift and warm congratulations from the Committee and Administration.

Visitors

FHS student Joseph Gerraughty inquired what work will be done this summer for building maintenance and repairs. Mr. Yukna explained that standard cleaning is scheduled for the summer, with no special projects planned.

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of June 5, 2017, as amended

Vote: 4-0-0

During the review of minutes, Mr. Gardner inquired about the new data and assessment management software program "Illuminate Data and Assessment Management System," and requested a demonstration sometime in the future.

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos introduced the Teaching and Learning Highlight, the Ahern Middle School's participation in Project Invention Convention held at Bridgewater State University's Moakley Center. The goal of this annual event is to get students excited about science, technology, engineering and math as they create solutions to problems. The Foxboro team was comprised of five students, and they came away with a second place win out of thirty competitors. Mr. Alan Scharman, middle school math teacher, and middle school students Victor Nukovic, Aribah Baig and Joseph McCabe were on hand to describe the invention, called the Turning Utensils, which provides a solution to the common problem of finding

just the right kitchen utensil quickly and easily. The students demonstrated this useful, rotating device, with utensils attached, powered by a smart phone.

Mr. Scharman discussed coaching and leading the team as they decided on a problem to solve, collaborated on the design of the invention, worked within budget constraints, and finalized their product.

The Committee congratulated the students on winning second place and admired their ingenuity and their trophy. Questions and discussion followed.

2017-2018 FHS Student Handbook Additions/ Revisions

Ms. Spinelli explained that a new student handbook is published each summer and any changes require review by the School Committee. Athletic Director Rich Cormier and FHS Principal Diana Myers-Pachla presented proposed changes and additions to the FHS 2017-2018 Student Handbook.

Ms. Myers-Pachla addressed the addition of a section regarding the National Art Honor Society and changes to the Attendance, Student Responsibilities, and Homework sections of the handbook. All additions and revisions contained great detail. The proposed changes will require students to take on more personal responsibility for their attendance in class and communication with teachers to make up work missed for any absence. Discussion with the Committee around student responsibility followed. Ms. Myers-Pachla noted that the Warrior Huddle is being revised to take on more of an advisory role and discussed workshops to be provided to high school juniors regarding college expectations in these areas.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the additions and revisions to the 2017-2018 FHS Student Handbook as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Mr. Cormier proposed adding the Athletic Program Handbook to the FHS Student Handbook to provide a more user friendly, cohesive and comprehensive resource. Additions and revisions to the Athletic Handbook were discussed, specifically in the sections regarding athletic eligibility, transportation, unsupervised use of school facilities, head injury protocol, communication and conflict resolution protocol, discipline responses, and awards. There was discussion of a conflict schedule and which event trumps what when student have multiple commitments.

The Committee remarked this update will be very helpful to students and parents. Ms. Spinelli noted the great amount of detail provided and commended Mr. Cormier for a great first year at FHS.

Connolly moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the additions and revisions to the 2017-2018 Athletic Program Handbook as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Mr. Gardner noted that the Committee is very appreciative of Ms. Myer-Pachla's and Mr. Cormier's hard work.

New Draft 2017-2020 Strategic Plan

Ms. Spinelli publicly acknowledged those individuals who worked during the past school year toward the creation of a new Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 and read the names of the eighteen Strategic Planning Committee members. The Committee was comprised of administrators, faculty, parents and two School Committee members. Many members attended this evening's meeting in support of the new plan. All have been actively involved and working on this new road map for FPS.

Ms. Spinelli, Dr. Berdos and Mr. Yukna summarized the highlights of the new draft. The Vision and Mission have both been revised, but the Values remain unchanged. This fall FHS students will design a "profile of a graduate" image to visually illustrate the vision of FPS. Each of the four Objectives in the draft along with their corresponding 3-year goals and strategies were read, discussed and evaluated.

Ms. Spinelli noted since this is a draft, feedback from the Committee is welcomed.

SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Program Review Report

During the 2016-2017 school year, a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee was formed to review and assess PreK-12 guidance, counseling, and mental health programs and services. The Committee was comprised of regular and special education teachers, district level directors, and administrators. The SEL Program Review Summary addressed the purpose and goal statement and outlined six main topics: Research, Definitions and Social Emotional Learning; Curriculum; Programs and Assessments; School-Based Services; Mental Health Teams; and Policies and Procedures.

Dr. Berdos discussed the use of the curriculum based on the documentary *Life According to Sam*, about Foxborough's own Sam Berns. This curriculum is geared toward middle and high school students and is offered through GearUp2Lead in partnership with the Progeria Research Foundation.

Current services and curriculum strengths, needs and recommendations across the district were identified. One recommendation suggested the district adopt and implement a universal screening tool for students. Another proposed the creation of flow charts to help improve communication between service providers. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Elementary Science Program Adoption

K-8 Math/Science Director Alison Mello presented the proposal for a new Elementary Science Program. Ms. Mello reviewed the timeline from a comprehensive K-12 Science Curriculum Program Review during the 2014-2015 school year, to adoption of the Massachusetts Science Technology/Engineering Curriculum Frameworks in April 2016, to exploration of the elementary science programs available. After careful consideration, it is recommended that the *Inspire Science* program be adopted for grades K-4 to fortify and eventually transition from *Sangari Active Science*. *Inspire Science* meets the revised expectations that the new standards have brought forth while keeping students engaged in

science. A PowerPoint presentation and standard alignment analysis demonstrated the strength of the program. Discussion with the School Committee followed.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Adopt the *Inspire Science* program including the associated textbook costs as presented for Kindergarten to grade four

Vote: 4-0-0

Superintendent Evaluation – Continued Discussion

Ms. Spinelli continued discussion regarding her 2016-2017 evaluation with a focus on the Professional Practice Goal of Instructional Rounds. Twenty educators participated in Instructional Rounds this year which focused on *student engagement*. A specific aspect of student engagement was selected by participants and visits were made to classrooms to identify and define true student engagement. Ms. Spinelli's report identified the purpose of instructional rounds, activities of the Instructional Rounds groups categorized by grade and content, conclusions and future direction.

Mr. Gardner reviewed the timeline for the superintendent's evaluation and reminded Committee members to make their individual appointments.

Other Matters

Ms. Lord hoped that everyone finds a perfect balance between relaxation and productivity this summer.

Ms. Belanger thanked Mr. Joseph Russo, Interim Principal of the Taylor School, for a great year. She also mentioned the upcoming Financial Summit and School Building Committee meeting.

Ms. Spinelli noted that last day of school will be Thursday and presented a last minute, generous donation for the Committee's consideration from the New England Patriots Alumni Club in the amount of \$2,500 to the FHS Unified Track Program.

Belanger moved; Connolly seconded

Accept the donation from the New England Patriots Alumni Club in the amount of \$2,500 in support of the FHS Unified Track Program, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

Dr. Berdos commented it has been a great, busy year.

Mr. Connolly remarked that it is Juneteenth, an important day in U.S. History.

Mr. Yukna provided a handout showing the lettering the Foxboro Music Association (FMA) has proposed to be installed at the entrance of the Stephen C. Massey Music Suite at the high school. He explained that the lettering will be installed on the wall above the two doors at the entrance of the music wing and will be very visible. The consensus of the Committee was to go ahead with the installation.

Mr. Gardner extended his congratulations to FHS student Shraeya Srinivasan on her very impressive, record-breaking triple-jump and her rank of 15th at Nationals. He also thanked the Committee for a great year.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of June 5, 2017
FHS 2017-2018 Student Handbook Additions/Revisions
Athletic Program Handbook
Draft Strategic Plan 2017-2020
SEL (Social/Emotional Learning) Program Review Report
Elementary Science Program Adoption Request
Superintendent's Evaluation -- Report on Instructional Rounds, Year 2

Approved: July 24, 2017