

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

*Regular Meeting*

Date: January 9, 2017

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 REPRESENTATIVES: Alex Shilcusky, Dimitri Davis

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Ms. Belanger opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

***Visitors***

None.

***Approval of Minutes***

Connolly moved; Lord seconded

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

Vote: 4-0-1 (Weiss abstaining)

Ms. Belanger acknowledged the presence of Ahern Middle School Principal Sue Abrams, FHS Principal Diana Myers-Pachla, Igo Elementary School Principal Mike Stanton, and Burrell Elementary School Principal Michele McCarthy in the audience.

***Teaching and Learning Highlight***

FHS Principal Diana Myers-Pachla and FHS students Ethan Hicks, Alexandra (Lexi) Nelson and Mary Waters presented the College Board's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll. Ms. Myers-Pachla was pleased to announce that Foxborough was named for the third year in a row to the AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll, having met the criteria of increasing the number of students participating in AP while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exams scores of 3 or higher. AP statistics for FHS from 2012 through 2016 were reviewed by year, and increases in all areas of AP participation were examined.

The three FHS students, along with School Committee Student Representative Alex Shilcusky, described their experiences taking AP classes and exams, and gave valuable advice to high school students who are considering AP course work.

Mr. Gardner acknowledged Ms. Myers-Pachla's leadership in advancing AP studies. Ms. Spinelli also commended Ms. Myers-Pachla for her vision of making AP course material more accessible to students, and acknowledged the principals in attendance for their work in preparing students to go on to high school. Questions and discussion with the committee followed.

In addition, Ms. Spinelli acknowledged the Burrell Elementary School being recognized as a *2016 Massachusetts Commendation School* by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for academic progress in narrowing proficiency gaps. This is the second consecutive year the Burrell has been named a Commendation School.

### ***FHS Overnight Travel***

Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla presented for the committee's consideration the schedule of FHS overnight travel for the 2016-2017 school year. The list included nine (9) planned overnight trips. Each was reviewed and discussed. Ms. Belanger provided two Security Messages for U.S. citizens – one European Travel Alert and one Worldwide Caution Alert. It was noted that no new trips were planned at this time. Additional information regarding out-of-state track meets will be provided at a later date.

Lord moved; Connolly seconded

Approve FHS Overnight Travel for the 2016-2017 school year as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

### ***FY '18 Budget – Continued Discussion***

Ms. Spinelli noted that while she has not received any individual questions from the committee regarding the FY '18 Budget, some important items will be highlighted at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Yukna started by correcting inaccurate information provided at the budget presentation during the last School Committee meeting. The actual increase of the FY '18 Budget is \$1,120,294, or 3.4%. Mr. Gardner noted this is the lowest percentage increase in the overall budget in the last four years.

Mr. Yukna provided a comprehensive Staffing Adjustment Analysis from FY '06 through FY '18. The analysis provided reductions in staffing data over 12 years for a total reduction of 12.65 positions. Reductions occurred in grades 1-12 as necessitated by enrollment numbers, and in the areas of library, building and educational assistants, a social worker and an adjustment counselor.

Staffing additions made during the same period occurred in the areas of implementing full-day kindergarten, special education, additional support personnel, athletics, technology, and program increases, for a total of 30.25 positions. Several positions were added as per state-based regulations; many were additions due to students' IEPs (Individual Education Plans); and additions in technology support for the town and schools were necessary as well. Since 2006 the School Department has taken over all technology needs for the entire town. Currently two data centers are in operation encompassing over 2,000 computers and a dozen servers. Increased technology staffing was driven by this growth and shared technology structure.

Mr. Yukna addressed transportation costs for homeless students, explaining this expense is mandated by federal law and is not optional. The number of homeless students fluctuates as families move in and out of permanent housing situations. The district contracts for transportation for students while a family is in homeless status. Occasionally the cost is shared

with another community. The state reimburses about 50% to cover that cost, which goes back to the general town fund.

Ms. Belanger mentioned that FPS does not charge fees for student transportation, athletics, and other extra-curriculars, while most surrounding communities do. All families in Foxborough have the advantage of not paying additional fees for services.

Ms. Spinelli noted that Kindergarten registration starts January 10. Tuition-Free Full-Day Kindergarten is being offered for the first time and is dependent on the Town Meeting vote. Mr. Yukna stated families registering their child(ren) for Kindergarten will not be asked for deposits at this time.

#### ***Discussion of FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan (Draft)***

Mr. Yukna presented the FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Requests. Requests included funding for computers/hardware/software and network upgrades; two full-size 77-passenger school buses; one mini-bus (27-35 passengers); copier replacements; and the FHS Turf Field Athletic Complex Completion. All items were discussed in detail. The total FY '18 CIP Request is \$1,613,000, with the FHS Athletic Complex request making up the majority (\$1,150,000) of that total.

#### ***2017 Community Report (formerly District Report Card)***

Ms. Spinelli opened discussion regarding the 2017 Community Report (formerly known as the District Report Card). This is the sixth year this annual report will be issued and mailed to every postal address in Foxborough, and provides a way for the community to learn more about our schools. Dr. Berdos reviewed the 3-page document, highlighting content such as the district overview, per pupil expenditure, and technology data by school as well as the "What's New?" and "Did You Know?" sections. Suggestions from and discussion with the School Committee followed.

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

Ms. Spinelli presented a donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Igo Elementary School from Alliance Energy LLC through ExxonMobil's Educational Alliance Program. This program is part of a nationwide initiative to enhance math and science learning at K-12 institutions.

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Alliance Energy LLC to Igo Elementary School to be used for STEM initiatives

Vote: 5-0-0

#### ***Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Report***

Ms. Spinelli reviewed the December 2016 Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Report. It was noted BICO's enrollment has increased to 217 students. The increase is primarily to serve students with social-emotional and behavioral challenges. Due to this enrollment increase, the Collaborative is looking for additional space. Current Professional Development offerings include an SEI Administrator Course, Crisis Prevention Intervention and a 2-day Behavioral

Health Symposium. Ms. Spinelli noted the Collaborative is growing and continuing to do innovative things.

***Other Matters***

Ms. Spinelli reviewed the timeline for the Taylor Elementary School Principal search. The position was advertised beginning January 4 on SchoolSpring and the MESPA (Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association) website, with applications requested by January 25. Dr. Berdos will be conducting the initial screenings. During January, focus groups will be conducted at the Taylor School, one for parents and one for staff members. An interview committee comprised of administrators, staff, parent representatives and one School Committee member will be assembled. Mr. Connolly volunteered to be the School Committee Representative. Ms. Spinelli hopes to announce the finalist to the School Committee on March 20.

It was also noted that the winter athletic season is off and running strong. Ms. Spinelli thanked the DPW for their work during the recent winter storm.

Mr. Yukna updated the Committee on the Burrell renovation project. Interviews have been completed for the OPM (Owner's Project Manager), and Colliers International was selected. Negotiations have begun with Colliers.

Ms. Weiss reported that the next SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment) Foxborough meeting will be held next Wednesday, and on Thursday she will be judging at the DECA competition. This year 44 students will be competing, compared to 26 students last year. She will report back with competition results.

Mr. Connolly stated that FHS will be hosting History Day on Saturday, March 4. He then reviewed the proper chain of command to be used for problems or conflicts at school, noting that social media is not a place to air these issues.

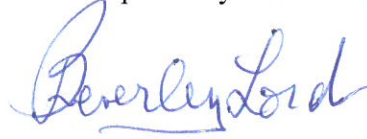
Ms. Lord reported due to renovations at the State House this year the annual MASC Day on the Hill scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, will take place across the common from the State House at the Grand Lodge of Masons, 186 Tremont Street. She then wished a happy new year to all.

Mr. Gardner ended the meeting with the following – go Pats!!!!

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverley Lord  
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2016  
FHS College Board 7<sup>th</sup> AP District Honor Roll Press Release  
FHS Overnight Travel 2016-2017  
FPS FY'18 Preliminary Budget  
2006-2018 Staffing Adjustment Analysis  
FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan Requests  
District Community Report 2017  
Alliance Energy Donation  
December 2016 BICO Quarterly Update

Approved: January 23, 2017