

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: October 2, 2017

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

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

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

Mr. Gardner opened the meeting and read the agenda, explaining the meeting started a bit late as a result of attending the dedication of the FHS Music Suite in honor of retired long-time Music Department Head Mr. Steve Massey prior to the meeting.

Mr. Gardner and Ms. Spinelli acknowledged it had been a difficult week in Foxborough due to the tragic death of Kindergarten student Anthony Scaccia, and the unexpected deaths of two devoted Foxborough dads, Mr. Eric Dahl and Mr. Tim Headd. A moment of silence was held to remember them.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of September 18, 2017, as amended

Vote: 4-0-1 (Connolly abstaining)

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of September 18, 2017, as presented

Vote: 4-0-1 (Connolly abstaining)

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Release the executive session minutes of September 18, 2017

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Spinelli introduced Ms. Laureen White, Guidance Department Head, Mr. Joe O'Neil, College Admissions Advisor, and FHS seniors Joe Freitas, Phil Dure and Delya Lorquet, who discussed the work accomplished this summer in preparation for the college application process. Mr. O'Neil has been a wonderful resource for students and families, helping students prepare college applications (about 80 students come in to FHS for summer sessions to get a jump start on applications), providing financial aid information and this summer touring college campuses with groups of students. Students found the tours beneficial in their decision making process and described the pros and cons of the schools they visited. Ms. Spinelli noted that Foxborough is fortunate to have

a dedicated college advisor at the high school and knows no other local high school that offers these services. That statement was echoed by FHS Principal Diana Myers-Pachla who was present in the audience. Discussion with the Committee followed.

2017 Culture and Climate Survey Results

Ms. Spinelli and Dr. Berdos reported on the results of the 2017 Culture and Climate Survey. This year was the sixth annual survey and was completed by approximately 1,898 parents, teachers and students in grades five through twelve. Results and analysis were reported in a PowerPoint presentation and contained data gathered on the following topics: Academic Preparation, Student Support, School Leadership, Faculty Relations and Support, Parent Engagement/Involvement; Safety and Behavior and School Operations. Ms. Spinelli and Dr. Berdos discussed questions and results within each category.

The overall survey results have shown positive perceptions and stability over time and indicated teachers, parents and students rate the quality of education at Foxborough Public Schools as high (in the mid-high 90% range). Ms. Spinelli suggested it may be time to switch to a different survey which has a national comparison component. Discussion with the Committee followed. The Committee requested they have a chance to preview the new survey before a decision is made.

Although overall ratings were excellent, the Committee would like to address responses in the area of alcohol and/or drug use in a future discussion.

Three-Year Technology Plan Status Update

Assistant Superintendent Amy Berdos and Director of Technology Aaron Hyre updated the Committee on progress made toward the development of a new three-year technology plan. Discussions began over the summer at the Administrators Retreat and continued with the Technology Steering Committee. These discussions focused on finding major themes, recognizing challenges, and identifying the vision moving forward. As a result, five themes were developed to move the district forward in the areas of technology and learning: Purposeful Technology Integration and Literacy; Technology Professional Development; Global Information and Communication; Accessibility to Relevant Technology; and Safety, Security and Data Retention.

Mr. Hyre explained that considerable changes have taken place around the technology planning process. Technology is no longer considered a separate item, is embedded in everything students do, is planned for throughout education, and focuses on developing transferable skills that relate to technology. A robust infrastructure is necessary to support student needs as well as a data-aware and informed staff.

Dr. Berdos noted connections to the five broad themes in the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and identified goals and action steps to compliment those themes. The new technology plan will mirror the new Strategic Plan but also have specific goals to pursue. It is anticipated that the two plans may meld together in the future.

Progress will continue as the Technology Steering Committee actively works on the new plan. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Third Reading of Policy

Policy FF – Naming Facilities, was presented for a third reading. Ms. Lord read the policy in its entirety. After a brief discussion, the following vote was taken.

Connolly moved; Belanger seconded
Approve Policy FF – Naming Facilities as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Ms. Spinelli noted the fall sports and concert seasons are upon us and specifically acknowledged the wonderful job done by the new members of our music staff as evidenced during half time shows. She looked forward to another productive Professional Development day on Friday for staff and reminded students and parents there will be no school Friday or on Monday, the Columbus Day holiday.

Ms. Belanger attended the FHS open house and stated it was informative and is glad to have it reinstated. She also attended a town S.A.F.E. Task Force meeting, noting members of the S.A.F.E. Coalition out of Franklin were in attendance. The consensus from the meeting was to try to partner with this group of volunteers who have funding and resources available in addressing substance abuse issues.

Dr. Berdos reported on Professional Development offerings being provided to staff on Friday, October 6.

Mr. Connolly noted that on Wednesday, October 11, he will attend a community forum on K-12 teaching and learning. The featured speaker will be Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeff Wulfson.

Ms. Weiss reported on the status of the Assistant Superintendent search.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded
Enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing wage/contract negotiations with Non-Union Personnel (incoming Superintendent). The Committee will not return to open session.
Vote: Gardner-aye; Belanger-aye; Lord-aye; Weiss-aye; Connolly-aye

The Committee entered into executive session at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of September 18, 2017
Executive session minutes of September 18, 2017
2017 Culture and Climate Survey
Approved: October 16, 2017