

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGHRegular Meeting

Date: November 20, 2017

Time: 7:00 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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Kendall Milender and Matt Sharkey

Mr. Gardner opened the meeting and read the agenda.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of October 16, 2017, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Release the executive session minutes of October 16, 2017

Vote: 5-0-0

Connolly moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of November 6, 2017, as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

FHS Principal Diana Myers-Pachla and FHS seniors Noah Foley, Nate Dumont, Yasa Baig, Josh Jacobson and Will Pottey presented the FHS High School Quiz Bowl Team. The FHS team was one of sixteen Massachusetts teams out of ninety-nine to qualify for the *High School Quiz Show*. Students described the qualification process, preparation for competition, the academic format of the Quiz Bowl, and their emphasis on a teamwork dynamic. The Committee congratulated the students on their accomplishment and wished them well in upcoming competition. The show's taping date is January 21, 2018, at the WGBH station in Boston. Questions and discussion followed.

Food Service Video – Real School Lunch

The Committee viewed *Real School Lunch*, a video created by FPS dietetic intern Samantha Therrien. During this short and informative video, Director of Food Service Janice Watt and food service workers at each school were interviewed about the school lunch program. School lunch preparation and fresh produce harvested from the hydroponic towers at the Taylor Elementary School, the Ahern Middle School and FHS were highlighted.

Introduction of Incoming Assistant Superintendent Ms. Alison Mello

Dr. Amy Berdos introduced incoming Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Alison Mello, who joined the meeting. Dr. Berdos recapped the selection process for the Assistant Superintendent and was pleased to report that at the end of the process Ms. Mello was the selected candidate. The Committee extended their congratulations to Ms. Mello on her appointment. Ms. Mello discussed her background and the experience she brings to her new position. She was hired at FPS in August of 2007 as the Math Specialist for grades five through eight, and has served as the K-8 Math/Science Curriculum Director since August of 2009. She is currently a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership. Ms. Mello extended her thanks to those on the search committee and is excited to begin her work as Assistant Superintendent. Discussion with the Committee followed.

FPS Strategies to Prevent and Minimize Racial, Ethnic, Cultural, Religious, or Gender Bias and/or Discrimination in Our Students and in Our Schools

Ms. Spinelli described the need to address bias and/or discrimination in our schools, noting that society as a whole is changing, sporadic incidents around discrimination and bias have occurred in surrounding towns, and an uptick in emotional and social dysregulation seems to be trending. This topic has been discussed at several administrative meetings and the lingering question is *are we being proactive enough?* As a result, Ms. Spinelli and FPS administrators have developed strategies to address racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, size and other types of bias and/or discrimination. Ms. Spinelli discussed a three-step approach to directly address these issues: Part 1 outlines plans and topics to address with students in all schools (grades K-12); Part 2 discusses plans and topics to address these issues with staff; Part 3 involves community outreach. Ms. Spinelli discussed each step in detail and noted that several staff members have attended conferences related to this topic and were provided resources to assist in developing such plans. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Transfer of Ms. Spinelli's Board/Committee Appointments to Incoming Superintendent Dr. Berdos effective January 1, 2018

Due to Ms. Spinelli's retirement effective December 31, 2017, a transfer of her board and committee appointments is necessary. The School Committee makes two appointments annually: one to the Bi-County Collaborative Board of Directors; and the other to the Project Contemporary Competitiveness Board of Directors. Therefore, the following motion was made:

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Appoint Dr. Amy Berdos to the Bi-County Collaborative Board of Directors and to the Project Contemporary Competitiveness Board of Directors effective January 1, 2018

Vote: 5-0-0

Vote to Authorize Dr. Amy Berdos to act for and on behalf of the Town of Foxborough for the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on the Burrell Renovation Project Effective January 1, 2018

Mr. Yukna explained the School Building Committee (SBC) has an eighteen (18) member board that represents the Town of Foxborough regarding the Burrell Renovation Project. The MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) requires the SBC to include a number of town officials as members, including the Superintendent of Schools. All project documents are signed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manager. An official School Committee vote is

required to authorize Dr. Berdos as Superintendent of Schools on the School Building Committee to assume this role effective January 1, 2018.

Weiss moved; Lord seconded

Approve that Incoming Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amy Berdos be and is hereby authorized to act for and on behalf of the Town of Foxborough to execute and deliver the Project Scope and Budget Agreement between the Town of Foxborough and the Massachusetts School Building Authority and any other ancillary or other agreements related thereto effective January 1, 2018. Also that Incoming Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Amy Berdos, be and is hereby further authorized to act for and on behalf of the Town of Foxborough in connection with the implementation of the Project Scope and Budget Agreement and the acts reasonably contemplated thereby effective January 1, 2018.

Vote: 5-0-0

FY '18 Budget Update

Mr. Yukna presented the FY '18 Budget Update of November 15, 2017. The impact of payroll changes due to retirements at the end of FY '17 are currently being assessed as well as loss of some grant funding, possible replacement of a vehicle, and Igo and Taylor School boiler repairs/replacement. Mr. Yukna explained that there is a very tight budget for maintenance, so when funds are available adjustments can be made within the budget to deal with significant issues. The budget is looked at as a total amount of funding to handle all situations that arise. The School Department has not requested additional money from the town to deal with major repairs. This philosophy is one that has been agreed upon by both the school and the town side over many years. Discussion with the Committee followed. It was emphasized that transparency is always practiced during the budget process.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the FY '18 Budget Update of 11/15/17

Vote: 5-0-0

Acceptance of Donation

Ms. Spinelli explained that as part of reinstating the high school musical, interested parents and staff have starting fundraising and applied to Partners in Patriotism (PiP) for funding assistance. As a result, PiP made a generous donation of \$5,000.00 to support the Musical Theater Program. This donation will reduce the expected \$14,000 rent expense for the Orpheum Theater. After discussion the following motion was made:

Belanger moved; Lord seconded

Accept the donation of \$5,000 from Partners in Patriotism in support of the Musical Theater Program, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Ms. Weiss wished a happy Thanksgiving to all.

Mr. Connolly extended good luck to the football team.

Dr. Berdos also extended a happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Spinelli noted that tomorrow is Career Day at FHS and acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Ellen Pillsbury, FHS School-to-Career Specialist, in organizing this annual event. She also announced that Foxboro Cable Access has been awarded the 2017 Outstanding School Partner Award by MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees), as nominated by the Foxborough School Committee. The award will be presented at the December 18th School Committee meeting.

Mr. Gardner discussed the possibility of using the new Town Hall meeting room for future School Committee meetings. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Belanger noted that due to a conflict with the Special Town Meeting on December 4th, the School Committee meeting scheduled for that date has been canceled. She reported that students from the Hale School in Australia are visiting FHS and will perform a concert on December 6th and mentioned the upcoming FHS Holiday concert on December 14th.

Ms. Lord added two comments – happy Thanksgiving and go Warriors!

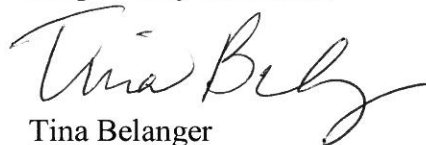
Lord motioned to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body. The Committee will not return to open session.

Connolly seconded

Vote: Gardner-aye; Belanger-aye; Lord-aye; Weiss-aye; Connolly-aye

The Committee entered into executive session at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of November 6, 2017

Executive session minutes of October 16, 2017

Strategies to Prevent and Minimize Racial, Ethnic, Cultural, Religious, or Gender Bias and/or Discrimination in Our Students and Our Schools

MSBA Authorization

FY '18 Budget Summary Statement of 11/15/17

Partners in Patriotism Fund Donation

Resume of Ms. Alison J. Mello

Approved: December 18, 2017