

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: February 27, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Dimitri Davis, Alex Shilcusky

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the February 6, 2017, regular meeting minutes as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Spinelli stated we are very fortunate to be able to recognize our FHS students who this year won a total of twenty-four (24) art and four (4) poetry awards in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards contest sponsored statewide by the *Boston Globe*. Ms. Kelly Arcacha, K-12 Art Department Head, and five FHS students, Olivia Davis, Ethan Hicks, Nicole MacFarland, Fabrice Mercier and Lindsey Young, attended the meeting and discussed their work, which garnered several awards. Ms. Arcacha exhibited student artwork via a slide show presentation. All submissions were judged on three criteria: originality, technical skill, and emergence of a vision or voice. Ms. Arcacha reported that this year two seniors received awards for their entire eight-piece portfolios. Gold Key award winning work will be on exhibit in Boston from March 11-16, and digital images have been sent to New York to compete on the national level. A visiting artist studio and gallery display will be held at Patriot Place May 19-21 to showcase student work as well.

Naming Existing Facility

Foxborough residents Dr. Mark Elfman, Ms. Stephanie McGowan, Mr. Tom Ryan, Ms. Annmarie Ryan and FHS 1988 graduate and former FHS football player Mr. Jim Artz, presented a proposal to name the Ahern Middle School football field the Jack Martinelli Field in honor of Coach Jack Martinelli, longtime FHS football coach, educator and mentor to many. Dr. Elfman gave a brief biography of Coach Martinelli's 40-year career in education and his many football accomplishments. Ms. McGowan read excerpts of several written testimonials from individuals in support of this proposal. Mr. Jim Artz spoke directly to the committee about the positive influence Coach Martinelli had on him early on as a student athlete and throughout his lifetime.

The group respectfully requested the School Committee vote to name the Ahern Middle School football field the Jack Martinelli Field.

Ms. Spinelli recommended that the request be approved. Ms. Belanger read aloud Policy FFA: Naming Existing Facilities. She noted that the criteria of this policy has been met. Discussion and comments from the committee followed.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve naming of the Ahern Middle School football field the Jack Martinelli Field

Vote: 4-0-0

Technology Education – Part II Curriculum Review Report

Dr. Berdos reported that the K-12 Technology Education Curriculum was reviewed as part of Foxborough's Curriculum Cycle Review. The review is being presented in two parts, with the first part having been presented November 7, 2016, for the 9-12 Business Curriculum. Tonight's meeting concentrates on the K-12 Technology Education findings.

Ms. Julia Greenstine, Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Assessment, explained that the challenge for a business education technology curriculum is to stay current and relevant. Ms. Greenstine presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) standards for students, key shifts in technology education, K-12 positive findings, K-12 areas of need, and recommendations and timelines.

Mr. Ralph DiBona, FHS Lead Technology Education Teacher, Mr. John Aurecchia, FHS Technology Education Teacher, and Mr. James Callahan, FHS Social Studies/Technology Education Teacher, discussed the steps involved in the evaluation process, Technology Education Department goals, classes offered, and student enrollment from 2012 through 2017. The many strengths and accomplishments of the department were highlighted. Mr. DiBona pointed out the department offers classes that appeal to both the college bound and non-college bound student, while exposing students to many different kinds of careers. Mr. Callahan described his course work as focusing on the film side, and is grateful to Foxboro Cable Access who recently donated \$40,000 worth of equipment to create a digital studio.

Questions and comments followed. The committee commended the presenters on a very thorough report.

Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review

Ms. Spinelli presented her mid-cycle review, part of the educators' evaluation process, noting that this process works quite well and fosters productive dialogue with the School Committee. Performance goals for 2016-2017 in the categories of Professional Practice, Student Learning, District Improvement and Other Goals were each discussed individually, as well as three main themes: 1) what she is really proud of; 2) what she is working hard on; and 3) what challenges she faces. Ms. Spinelli's pride point continues to be an ongoing and relentless focus on excellent instruction for all students. She is working hard on developing a collective capacity to move educators forward by leading adult learners. One of the challenges she faces remains maintaining public support for our schools. Discussion with the committee followed.

Acceptance of Donations

Two donations were presented to the committee for their consideration:

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$680.00 from Foxboro Skates, Inc. to be used toward the cost of busing in support of the FHS Hockey program, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

Lord moved; Connolly seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Rotary Club of Foxboro in support of the Credit Fair for Life, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

Other Matters

Ms. Spinelli reported that this is a very exciting time for our student athletes as several teams are advancing in competition. We have had excellent wrestling, swim, track and basketball seasons. She extended her congratulations to all winter athletes. Also noteworthy was Foxborough High's rank of 56 of the top 100 high schools in Massachusetts per the Niche List.

Student Representative Alex Shilcusky provided a recap on the success of the FHS Debate Team.

Ms. Belanger mentioned the upcoming drama and DECA competitions and wished good luck to all.

Dr. Berdos noted the Taylor Elementary principal search is ongoing and on track.

Ms. Spinelli reported we have an active Foxborough Cultural Council which recently awarded a grant to the Ahern Middle School PAC.

Ms. Lord stated she recently received an invitation to the Cultural Council's upcoming tea.

Mr. Yukna gave the committee a brief MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) update regarding the status and timelines to get through the feasibility phase of the Burrell renovation project, and noted that the search for an architect has started.

He also commended Mr. Tony Moussalli, Facilities Manager, and Mr. Carl Fuller, Assistant Facilities Manager, for the maintenance work done in the kitchen area of the Taylor Elementary School over the February break.

Mr. Connolly reported on times and locations for upcoming FHS girls' and boys' playoff basketball games. He also provided a timely definition for the word "warrior" as "a person who beyond all obstacles still manages to be successful."

Ms. Spinelli remarked that at FPS warrior means strength and pride.

After discussion about the next School Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, March 6, the following motion was made:

Lord moved; Weiss seconded
Cancel the March 6, 2017, School Committee meeting
Vote: 4-0-0

Ms. Belanger noted that there will be a meeting with the Advisory Committee next week regarding the FY'18 School Department Budget.

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverley Lord", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Beverley Lord
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of February 6, 2017
FHS Scholastic Art Awards
Naming Existing Facility Proposal
K-12 Technology Education Curriculum Review
2015-2016 Technology Education Curriculum Review Summary Report
Technical Education Department 2016 Curriculum Review

Approved: 2/27/17