

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: April 24, 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: Dr. Amy Berdos, Mr. William Yukna; Ms. Debbie Spinelli was
not present

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Alex Shilcusky, Dimitri Davis

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. It was noted that Ms. Spinelli was out of town and not able to attend the meeting.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of April 3, 2017, as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos introduced the Teaching and Learning Highlight, Igo Elementary's Earth Day PSA. Igo Elementary staff Ms. Kristen Siddle, Guidance Counselor, and Ms. Lesleyann Foster, Librarian, along with Igo Elementary students Matthew Loew, Grace Yucatonis, Nicholas Lee and Ava Hill explained how discussions about kindness became a full-scale, schoolwide celebration of being kind to the environment. To share their ideas and in honor of Earth Day, Igo Elementary School students created a public service announcement called "A Little Change Can Make a Big Difference." An excerpt of the PSA was shown. Many ways to reduce waste, reuse items, and recycle wherever possible were suggested. Questions and comments from the committee followed. Ms. Belanger mentioned that next Saturday is Clean Up Foxborough Day and is a great way to help the environment.

FY '18 School Budget Status

Mr. Yukna discussed the current status of the FY '18 School Budget and reported that the Advisory Committee has approved the School Department's recommendation of \$34,089,604 for the 2017-2018 school year. FY '18 is the second year of a four-year plan to fund tuition-free Kindergarten, and if approved at Town Meeting, full-day Kindergarten will be tuition free beginning in September 2017. Half-day Kindergarten will no longer be offered. It is recommended that parents and interested citizens attend the May 8th Town Meeting to support the budget and to support this program change for next year.

Major items of the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) are going forward. The eight-lane track and bleachers portion of the FHS Turf Field Athletic Complex completion did not make the cut for this year.

Mr. Yukna and the committee thanked residents for their support of the budget.

BICO Quarterly Report March 2017

Dr. Berdos discussed the March 2017 Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Report of March 2017. This report highlighted BICO's development of a five-year strategic plan, increased student enrollment, improving family and community engagement, and professional development offerings.

Other Matters

Ms. Weiss noted that she and Ms. Lord will attend the annual MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Day on the Hill on Tuesday, April 25; Narcan training will be held at the Public Safety Building on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to noon; the Strategic Planning Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday evening, and extended her thanks to the Advisory Committee for support of the budget.

Mr. Connolly reminded residents to vote on May 1st; noted that the spring sports season is in full force; and stated there are about 40 days of school remaining in the year. The last day of school is June 22nd and is a half day.

Mr. Gardner remarked the year has been relatively quiet; thanked everyone for their hard work; and extended his thanks to the Advisory Committee as well.

Student representatives Alex Shilcuskys and Dimitri Davis expressed how impressed they were with the Igo Elementary students who presented the Teaching and Learning Highlight this evening.

Mr. Yukna informed the committee that heavy equipment spotted recently at the Taylor School was there for unexpected septic tank problems and repairs. This year was an exceptional year for repair work. Typically about \$170,000 is carried in the budget for these expenses, but this year to date about \$300,000 has been spent for necessary repairs. While this is more than anticipated, the budget is flexible and we are able to adjust expenditures in other areas to make up the difference. Mr. Yukna also notified the committee that a Foxborough school bus was stolen over the weekend and Foxborough Police, State Police and Boston Police are working on the case.

Dr. Berdos discussed PCC's (Project Contemporary Competitiveness) upcoming parent/student information night. PCC is an advanced studies program for high-ability students who will be entering grades eight through eleven in the fall. The program takes place during the summer at Stonehill College. Course offerings are diverse. Students spend six weeks on Stonehill's campus Monday through Friday during the week and return home on the weekends. Information for parents and students regarding all that PCC has to offer will be covered at the meeting on Tuesday, May 2, at 6:30 in the middle school auditorium. PCC alumni will be speaking at the program.

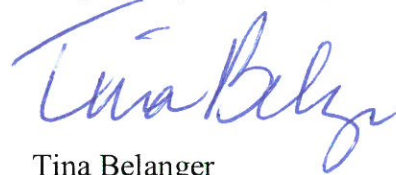
Ms. Belanger thanked Dr. Berdos for an informative and eye-opening Parent Technology Night with guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Englander; wished good luck to FHS DECA students who are going to Anaheim, California for the International Career Development Conference; noted that music students will be attending the Toronto Festival of Music Tour; mentioned the upcoming Pops concerts on May 6 and May 7; stated the FHS Jazz Ensemble will be performing at Essentially Ellington May 11-13; and extended congratulations to Lexi Nelson on receiving the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) Student Athlete of the Month Award for March.

It was also noted that FHS senior Hallie Canfield ran the 2017 Boston Marathon as a member of the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Team.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of April 3, 2017
BICO Quarterly Update of March 2017

Approved: May 15, 2017