

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: April 23, 2018

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Chris Connolly

SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Amy Berdos, Dr. Alison Mello, Mr. William Yukna

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Matthew Sharkey and Kendall Milender were not present

Mr. Gardner opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Visitors

Foxborough resident Mr. Dick Heydecker of 63 Grove Street addressed the Committee regarding his concerns about school building capacity, projected school enrollment, the Burrell School renovation project, and future school renovations. He remarked that taxpayers need more information as to how the enrollment problem will be addressed given the rapid development currently occurring in Foxborough. Mr. Gardner thanked Mr. Heydecker for sharing his concerns with the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of April 2, 2018, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos was pleased to introduce Ms. Cami Tedoldi, K-12 Music Department Head and Orchestra Director, who was accompanied by FHS and Ahern Middle School students and staff. Ms. Tedoldi introduced members of the music staff and students representing each one of the ensembles that performed recently at festivals. Music staff present included Mr. Robert Glynn, Ms. Jennifer Greenleaf, and Ms. Kirsten Oberoi from the Ahern and Mr. Aaron Bush and Mr. Brian Raymond from the high school. Students described the many opportunities and successes experienced by the FPS Music Program so far this year. Discussion included the MICCA (Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association) Festival, the MAJE (Music Association for Jazz Education) State Finals, last December's visit by students from the Hale School in Australia, and the Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band's performance at Symphony Hall. Ms. Tedoldi noted the hard work and dedication of staff and students to the music program and extended her thanks to the Foxborough Music Association. Discussion with the Committee followed.

FHS Student Activity Account

Dr. Berdos explained the need for a line item in the student activity account for fundraising money raised by the Spanish Honor Society. Student activity accounts must be approved with a vote by the School Committee. These accounts are approved on an as-needed basis. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the creation of a line item to the FHS student activity account for the Spanish Honor Society

Vote: 4-0-0

Digital Report Cards

Dr. Berdos introduced the topic of digital (electronic) report cards to replace hard copies for middle and high school students starting with the next school year. Dr. Mello discussed the practical aspects of issuing digital report cards, noting that it will be more efficient and that report cards will be immediately accessible to parents on Power School. Parents will be notified when report cards are finalized each term and can request a paper copy if they prefer. Discussion with the Committee followed. It was noted that parents and students are well versed in using PowerSchool. The consensus of the Committee was to move forward with issuing digital report cards at the middle and high school levels starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

Second Reading of Policies

The Committee briefly discussed policies brought forward at the last School Committee meeting for a first reading. Revisions to these policies were necessary due to the enactment of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, effective April 1, 2018, which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions. After discussion regarding terminology and inconsistent language between policies, the following motions were made:

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded

Waive the second reading of Policy AC – Nondiscrimination

Vote: 4-0-0

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded

Waive the second reading of the following four (4) policies: GBA – Affirmative Action for the Recruitment of Staff; GCF – Licensed Employee Hiring; JB – Equal Educational Opportunities; and JFBB – School Choice

Vote: 4-0-0

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Approve revisions to and adopt Policy AC – Nondiscrimination, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded
Approve revisions to and adopt Policy GBA – Affirmative Action for Recruitment of Staff, as presented
Vote: 4-0-0

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded
Approve revisions to and adopt Policy GCF – Licensed Employee Hiring, as presented
Vote: 4-0-0

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded
Approve revisions to and adopt Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities, as presented
Vote: 4-0-0

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded
Approve revisions to and adopt Policy JFBB – School Choice, as presented
Vote: 4-0-0

FY '18 Budget Update

Mr. Yukna presented the FY '18 Budget Update as of April 23, 2018 and reported on the following: adjustments in the salary line due to a teacher leave of absence; a \$65,000 transfer from the utility side to the building services side to cover additional expenses in plant operation; and electric expenses coming in under budget due to solar rebates. He also reported that gas costs have risen significantly. As of 4/23/18, the overall budget shows a total variance revised to forecast at a favorable \$3,149.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded
Approve the FY '18 April 23, 2018 Budget Update as presented
Vote: 4-0-0

Mr. Yukna updated the Committee on several additional items. He discussed the purchase of sewer rights for the Burrell School renovation project; referenced an upcoming meeting with architects to discuss the exterior and interior changes to the Burrell design; and mentioned a submission to be made to the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) July 11 for a late August meeting for their approval on the Burrell project. Discussions have taken place regarding managing students during construction. At this time the project is on schedule.

It was noted the Board of Selectmen approved the eight-lane track and bleachers as part of the FHS Athletic Complex to remain on the warrant for Town Meeting, which also has the support of the Advisory Committee. Mr. Gardner thanked the Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen for their support. Also discussed was the engraved brick fundraiser spearheaded by Ms. Belanger to raise funds for the entrance to the FHS Athletic Complex.

Acceptance of Donation

Dr. Berdos reported that FHS DECA students are in Atlanta participating in international competition. The Partners in Patriotism Fund generously donated \$5,500 to support that effort. Dr. Berdos thanked them for their support.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Accept the donation of \$5,500.00 from the Partners in Patriotism Fund to support FHS DECA international competition in Atlanta, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

Recognition of Public Service

As this was Mr. Gardner's last meeting, Dr. Berdos recognized him for his nine years as a member of the School Committee. Dr. Berdos thanked him for the support and time he has given to the community, noted his many years serving as Chair, and acknowledged the support he has given to administration and staff during his service. School Committee members and Administration took a few moments to express their appreciation to Mr. Gardner. Family members and friends were in attendance to show their appreciation as well. Mr. Gardner was presented with a cake, the traditional "retirement" clock, and a certification of appreciation.

Other Matters

None.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Connolly
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

April 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes

Policies: AC – Nondiscrimination

GBA – Affirmative Action for Recruitment of Staff

GCF – Licensed Employee Hiring

JB – Equal Educational Opportunities

JFBB – School Choice

FY '18 Budget Summary as of 4/23/18

Partners in Patriotism Donation

Expanding Horizons Summer 2018 Enrichment Program

Approved: May 21, 2018