

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: September 16, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Richard Pearson,
Ms. Beverley Lord, Mr. Rob Canfield; Mr. Ruter joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Visitors

Ms. Rachel Rogovin and Mr. Michael Rogovin of 10 Clapp Drive addressed the Committee regarding school bus safety and described a recent incident involving their daughter. The Committee heard their concerns and suggestions going forward. Discussion with the Committee followed. The Policy Subcommittee will review the current FPS transportation policy and report any proposed revisions to the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of July 15, 2019, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Release the executive session minutes of July 15, 2019

Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of August 26, 2019, as presented

Vote: 4-0-1 (Pearson abstaining)

Teaching and Learning Highlight

FHS Assistant Principal Ms. Beth Sylvia, FHS Music Department Head Ms. Cami Tedoldi, FHS Music Teacher Mr. Aaron Bush, and Ahern Music Teacher Mr. Robert Glynn, along with FHS music students updated the Committee on their recent trip to Australia. Last July forty-three Foxborough music students from three ensembles traveled to Sydney and Perth on a reciprocal music exchange to visit their counterparts at the Hale School. Students and staff described the new sights, sounds, and cultures experienced during their visit. The highlight of the trip was being able to study and practice music with their peers at the Hale School, who have visited FHS three times. Many of the students described this opportunity as a life-changing, once-in-a-lifetime trip. A video was shown depicting their travels. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Back-to-School Update

Dr. Berdos presented the annual back-to-school update. She reported a smooth opening and acknowledged the hard work of the many school personnel who prepare for opening day. Enrollment is stable with 2,578 students – nine less than this time last year. Open houses are scheduled at the elementary and high schools this week; the new online registration is up and running; orientation programs at the middle school (WEB) and the high school (Link Crew) were successful; the Responsive Classroom has been implemented at the elementary level; and staff participated in three days of professional development and meetings to prepare for students.

Dr. Mello discussed several of the professional development offerings and extended her thanks to our teachers who presented. Mr. Yukna reported on the status of facilities and the maintenance and cleaning of school buildings in preparation for the opening of school.

Foxborough High School and Ahern Middle School – School Improvement Plans

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and Ahern Middle School Principal Ms. Kerryn Frazier presented their respective School Improvement Plans for 2019-2021. School Improvement Plans are developed by School Councils, and Council members were thanked for the time and hard work. Ms. Frazier and Ms. Myers-Pachla described the data collection process and the assessment of data from a variety of sources -- MCAS testing, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) findings and the Culture and Climate Survey results. Each highlighted key points from their plan, and goals and strategies for each of the four objectives were discussed. It was noted that there are a lot of commonalities across all five schools.

Discussion with and questions from the Committee followed and centered on plan design and strength of plan goals and strategies.

Lord moved; Pearson seconded

Approve the John J. Ahern Middle School 2019-2021 School Improvement Plan as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Pearson seconded

Approve the Foxborough High School 2019-2021 School Improvement Plan as presented

Vote: 4-1-0

Strategy for District Improvement and Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Berdos presented her Strategy for District Improvement, which was developed using the findings from her Entry Plan Report (previously presented to the Committee on April 1, 2019). Dr. Berdos discussed the vision, theory of action, three strategic objectives, and strategic areas of focus. All were described in detail. These objectives are intended to drive significant, systemic improvement in student learning and growth. Next steps are to define the action steps to take.

Discussion with the Committee followed.

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded
Approve the Superintendent's Strategy for District Improvement as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Berdos presented the Superintendent's performance goals for the 2019-2020 school year as part of the Educator Evaluation System. Goals were developed in response to the most current needs of the district and address findings from the Superintendent's Entry Plan. Each goal in the areas of Professional Practice, Student Learning, District Improvement and Other were read and discussed.

Ruter moved; Lord seconded
Accept the Superintendent's Performance Goals for FY '20 as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Berdos informed the Committee that the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) is piloting a draft Indicator Rubric to evaluate its use and impact on the superintendent evaluation process. Dr. Berdos asked the Committee if they would support participation in the year-long pilot. After discussion the Committee decided by consensus to move forward with the pilot.

Curriculum Review Schedule

The FPS curriculum review runs on a five-year cycle for all major content areas. The K-12 Wellness curriculum and PreK-12 History/Social Science curriculum are both on the review cycle for the 2019-2020 school year. Currently the Department of Education is in the process of revising the Wellness curriculum frameworks. Therefore, it is proposed that we the World Language curriculum review (scheduled for FY '21) be moved to this year, and the Wellness curriculum review be moved to FY '21 to accommodate the release of new frameworks.

Lord moved; Pearson seconded
Approve the proposed change in the Curriculum Review Cycle
Vote: 5-0-0

Discussion of Policy JJIF: The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities

Dr. Berdos introduced Policy JJIF: The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities. She explained that every two years we are required to report to the Massachusetts Department of Health that we do maintain such a policy. The Athletic Director and coaching staff also review this policy on an annual basis. The original policy was written in 2012, and after discussion with the Committee, the Policy Subcommittee agreed to review the policy for any revisions that may be warranted at this time.

Second Reading of Policies

Policies BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings, JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights & Services, and JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care were presented for second readings. After discussion the following motions were made:

Canfield moved; Ruter seconded
Waive the second reading of Policy BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Ruter seconded
Approve Policy BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings as amended
Vote: 5-0-0

Canfield moved; Pearson seconded
Waive the second reading of Policy JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
Vote: 5-0-0

Canfield moved; Ruter seconded
Approve Policy JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services as amended
Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Ruter seconded
Waive the second reading of Policy JFABE: Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
Vote: 5-0-0

Canfield moved; Ruter seconded
Approve Policy JFABE: Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care as amended
Vote: 5-0-0

School Committee Appointment: Delegate to MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Convention

The annual MASC/MASS (Massachusetts Association of School Committees/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents) Joint Conference is scheduled for November 6-9, 2019, and a Foxborough School Committee delegate for voting purposes must be appointed. After discussion, the Committee appointed Ms. Lord as the delegate to the November 2019 MASC/MASS Convention by consensus.

MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Lifetime Membership Award

Ms. Belanger announced that Ms. Lord is the recipient of the MASC Lifetime Membership Award and will be honored on November 8, 2019, at the Joint Conference. The Committee extended their congratulations to Ms. Lord and thanked her for her many years of service to the town of Foxborough.

October Budget Summit

Ms. Belanger reported on the October 17th budget summit. She met recently with Town Manager Mr. Bill Keegan, Board of Selectman Chairman Dr. Mark Elfman, Advisory Committee Chairman Mr. Seth Ferguson, Finance Director Mr. George Samia, and Mr. Larry

Ooi, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee, to discuss preplanning for the financial summit. The goal of the summit is to have the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Advisory Committee, Department Heads, Finance Director and School Administration meet to outline the 2020 budget process, review budget expectations, and meet new finance staff members.

There was discussion around the need to appoint a School Committee Representative to the Audit Committee.

School Committee Meeting Schedule – Conflict with November 4 Meeting

The Committee briefly discussed ways to resolve the School Committee meeting conflict with the November 4th special town meeting. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos cited an email from the Board of Health regarding upcoming spraying for mosquitoes at the Ahern, high school, Payson and Booth fields.

Ms. Lord wished everyone a challenging and successful year.

Dr. Mello commented on the opening day video that captured moments across the district from last year.

Mr. Pearson remarked that he attended the grade 5 and 6 open houses at the middle school and that Ms. Frazier did a great job.

Mr. Yukna discussed the bid process for the Burrell Elementary School renovation project.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson
Clerk

Attachments:

Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Rogovin regarding school bus safety
Executive Session minutes of July 15, 2019
Regular meeting minutes of August 26, 2019
John J. Ahern Middle School – School Improvement Plan 2019-2021

Foxborough High School – School Improvement Plan 2019-2021
Strategy for District Improvement
Superintendent’s Performance Goals for 2019-2020
Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation – Superintendent and
District Administrator Rubric
Draft Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation
Curriculum Review Cycle
Policy JJIF: The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and
Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities
Policy BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
Policy JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
Policy JFABE: Education Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
MASC Life Membership Award

Approved: October 7, 2019