

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: November 18, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Richard Pearson,  
Mr. Rob Canfield, Mr. Brent Ruter

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Ms. Beverley Lord

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Mr. Kristian Andersen, Ms. Chiara Pacini

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Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. It was noted that Ms. Lord was unable to attend the meeting.

***Open Public Comment***

None.

***Approval of Minutes***

Pearson moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the special meeting minutes of October 17, 2019 as presented

Vote: 3-0-1 (Ruter abstaining)

Canfield moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2019 as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

***Teaching and Learning Highlight***

Ahern Middle School science teacher Ms. Stacie Charron and four seventh grade students presented Medical Detectives, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) enrichment course offered through Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW offers students opportunities to explore the pathways for STEM learning in a collaborative, project-based learning model. The following PLTW courses were implemented at the middle school this year: Green Architecture, Medical Detectives, Design and Modeling, and Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. Professional development for teachers and teacher support are strong components of PLTW. Dr. Mello stated that high school opportunities are being explored.

Ms. Charron and her students were excited to describe how they solved medical mysteries and analyzed medical data to draw conclusions about “patient” ailments. They were able to discover how antibiotics interact with bacteria and looked forward to a sheep brain dissection the

following day. Students described the class as “very active and intriguing” and all enjoyed the hands-on, collaborative classroom environment. Discussion with the Committee followed.

### ***FHS Overnight Travel***

Dr. Berdos presented the annual request for FHS planned travel for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by FHS Principal Ms. Myers-Pachla. Overnight trips are valuable learning experiences for students. Twelve trips were presented, eleven of which received approval in previous years. Several trips are tentative based on qualifying. Dr. Berdos read and described the travel requests.

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded

Approve 2019-2020 FHS overnight travel as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

### ***School Committee Operating Protocols***

Ms. Belanger referenced the workshop presented by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees’ (MASC) Field Director Ms. Dorothy Presser at last July’s School Committee retreat. Ms. Presser suggested that operating protocols for the Committee be written to guide standard practice. Ms. Belanger presented a first draft of Operating Protocols for the 2019-2020 school year for the Committee’s review. It was recommended that protocols be reviewed and approved annually. The Committee discussed the document in detail, and revisions were suggested. The revised document will be brought forward to the next School Committee meeting for approval.

### ***2020-2021 School Calendar Discussion***

Dr. Berdos introduced discussion regarding next year’s school calendar. Labor Day falls very late next year on September 7<sup>th</sup>, and for that reason two versions of the calendar were presented: one with a traditional return for students after the Labor Day holiday (September 8<sup>th</sup>); and the other with an early return for students before Labor Day (September 1<sup>st</sup>). Both versions of the calendar were made available to Administration and to the Foxborough Education Association. The Committee discussed optimal learning time, effect on students and families, and how late the last day of school could be counting any school cancelations during the year. The calendars will be brought forward to the next meeting for a vote.

Dr. Berdos presented a list developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the many different holidays/cultural days that are not days off from school, but recognize diversity and the growing number of students who celebrate on these dates. In the spirit of inclusion and awareness, Dr. Berdos recommended printing these additional days along with our school calendar starting next year.

### ***Other Matters***

Dr. Berdos attended a performance of *The Addams Family* and commented the play was fun and energetic; she extended congratulations to the varsity cheerleaders who qualified for national competition; noted that the fall sports season is wrapping up; and invited those interested to

attend the Superintendent's upcoming coffee with her and Dr. Mello on Thursday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Mello noted the book fair at the Ahern is a multi-day event (November 21-25) and thanked those who made it a great event

Ms. Belanger also extended her congratulations to the FHS cheerleaders. She further remarked that the B.I.T. Auction is scheduled for Friday at the Lakeview Pavilion, parent/teacher conferences are coming up next week, budget discussions have been productive, and Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> is Career Day at the high school.

Mr. Pearson mentioned that he met FHS track athlete Abby Hassman at the Hockomock League Cross Country Banquet; he attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference and appreciated the plethora of topics offered; and enjoyed the Friday evening banquet at the Conference during which Ms. Lord received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Yukna reported that the November 26 Board of Selectmen meeting is open to the School Committee and other boards for the 8:30 p.m. segment (FY '21 Budget Goals and Revenue Forecast). He also updated the Committee on the start of the construction process at the Burrell School.

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded  
Adjourn the meeting  
Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson  
Clerk

Attachments:

Special Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2019

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2019

FHS 2019-2020 Overnight Travel

2019-2020 Foxborough School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols – Draft

2020-2021 Proposed School Calendars

Approved: December 2, 2019