

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: December 2, 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. Brent Ruter

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: were not present

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

***Open Public Comment***

None.

***Approval of Minutes***

Pearson moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2019, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the joint meeting minutes of November 26, 2019, as presented

Vote: 3-0-2 (Pearson, Ruter abstaining)

***Teaching and Learning Highlight***

Due to inclement weather conditions, the Technology Integration teaching and learning highlight was rescheduled to the next School Committee meeting, December 16, 2019.

***Additional FHS Overnight Travel***

An additional FHS overnight travel item was presented based on the performance of our varsity cheerleaders who qualified for national competition in Orlando, Florida. The nationals are scheduled for March 19-23, 2020.

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the additional FHS overnight travel request for the varsity cheerleading team to attend national competition in Orlando, Florida, March 19-23, 2020

Vote: 5-0-0

***Approval of 2020-2021 School Calendar***

Two options for the 2020-2021 school calendar were presented at the last School Committee meeting: Option 1 proposed the traditional return for students after the Labor Day holiday (September 8<sup>th</sup>); and Option 2 proposed an early return for students before Labor Day (September 1<sup>st</sup>). The Committee resumed discussion about both scenarios, focusing on optimal learning time. After discussion the following vote was taken:

Ruter moved; Lord seconded  
Approve calendar Option 2 with a before Labor Day start date for students on  
September 1, 2020  
Vote: 5-0-0

The Committee decided by consensus that additional holiday/cultural observances will be listed along with next year’s calendar to increase cultural awareness and acknowledge diversity among the student body.

***School Committee Operating Protocols***

Ms. Belanger presented the 2019-2020 Foxborough School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols with the revisions discussed at the last meeting. After discussion the following vote was taken:

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded  
Approve the 2019-2020 Foxborough School Committee/Superintendent Operating  
Protocols as amended  
Vote: 5-0-0

***Preliminary Discussion of Proposed FY '21 Budget***

Dr. Berdos introduced discussion regarding the FPS FY’21 Proposed Preliminary Budget. Topics included the school budget timeline, the Board of Selectmen projected FY ’21 3.5% (\$1,264,200) budget increase, enrollment/staffing review, special education costs, and the next steps in the budget process. The 3.5% increase put forth by the Board of Selectmen will provide a leveled service budget with limited enhancements. Dr. Berdos discussed staffing changes over the past year and enrollment numbers in detail.

Mr. Yukna reported on special education costs, out-of-district placements and transportation. Students who move into the district mid-year can severely impact special education costs which makes it difficult to project budget numbers. There are many variables that make it challenging to project today what the needs will be for next year.

Administration will continuously examine all factors as the budget process goes forward.

***Acceptance of Donations***

The following donations were presented to the Committee for their consideration:

Pearson moved; Ruter seconded

Accept the donation from the Igo Elementary P.T.O. in the amount of \$5,548.96 for the purchase of technology (Apple iPads), with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Accept the donation from the Foxboro Kickers Club in the amount of \$3,250.00 for coaching stipends, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

***Other Matters***

Dr. Berdos recently attended and enjoyed the Varsity Girls Soccer banquet, noting they had a great season. She and Ms. Belanger updated the Committee regarding this year's pilot of the new Superintendent Evaluation Process.

Dr. Berdos further remarked the Taylor Elementary School production of *The Aristocats* is scheduled for this weekend; stated that elementary report cards will be distributed Friday; and announced that tomorrow's planned groundbreaking for the Burrell Renovation Project will be postponed due to inclement weather.

Ms. Lord added she attended workshops regarding the new Superintendent Evaluation Process at the MASC/MASS Joint Convention in November and commented that the first induction of the International Thespian Society in conjunction with the Art Honor Society is Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS Auditorium. Congrats to all inductees.

Dr. Mello stated that a planned visit to observe a Project Lead the Way course will be rescheduled due to tomorrow's forecast of bad weather.

Mr. Ruter commented that the B .I.T. Auction was an amazing event and thanked all of the volunteers for their efforts.

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson  
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2019

Joint meeting minutes of November 26, 2019

Additional FHS 2019-2020 Overnight Travel

2020-2021 Proposed School Calendars

2019-2020 Foxborough School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols

FPS FY '21 Preliminary Budget

Igo Elementary P.T.O. donation

Foxboro Kickers Club donation

Approved: December 16, 2019