

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: December 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. Brent Ruter

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

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

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

Open Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Pearson moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of December 2, 2019, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Technology Integration Specialists Mr. Dan Ambrosio and Ms. Darleen Reed, Grade 6 Teacher Ms. Samantha Walsh, Taylor Elementary students and Ahern Middle School students presented exciting and unique ways to integrate technology into the classroom.

Grade four Taylor students demonstrated the “magic of green screening” and “visited” the Erie Canal, Mt. Washington, the West Quoddy Head Lighthouse and Ground Zero. They were excited to show their final presentations to the Committee where they were superimposed on their chosen landmark, making it appear as if they were actually physically visiting the site.

Ms. Samantha Walsh and Ahern Middle School sixth graders discussed a unique way that students can check in with their teacher at the beginning of the day and rate their zone of regulation and readiness to learn. Using their own device or a computer at school, students fill out a survey created by their teacher rating their feelings. This way of communicating with their teacher allows students to confidentially share information they want their teacher to know about them that day.

These are two very different examples of technology being used in the classroom to enhance learning and enrich students’ school experience. Questions and discussion with the Committee followed.

Director of Special Education Proposed Title Change

Dr. Berdos discussed rationale for a change in title from Director of Special Education to Director of Student Services. The proposed title is more in line with the current responsibilities of the position, will more accurately reflect the scope of the job, and provide continuity of services. In addition to special education, the department is responsible for Section 504s, guidance and psychological services, preschool, English language learners, homelessness and other support services as needed.

Dr. Berdos stated that the current Director of Special Education, Dr. Sandra Einsel, will retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Einsel was in attendance at the meeting and added that the change in title will more accurately reflect what the department does and will attract a broader pool of applicants.

The Committee extended their congratulations to Dr. Einsel on her retirement and wished her well.

Dr. Berdos requested the Committee vote on the title change from Director of Special Education to Director of Student Services.

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Change the present Director of Special Education title to Director of Student Services to better encompass current job responsibilities.

Vote: 5-0-0

Continued Discussion of Proposed FY '21 Budget

Dr. Berdos introduced continued discussion of the FPS FY '21 Preliminary Budget. The following areas were addressed: the FY '21 budget message, FY '21 budget process, staff adjustments, increased need in programming for special education in-district programs, increased staffing at the elementary level, decreased staffing at the secondary level, level funding of expense budgets, major components of FY '21 budget, budget comparison by year from FY '14 to FY '21 of budget requests and appropriations, enrollment data from FY '16 through FY'21 (projected), major components of FY '21 changes, budget offsets, FY '20 budget allocations, and next steps in the budget process.

Dr. Berdos discussed declining enrollment at the high school level and the middle school level, as well as an increase in staffing at the elementary level due to enrollment numbers. The difficulty in predicting incoming kindergarten enrollment is also a concern.

Mr. Yukna reported on the special education budget, noting that needs in this area are driving costs up significantly. He discussed circuit breaker funding, out-of-district tuition costs, and transportation expenses.

The preliminary budget proposal of \$37,883,932 (a 4.89% increase from last year) maintains reasonable class sizes, preserves current programs and services to students, addresses new and increasing needs in special education (both in district and out-of-district), and enables the district to meet state guidelines. The Board of Selectmen projected the FPS FY '21 budget increase at 3.5% based on level services with limited enhancements.

Burrell School Renovation Project Update

Mr. Yukna reported on the status of the Burrell Elementary School Renovation Project. A list of completed items and upcoming work was provided by the School Building Committee. As of December 10, 2019, construction fencing has been installed, trees cleared, boulders removed, and site mobilization has taken place. Backfilling for the new gymnasium is in process. Several photos were provided of the progress. The groundbreaking ceremony has been rescheduled for January 9th at 11:00 a.m.

Acceptance of Donation

The following donation was presented to the Committee for their consideration:

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 from Foxboro Soccer Club Inc. in support of Varsity Boys' Soccer coaching, with gratitude.

Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos wished happy, healthy holidays and a healthy 2020 to all. The timing for tomorrow's incoming weather was discussed. She mentioned that she and Dr. Mello have met with the facilitator for the DESE's (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) Planning for Success Model (a strategic planning and continuous improvement process). Planning sessions will be held during the school day starting in January.

Dr. Mello reported that #theboro02035 is in full swing and remarked that Twitter is a great way to see what is happening in classrooms across the district.

Mr. Canfield attended an excellent performance of *The Aristocats*, and stated last week's Winterfest Concert was outstanding.

Mr. Ruter wishes patience and good news to seniors awaiting college acceptances.

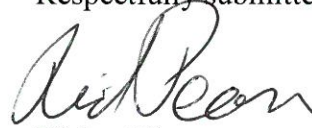
Ms. Belanger congratulated seniors who have received early college acceptances. She attended last week's Athletic Night which included a very informative Social Host Liability presentation through the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Lord extended best wishes for happy holidays and many blessing in the new year.

Ruter moved; Canfield seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of December 2, 2019

Director of Special Education Title Change

FPS FY '21 Preliminary Budget

Burrell Elementary School Renovation Project Update of December 10, 2019

Foxboro Soccer Club Inc. Donation

Approved: 1/6/20