

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: January 6, 2020

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: Not present

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and wished a happy new year to all.

Open Public Comment

FHS seniors Dimitrios Davis, Ryan Proulx, Jackson Sylvestre, and Kyle Aubuchon addressed the Committee regarding their concerns about a proposed reduction of staff in the FHS math department. The students expressed their opinions about the effects on students of possible cuts. The Committee thanked them for coming forward and noted their comments will be taken into consideration.

Approval of Minutes

Lord moved, Ruter seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2019, as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved, Pearson seconded

Approve the policy subcommittee meeting minutes of December 18, 2019, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Canfield moved; Lord seconded

Approve the budget subcommittee meeting minutes of December 20, 2019, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Burrell Elementary School Principal Ms. Michele McCarthy explained that the elementary schools' social emotional program Caring School Community has been replaced by The Responsive Classroom and described the components of the new program. She introduced Burrell School second grade teacher, Ms. Janet Pacitti, who described the Morning Meeting segment. The Morning Meeting has four pieces – greeting, sharing, an activity, and a message. Together with Burrell second grader Ella Wallent, the three demonstrated what it looks like, greeting each other, asking questions, sharing information and participating in a physical activity. Morning Meeting is a positive way for students to start the day, builds routines,

strengthens a sense of community, and creates a time for students to connect with each other. Questions from the Committee followed.

First Reading of Policy EEA – Student Transportation

Policy EEA – Student Transportation was presented for a first reading. Policy subcommittee member Mr. Richard Pearson discussed the process of review and revision of the policy, the vision of the policy, and the reorganization of policy sections. The policy was read in its entirety, and discussion with the Committee followed.

Lord moved; Canfield seconded

Move Policy EEA – Student Transportation forward to a second reading at the January 27, 2020 School Committee meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

Winter 2020 FPS Community Report

Dr. Berdos introduced the 8th annual Winter 2020 FPS Community Report. This report is delivered to every mailbox in town and provides the community a snapshot of important events, student demographics, and the vision, mission and values of the school district. Dr. Mello described the report in detail, highlighted changes, talked about new items, and asked the Committee for suggestions. Discussion followed.

FY '21 Budget Continued Discussion

Mr. Yukna opened continued discussion of the FY '21 budget. The last Committee meeting was a preliminary review, and since then Administration has met with the budget subcommittee to discuss items in detail. The biggest issues this year are enrollment numbers, which have dipped at the middle school and high school levels, and increasingly higher special education out-of-district costs.

In order to be responsible with enrollment and class loads, recommendations have been made for some staff reductions at the middle and high school levels. Student needs will continue to be met, but reductions are necessary in response to enrollment.

Mr. Yukna presented information discussed at the initial budget review on December 16th and changes reviewed with the budget subcommittee. This included regular education and specialist staffing adjustments, special education program staff adjustments, and special education out-of-district increases. There was discussion around keeping special education students in the district with specialized programs when possible.

The preliminary budget proposes an increase of 3.8% over the FY '20 budget, and slightly over the Board of Selectmen's proposed FY '21 budget increase of 3.50% (\$116,015). Questions and discussion with the Committee followed.

Discussion of FY '21 Capital Improvement Plan (Draft)

Mr. Yukna presented the FPS FY '21 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Requests. The total request is \$558,500 and is broken down as follows: computers/hardware/software/network

upgrades - \$200,000; two (2) full-size, 77-passenger school buses - \$161,000; one (1) 30-passenger mini bus - \$82,500; copier replacement - \$40,000; and music department equipment replacement - \$75,000. All items were reviewed and discussed in detail. FY '21 is the first year of a multi-year music equipment purchase. The music department is responsible for over \$400,000 worth of equipment. K-12 Music Department Head Ms. Cami Tedoldi was on hand to support the request and answer questions regarding music equipment replacement. Mr. Yukna also provided estimated CIP requests through FY '25. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Acceptance of Donation

Dr. Berdos presented a \$10,000 donation from MediTech for the Committee's consideration. This is an annual gift from MediTech that has been generously donated since their move to Foxborough. The donation is to be used for the advancement of technology and technology instruction. This year's donation was used to support Project Lead the Way.

Pearson moved; Canfield seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$10,000 from MediTech, Inc. to be used for the advancement of technology and technology instruction, with much gratitude.

Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos discussed the Burrell groundbreaking scheduled for Thursday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. and confirmed that MSBA officials, Senator Paul Feeney, Representative Jay Barrows, and members of the School Building Committee will attend. Kindergarten registration begins this week at the elementary schools, and the 27-member Plan for Success (formerly Strategic Plan) team will meet January 15th.

Ms. Belanger commented on the timeline for the new Director of Student Services search.

Dr. Mello will be leading that search and reported that an email of interest to serve on the Director of Student Services search committee went out to parents and staff. She asked for School Committee volunteers to serve as well. School Committee members Mr. Brent Ruter and Mr. Rob Canfield volunteered.

Dr. Mello also remarked that Project Lead the Way has been extended through the end of the year at the middle school; a very robust Professional Development Day is coming up on Friday, January 24th, and Stop the Bleed training will be offered that day by the Foxborough Fire Department.

Ms. Lord wished a happy and healthy new year to all and mentioned she attended the memorial service for Ms. Ann McGrane, former science teacher and guidance counselor at the Ahern who passed away recently.

Ms. Belanger noted that the National Honor Society induction is on Wednesday, January 15th, and extended her congratulations to those honored. She, Dr. Berdos and Mr. Ruter will be

attending a MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) school safety presentation on January 29th.

Dr. Berdos noted the 5th grade chorus and orchestra will be performing tomorrow evening, and the Senior District Festival is happening this weekend.

Mr. Yukna remarked that the new foundations as part of the renovation project are almost complete at the Burrell School.

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2019
Policy Subcommittee meeting minutes of December 18, 2019
Budget Subcommittee meeting minutes of December 20, 2019
Policy EEA – Student Transportation – DRAFT
Winter 2020 District Community Report
FY '21 Budget Adjustments
FY '21 Preliminary Budget Draft 1/6/20
FY '21 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Requests
MediTech, Inc. Donation

Approved: January 27, 2020