

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: February 3, 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: Mr. Kristian Andersen, Ms. Chiara Pacini

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Ruter arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Open Public Comment

FHS Senior Sara Scardocci addressed the Committee and introduced Grizz the therapy dog, a young Labrador retriever in training with Golden Opportunities for Independence in Walpole. Ms. Scardocci discussed the benefits of using therapy dogs in the school setting. She demonstrated some of the commands she and Grizz are working on and took questions from the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Three sets of minutes were presented to the Committee for their consideration.

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the Policy Subcommittee meeting minutes of January 8, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded

Approve the Policy Subcommittee meeting minutes of January 22, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Pearson moved; Lord seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Second Reading of Policy IMGA – Assistance Animals

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Waive the second reading of Policy IMGA – Assistance Animals

Vote: 5-0-0

A lengthy discussion followed after the vote regarding certain aspects of this policy -- specifically certification requirements for handlers and animals and insurance liability. Dr. Berdos stated that all precautions would be taken in the case of allergies as per procedures that are already in place. Due to further questions it was agreed that Policy IMGA - Assistance Animals be moved forward for a third reading.

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Move Policy IMGA – Assistance Animals forward for a third reading due to further questions

Vote: 5-0-0

First Reading of Policy JJIF – The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities

Policy JJIF was read in its entirety. Policy Subcommittee member Mr. Pearson thanked Dr. Berdos, Athletic Director Mr. Joseph Cusack and all involved for their work in updating this policy.

Dr. Berdos reported that Brigham & Women’s Hospital is reviewing this policy as well as part of their contract with FPS. The Committee discussed all revisions.

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Move Policy JJIF – The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities forward for a second reading

Vote: 5-0-0

Plan for Success (formerly Strategic Plan) Update

Dr. Berdos provided an update on the next three-year plan for Foxborough Public Schools (2020-2023). The new plan will be entitled Plan for Success, formerly known as our Strategic Plan. The 28-member planning team includes administrators and teachers at all levels. Dr. Berdos described the structure of the Plan for Success, which is the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) recommended strategic plan model and continuous improvement process. Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, retired Superintendent of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District and a trained DESE facilitator, is facilitating the process.

Two planning meetings have been held so far and have resulted in in-depth conversation regarding the district’s vision for 2023. A Planning for Success timeline was provided to the Committee. Completion is targeted for June 2020. Dr. Berdos will provide updates during the course of this process.

FY ’20 Budget Update

Mr. Yukna presented the FY ’20 Budget Update as of February 3, 2020. Topics of discussion were staff changes at each school, special education instruction, and the steep increase in out-of-district

enrollment, tuition and transportation expenses. Out-of-district placement expenses are expected to rise a bit higher - up to \$400,000 by the end of the year. An extraordinary relief filing can be made to the state to cover the significant increases in special education expenses, but this requires a 25% increase year over year, which we believe we will qualify for. If approved, it will provide immediate financial relief for this fiscal year. Currently the total budget variance revised to forecast is a negative \$10,977. All lines will continue to be monitored to offset unexpected expenses.

Lord moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the FY '20 Budget Summary of February 3, 2020 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Ms. Belanger reported on several budget meetings have taken place and/or are scheduled regarding the FY '21 budget process and overall strategy. Meetings have included the Advisory Committee, Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager, Mr. Bill Keegan. An upcoming meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5th with the Advisory Committee, and a joint meeting of the School Committee, Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, February 10th.

Mr. Yukna emphasized the importance of referring to the town's 5-year financial plan that was developed in November 2019. The plan will be revisited so that all committee and board members understand the rationale behind the 5-year financial plan, how it was developed, and how it works going forward.

Ms. Belanger discussed the School Committee's meeting schedule in light of additional budget meetings. It was agreed that the February 24th School Committee meeting be canceled. The next scheduled meeting is March 2nd. She also referenced the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's (MASC) newest policy newsletter and congratulated the Policy Subcommittee on keeping on top of all changes. She referred to a new policy JBB - Educational Equity and suggested it be brought forward at a future meeting.

Dr. Berdos noted that the Program of Studies and Advanced Placement (AP) night is coming up at the high school on February 5th; the Winter Vocal Jazz Fest is scheduled for February 6th; and the high school Spanish exchange students will depart for Costa Rica on February 13th.

Dr. Mello reported that the search for the K-8 Director of ELA and Social Studies will begin this week.

Dr. Berdos acknowledged that Dr. Moira Rodgers will be leaving the Taylor School at the end of this school year due to personal reasons and wished her well.

Ms. Lord announced that she will not be seeking re-election to the School Committee and will step down at the end of her term in May. The Committee thanked her for her dedication and years of

service as a School Committee member. She then commented on the progress of the Burrell School renovation, and wished everyone a wonderful February vacation week.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson
Clerk

Attachments:

Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2020

Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2020

Regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2020

Policy IMGA – Assistance Animals

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

Planning for Success Update

FY '20 Budget Summary Statement of 2/3/2020

Approved: March 2, 2020