

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: March 2, 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 was not present

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the FHS Girls' Basketball team won tonight and is moving on to the next round of the playoffs. She explained that the Committee held executive session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing wage/contract negotiations with Union Personnel (Foxborough School Bus Drivers' Association), and the Committee will vote this evening on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to modify the current school bus drivers' contract.

Mr. Yukna explained that the MOA amends Article 6; Work Assignments, in the FY '20 - FY '22 Foxborough School Bus Drivers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement and language in Appendix B -- the process for the filling of extra and coverage work.

Vote on Revision to the FY '20 – FY '22 Foxborough School Bus Drivers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement to revise the FY '20 – FY '22 Foxborough School Bus Drivers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Open Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

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

Pearson moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Canfield moved; Pearson seconded
Approve the joint meeting minutes of February 5, 2020, as presented
Vote: 4-0-1 (Ruter abstaining)

Pearson moved; Canfield seconded
Approve the special meeting minutes of February 25, 2020, as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Grade eight social studies teachers Mr. David Budge and Mr. Dan Williams along with five grade eight students presented The Ahern Congress, a social studies project designed to simulate how the U.S. Congress works. Students took on the role of a member of Congress and drafted legislation that relates to real life at the Ahern. The students discussed two bills they wanted to bring forward – one an act to eliminate homework due on Mondays, and the other an act to change soccer to a spring sport.

Students described the process of writing and promoting their bill, presenting evidence-based rationale, and bringing the bills forward for a class vote. Mr. Budge and Mr. Williams discussed the new civics standards as part of the overhaul of the social studies curriculum and the importance of students learning how our government works. The act to eliminate homework due on Mondays is currently with the Ahern administration for approval or veto. Questions and discussions with the Committee followed.

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

Lord moved; Canfield seconded
Waive the second reading of Policy JJIF – The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities
Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Berdos discussed Brigham and Women’s approval of the policy and some minor edits they suggested.

Ruter moved; Lord seconded
Approve Policy JJIF – The Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities with minor edits as discussed
Vote: 5-0-0

Third Reading of Policy IMGGA – Assistance Animals

The Committee discussed Policy IMGGA in general and concluded that there is a lot of information still to coalesce. An additional Policy Subcommittee meeting was suggested in order to clarify certain items and review new information recently received.

Lord moved; Pearson seconded

Motion to table the third reading of Policy IMGGA – Assistance Animals until the next School Committee meeting on March 16, 2020

Vote: 5-0-0

First Reading of Policy JBB – Educational Equity

Mr. Ruter requested more discussion before going forward with a first reading of Policy JBB – Educational Equity in order to tailor the Massachusetts Association of School Committee’s (MASC) version to better meet Foxborough’s needs.

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Motion to table the first reading of Policy JBB – Educational Equity until the next School Committee meeting on March 16, 2020

Vote: 5-0-0

Superintendent’s Mid-Cycle Review

Dr. Berdos presented her 2019-2020 Mid-Cycle Review, the purpose of which is to foster productive dialogue with the School Committee and provide an update on goals. As part of the pilot Superintendent Evaluation program, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation along with focus indicators for her goals were included.

Dr. Berdos discussed the three themes that have been used in the past: what she is really proud of; what she is working hard on; and what challenges she faces. Each of these questions were answered in depth. Using a PowerPoint presentation, she further discussed social emotional learning, educational equity, and specific goals in the areas of Professional Practice, Student Learning, District Improvement and Other. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Approval of Student Activity Accounts

Mr. Yukna presented the list of FY ’20 student activity accounts for the high school and middle school that support student clubs and activities. He explained their purpose and the procedures in place to properly manage the monies in these accounts. After discussion, the following vote was taken:

Lord moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the FY ’20 Student Activity Accounts

Vote: 5-0-0

Acceptance of Two Donations from Partners in Patriotism Fund

Two donations from Partners in Patriotism Fund were presented to the Committee for their consideration.

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$1,500 from Partners in Patriotism in support of the FHS Safe Choices Workshop, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Partners in Patriotism in support of the FHS Musical Theater Boosters Club, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

The Committee expressed their appreciation to the Partners in Patriotism Fund for the generous and continuous support of our schools and programs.

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos read a letter from FHS Art Department Head Ms. Kelly Arcacha announcing the names of the FHS art students recognized at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards contest. Foxborough students won a total of fifteen awards this year. Of note, Julia Kelley was chosen as one of five American Voices and Visions Medal Nominees from Massachusetts, the highest regional honor given.

Dr. Berdos reported she had an opportunity to read to grade 5 students as part of Read Across America; tonight the Burrell, Igo, and Taylor Schools celebrated reading with a “book tasting;” the girls’ basketball and hockey teams won their games and advanced in the playoffs; the boys’ basketball team will be playing on Wednesday; and a parent meeting regarding a student trip to France in April has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th to discuss travel in light of corona virus concerns. Dr. Berdos has been in touch with the State Department of Health and is monitoring the situation closely.

Mr. Yukna discussed additional cleaning taking place at all schools as extra precautions in response to corona virus concerns.

Ms. Belanger mentioned that the next Superintendent’s Community Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.

Dr. Mello remarked that the posting for the Igo Principal closes this week and the Search Committee has been assembled; Mr. Pearson volunteered to be the School Committee representative for that Committee; Mr. Canfield and Mr. Ruter will resume working with the Search Committee for the Director of Student Services position; the committee that worked on the District

Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) is close to sharing the newly revised version; and a parent focus group regarding the Igo Principal search will be held this Thursday evening.

Dr. Berdos added that a meet and greet was held with Taylor School parents, staff and Principal Mike Stanton.

Mr. Yukna reported that the Town has received the AAA bond rating, noting this will help keep the cost of the Burrell project down.

Student representative Kris Andersen mentioned the Student Council blood drive coming up on March 11th.

Ms. Lord reminded everyone to change their clocks this weekend.

Dr. Berdos and Ms. Belanger cautioned those voting in tomorrow's primary election at the Ahern to drive with extra care. School will be in session, and there will be an extra police presence in the morning and afternoon.

Ms. Lord noted the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2020

Joint meeting minutes of February 5, 2020

Special meeting minutes of February 25, 2020

The Ahern Congress – Grade 8 Social Studies Project

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

Policy IMGA – Assistance Animals

Policy IMG – Animals in School
Policy JBB – Educational Equity
Superintendent’s 2019-2020 Mid-Cycle Review
Student Activity Accounts
Two Donations from the Partners in Patriotism Fund

- FHS Safe Choices Workshop
- FHS Musical Theater Boosters Club

Approved: March 30, 2020