

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: May 11, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Richard Pearson,
Ms. Beverley Lord

REMOTE PARTICIPATION: Mr. Rob Canfield, Mr. Brent Ruter

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Were not present

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

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Berdos acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4 to 8) and expressed her gratitude for all the hard work and dedication of the FPS faculty. Igo parent Ms. Amy LaBrache and Mr. Mike Webber of Foxboro Cable Access spearheaded the creation of a heartwarming video tribute for teachers that included hundreds of pictures and images submitted by students and families capturing their appreciation for the teachers of Foxborough Public Schools. Foxboro Cable Access will air the video at the conclusion of this meeting. The Kraft Organization surprised the high school faculty with a virtual visit from New England Patriot Joe Thuney. In addition, Partners in Patriotism displayed FPS teachers' names on the Jumbotron at Gillette Stadium to show their appreciation.

Dr. Berdos discussed honoring end-of-year activities, sending surveys to parents of seniors regarding graduation planning, the annual senior drive around the common, remote learning plans and adapting those plans moving forward, access for students to pick up their belongings left at school, and her appreciation of staff and parents for all the "juggling" that is required during a very trying time.

Dr. Berdos was pleased to report that there continues to be an increase in student engagement, and noted all school principals continue to communicate important information to families through weekly updates.

Questions and discussion with the Committee followed.

Open Public Comment

Ms. Belanger read the public comment submitted by FHS student Joseph Gerraughty regarding the ability for students to retrieve their belongings from their classrooms/lockers. Dr. Berdos reported that students' belongings are being packed up individually from lockers and classrooms, and a staggered schedule will be implemented to claim them. Families will be notified when these plans

are finalized. Items for Burrell School students will be sent to the Igo for pick up due to construction at the Burrell.

Approval of Minutes

Pearson moved; Lord seconded

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

Vote: 5-0-0

Planning for Success Update

Dr. Berdos reported on progress of the FPS Planning for Success Plan, formerly the Strategic Plan. A lot of progress has been made by the 28-member team, and four broad themes have been developed. However, due to the public health crisis all work stopped in March, and a completed plan will not be developed by the initial target date of June 2020. Work will continue through the summer for presentation of a plan in the fall. The work being done now relating to remote learning will greatly inform the new plan. Discussion with the Committee followed.

PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Update

Dr. Mello shared an update on Project Lead the Way (PLTW) a STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) curriculum for elementary, middle and high schools. Fall will bring an expansion of PLTW to grade 6 at the middle school; and grades 7 and 8 will continue with applied technology and the electives introduced last year. A course will be offered at the high school at a future date. Next year FPS will receive the second level of grant disbursement. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Implications of COVID-19 on the FY '21 Budget

Mr. Yukna introduced discussion around the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shut down on the FY '21 budget. He outlined a number of concerns for revenue projections, described the three sources of town funding, and anticipates that Chapter 70 funding will be reduced in the range of 10-15% next year. Next year will see a minor increase in salary levels; however, out-of-district tuition and transportation costs will increase by approximately \$1,250,000.

Areas of concern for FY '21 are decreased revenue, additional technology expenses to support online learning, additional time and money needed for sanitizing facilities and buses, and providing appropriate PPE for staff. There are many unknowns at this time, but all aspects of operation and associated costs are being scrutinized. The intent now is to hold costs low for the balance of the FY '20 school year.

The Burrell renovation is funded and continues to move forward. A lengthy discussion with the Committee followed.

FY '21 C.I.P. (Capital Improvement Plan) Update with Details

At the last School Committee, Mr. Yukna discussed the decrease in the FY '21 Capital Improvement Plan request due to the financial implications of the current public health crisis and subsequent shut down. For clarity, he presented a revised plan outlining the original request of \$558,500; the revised request of \$182,500; and the items postponed of \$301,000. Each item was discussed. The FY '21 CIP has been greatly reduced town-wide.

Acceptance of Donation

One donation was presented to the Committee for their consideration.

Lord moved; Canfield seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$689.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kerzner to support the purchase of a computer, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Ms. Belanger reiterated the excitement of teachers having their names displayed on the Jumbotron at Gillette Stadium. It made them feel very appreciated.

Dr. Berdos noted that secretaries have been steaming graduation robes so they are picture ready. Chestnut Hill Studios will be taking professional photos of all FHS graduates when they pick up their robes. Partners in Patriotism also generously provided racks to keep them in perfect condition.

Ms. Lord reminded all to stay safe and stay strong. She also reported that a longstanding member of the Special Education Department, Ms. Patricia Young, recently lost her mother. The Committee extended their condolences to Ms. Young.

Mr. Canfield extended his thanks to the Food Service Department for the positive impact the food distribution program has made on the community.

Dr. Mello mentioned that our teachers feel very appreciated. The crisis has made magnified what is important, that everyone has a valuable role to play, and we respect each other for our contributions to support students.

Pearson moved; Lord seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2020

FY '21 CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Revision

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kerzner Donation

Approved: June 1, 2020