

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: June 1, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

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

REMOTE PARTICIPATION: Mr. Brent Ruter

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Were not present

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Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. She noted this is a momentous meeting as it is Ms. Lord's last School Committee meeting after having served for 16 years. Ms. Lord's years of public service will be acknowledged later in the meeting.

***COVID-19 Update***

Dr. Berdos presented a COVID-19 update. We are currently in the third phase of planning and remote learning, and the focus is on presenting new content. There are thirteen (13) days of school remaining for the 2019-2020 school year.

Information collected from this week's survey will inform plans moving forward and prepare us if we have another remote learning situation in the fall. Survey data will be shared at the June 22 meeting. Additional funding to support future plans (i.e., 1:1 electronic devices) is being explored through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act.

A Steering Committee has been launched with several planning subcommittees to inform future scenarios. The subgroups will address School and Facility Operations; Transportation; Health, Wellness and Safety; Auxiliary Programs; Personnel; Whole Child Supports/SEL; Academics/Teaching and Learning, and Technology. No definitive guidance about what a fall return to school will look like has been received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as of now. Planning for all possible scenarios will continue throughout the summer.

Dr. Berdos also apprised the Committee regarding the senior car parade, upcoming graduation, senior scholarship night, class night and MCAS determinations for current junior, sophomore and freshmen classes. Senior events have been thoughtfully planned to provide memorable and unique experiences for our graduates.

Dr. Mello additionally reported on Professional Development offerings to be provided on demand for staff that will be available over the summer in addition to the annual Professional Development days held in August. She noted that teachers are eager to start next year in a proactive capacity.

Discussion with the Committee followed.

### ***Open Public Comment***

None.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Ruter moved; Lord seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2020, as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

### ***Social Studies Curriculum Review***

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Alison Mello, K-8 ELA/Social Studies Director Ms. Sue Shea, and FHS Social Studies Department Head, Ms. Kristen D'Errico presented the results of a comprehensive review and analysis of the social studies curriculum conducted during the 2019-2020 school year. The Review Team was comprised of eighteen members across grade levels and included administrators and teachers. Overarching goals, district-wide outcomes, elementary, middle school and high school desired outcomes, survey findings, and recommendations were clearly defined and discussed in depth. Discussion focused on integration of global citizenship throughout the curriculum, revision of World History curriculum, implementation of a grade 8 Civics course, and resources required per grade level. At the time of the meeting, quotations for the purchase of text books were not finalized. Dr. Mello thanked the review team for their dedication and diligent work.

Lord moved; Ruter seconded

Move forward the vote for a social studies textbook adoption to the June 22 meeting when further detail can be provided.

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Belanger took a moment to thank Ms. Kristen D'Errico and Ms. Christine Smith for their tireless work as senior class advisors for the Class of 2020.

### ***Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Student Opportunity Act (SOA)/Student Opportunity Plan***

The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) was passed in 2019 and provides funding to be used to close learning gaps among students in subgroups, i.e., students with disabilities, English language learners, low income families. All districts are required to submit their Student Opportunity Plan (SOP) as part of the SOA in order to be eligible for funding. Foxborough's Student Opportunity Plan will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

### ***Recognition of Public Service***

Ms. Lord was given a heartwarming send off at her final School Committee meeting after sixteen years of service as a School Committee member. The meeting was attended via Zoom by Recreation Board members Ms. Heather Harding and Ms. Deborah Giordano; former Superintendent Ms. Debbie Spinelli, and former School Committee members Mr. Bruce Gardner,

Mr. Steve Udden, and Mr. Chris Connolly, who shared memories, and celebrated her as a teacher, School Committee member, Recreation Board member and mentor. Current School Committee members and Administrators all expressed their gratitude for her work on behalf of the students of Foxborough and wished her well. Ms. Lord's son, Mr. Bill Lord, attended the meeting to celebrate with her.

Ms. Lord stated it was a privilege and joy to serve in her capacity as School Committee member.

***Other Matters***

Dr. Berdos thanked Mr. Jim DeVellis for coordinating the slide show of Foxborough seniors' pictures on the Orpheum Theater electronic message board. It was a wonderful way to acknowledge their accomplishment.

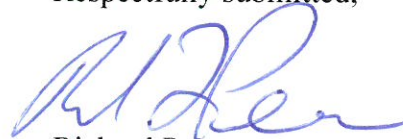
Ms. Belanger expressed her support for Sunday's graduation format, describing it as the most appropriate and safest celebration given current circumstances.

Mr. Ruter congratulated the graduating Class of 2020 and implored them to use their talents to make the world better and work to bridge divides.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Pearson  
Clerk

**Attachments:**

Regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2020

PreK-12 Social Studies Curriculum Review Summary Report

Approved: June 22, 2020