

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: June 22, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Richard Pearson,  
Mr. Rob Canfield, Ms. Michelle Raymond

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Brent Ruter

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

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Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Some agenda items were taken out of order due to scheduling/technical difficulties.

***COVID-19 Update***

Dr. Berdos provided the Committee with a COVID-19 Update. She expressed her thanks to all who took part in a successful and memorable 2020 graduation despite a very different format. She extended her congratulations to all 2020 Foxborough graduates and noted how meaningful it was that so many staff and community partners made sure that all senior events were momentous and successful.

Dr. Berdos and Dr. Einsel (via Zoom) discussed the upcoming 2020 Extended School Year (ESY) Program and reported that it will be an in-person learning experience at the Ahern School. CDC guidelines will be followed. Dr. Einsel noted the ESY Program will inform fall programming going forward.

Dr. Berdos noted funding has been received through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act which provides money for COVID-related expenses. This will allow the district to purchase enough electronic devices to support a 1:1 technology environment. Mr. Yukna stated that the town has been allotted \$1,500,000 through the CARES Act and emphasized that these funds can be used solely for non-budgeted expenses related to COVID-19. Items such as PPE (personal protection equipment), disinfectants, gloves, masks, face shields, additional technology, and plexiglass shields will be purchased with these funds.

Dr. Berdos is awaiting the Governor's briefing for definitive answers on what a return to school in the fall will look like. Details are not available at this time.

Dr. Mello discussed summer reading and math programs as well as a new supplemental summer English Language Arts (K-12) and math (K-9) program that will provide students a personalized learning experience to assist them in closing any learning gaps and meeting the state standards in those areas. Students will be provided with a progress report at the end of the summer.

### ***School Committee Reorganization***

Ms. Belanger introduced the School Committee Reorganization per Policy BDA and explained this is the annual reorganization of School Committee leadership as this is the first meeting following the town's annual election. Positions of School Committee Chair and Vice Chair/Clerk will be decided. Ms. Belanger opened the floor for nominations of Chair.

Mr. Canfield nominated Mr. Pearson as Chair. As there were no other nominations, the following vote was taken: Ms. Belanger – aye; Mr. Canfield – aye; Mr. Pearson – aye; Ms. Raymond – aye. Mr. Ruter was not present at the meeting. Mr. Pearson was elected Chair.

Mr. Pearson opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair/Clerk.

Ms. Belanger nominated Mr. Canfield as Vice Chair/Clerk. As there were no other nominations, the following vote was taken: Ms. Belanger – aye; Mr. Canfield – aye; Mr. Pearson – aye; Ms. Raymond – aye. Mr. Ruter was not present at the meeting. Mr. Canfield was elected Vice Chair/Clerk.

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

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of June 1, 2020, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

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

Mr. Pearson read the three public comments received prior to the meeting via the Community Inbox. The first submitted by Ms. Melissa Foster of Bentwood Street addressed the use of the Foxborough warrior name and logo; the second submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Luck of Lawton Lane addressed the decrease of one second grade teacher position at the Igo School and its effect on next year's class sizes; and the third submitted by Ms. Karen Burg of Congdon Circle addressed concerns about special education students and meeting their needs as outlined in their individual education plans this upcoming fall.

### ***Recognition of Retirees***

Dr. Berdos was pleased to acknowledge the nine (9) Foxborough Public Schools employees who retired during the 2019-2020 school year: Ms. Kathleen Gray, Special Education Teacher; Ms. Sue Shea, Director of English Language Arts/Social Studies K-8; Mr. John Aurecchia, Technical Education Teacher; Dr. Sandra Einsel, Director of Student Services; Ms. Linda Mealey, School Nurse and Nurse Leader; Mr. Bruce Storer, Transportation/Bus Driver; Ms. Diane Ruhl, Transportation/Bus Driver; Ms. Kathie Leighton, Extended Day Manager; and Ms. Annette Grady, Extended Day Worker. Several retirees attended the meeting via Zoom. The Committee extended their congratulations and expressed much gratitude for their years serving the students of Foxborough Public Schools.

***Introduction of New Elementary School Principal – Ms. Kate Campbell***

Dr. Berdos introduced Ms. Kate Campbell, Igo Elementary School’s new principal, and thanked Dr. Mello and the screening committee for persevering with this search during such unusual circumstances. There were eighty-one (81) applicants for the position. Dr. Mello described the search process, read the names of the screening committee members, and thanked them all for their participation in the search. Dr. Berdos outlined Ms. Campbell’s more than twenty years in education and read several quotes from references and search committee members commending Ms. Campbell’s work ethic and reputation as a strong educational leader. Ms. Campbell was welcomed by the Committee and discussed her experience and educational career. Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla, FHS Principal; Ms. Kerry Frazier, Ahern Middle School Principal; Mr. Mike Stanton, Taylor Elementary School Principal; Ms. Michele McCarthy, Burrell Elementary School Principal; and Dr. Sandra Einsel, Director of Student Services, joined the meeting via Zoom to welcome and support Ms. Campbell. Discussion with the Committee followed.

***Remote Learning and Planning for September Survey Results***

Dr. Berdos and Dr. Mello reported on recent survey results and feedback relating to remote learning and planning for September 2020. Dr. Berdos reported that there were 1,152 survey respondents this round and a total of 5,560 comments from families along a wide range of topics. Referencing a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Berdos discussed closure timelines, explained the difference between emergency remote learning and distance learning, compared what was workable and what was not, and discussed progress made during each phase of the closures. Dr. Mello discussed remote learning activities by school and their levels of appropriateness, read many parent comments about the biggest concerns/challenges with remote learning, and emphasized all feedback, whether negative or positive, helps in the planning moving forward. Discussion with the Committee followed.

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

Dr. Berdos explained the purpose of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) as an Act aimed at closing disparities among student sub-groups (i.e., English language learners, economically disadvantaged, special education). In order to receive funding to support this work, districts were required to submit their Student Opportunity Plan (SOP) to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval. FPS received \$84,500 in funding to offset costs associated with the SOP. Foxborough chose to focus on Professional Development to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum, and inclusion/co-teaching for students with disabilities and English learners. School Committee approval of the SOP is required.

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded  
Approve the Student Opportunity Plan as presented  
Vote: 4-0-0

### ***Review of Superintendent's Evaluation Process***

Dr. Berdos presented information regarding her annual evaluation process. As is customary, she discussed the 5-step evaluation cycle of Self-Assessment (Analysis, Goal Setting and Plan Development, Implementation of Plan, Formative Assessment/Evaluation (mid-cycle review), and Summative Evaluation), and explained that this year she is piloting a draft Indicator Rubric as part of the DESE's Pilot program for superintendents and their School Committees. She provided much detail in discussing her goals for 2019-2020 within each of the four standards (Instructional Leadership, Management and Operations, Family and Community Engagement, and Professional Culture) and the progress made for each.

As in the past, Committee members will meet with Dr. Berdos individually to discuss her evaluation, after which their individual assessments will be forwarded to the Chair in early July. A composite evaluation will be presented to the Committee later in the month.

### ***Vote on Revised Foxborough Collective Bargaining Agreement for Educator Evaluation System – Appendix D***

Dr. Berdos presented the revised Appendix D for the Foxborough Collective Bargaining Agreement for Professionals. The Model System for Educator Evaluation was first implemented in 2012. In 2019 the original model was updated with revisions in the following areas: 1) Classroom Teacher Rubric, 2) Common Assessments and 3) Survey Feedback. During the 2019-2020 school year, the FPS Educator Evaluation Working Group met to review and update Appendix D. The revision presented at this meeting takes into account these changes, and has been approved by the Foxborough Educator Association's union leadership. School Committee approval is required as well.

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Approve revisions to Appendix D of the Foxborough Education Association (Professionals) Collective Bargaining Agreement, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

### ***Social Studies Textbook Adoption***

As a follow up to the Social Studies Curriculum Review presented at the last School Committee meeting, Dr. Mello provided quotations for the recommended textbook adoption as a result of the review. All materials purchased will be in digital form. Dr. Mello briefly reviewed materials to be purchased at the middle school and high school levels.

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded

Approve the Social Studies K-12 Curriculum Review Adoption request as presented in the amount of \$48,393

Vote: 4-0-0

### ***2020-2021 Appointments***

After discussion, the Committee made the following appointments for the 2020-2021 school year by consensus:

2020-2021 Budget Subcommittee: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Rob Canfield

2020-2021 Policy Subcommittee: Mr. Brent Ruter, Ms. Michelle Raymond

2020-2021 Liaison to the Recreation Department: Ms. Tina Belanger

Ms. Belanger will remain a member of the School Building Committee.

### ***Acceptance of General Plumbing Services Bid***

Mr. Yukna provided the results of the recent 3-year bid solicitation for general plumbing services and maintenance for the five (5) school department buildings as well as all other municipal buildings. Three bids were received. Mr. Yukna read the details of all three bids, noted that Stoughton Plumbing and Heating emerged as the lowest qualified bidder, and recommended they be awarded the bid.

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Award the 3-year Plumbing Service and Maintenance bid to Stoughton Plumbing & Heating, the lowest qualified bidder, for FY 2021, 2022, 2023.

Vote: 4-0-0

### ***Acceptance of Donation***

Mr. Yukna introduced two donations to the School Committee for consideration. The first was a donation of netting material to repair the batting cages at the high school donated by Mr. Jim Mollica of Foxborough, and the second was a \$1,000 donation from the Wampanoag Road Runners to be used in support of the Track and Field Program at the high school.

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded

Accept the donation of netting material to repair the high school batting cages from Mr. Jim Mollica of Foxborough, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

Belanger moved, Raymond seconded

Accept the donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Wampanoag Road Runners to support the FHS Track and Field Program, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0-

### ***Special Recognition***

Ms. Belanger was happy to introduce the next segment of the meeting to recognize a special member of the School Committee family. Former FHS student Joe Gerraughty joined the meeting via Zoom and was greeted with well wishes for his birthday, congratulations for completing his school program, and many thanks for his participation as a very committed and avid follower of

local government. Former Superintendent Ms. Debbie Spinelli also joined the meeting via Zoom to deliver a special message of thanks and friendship to Joe, and members of the Committee and Administration spoke of their pride and special appreciation for Joe's commitment and dedication to school and community.

***Other Matters***

Mr. Pearson opened discussion regarding the School Committee retreat held annually in July. It was determined that this year's retreat will occur on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Mill Street Recreation Hall. He also set a due date for each member's individual evaluation of the Superintendent. Mr. Pearson expressed his thanks and gratitude to Ms. Belanger for her hard work as Chair this past school year, to the staff for getting us "to the finish line," and to Dr. Berdos for her leadership.

Mr. Canfield also expressed his appreciation for Ms. Belanger's service as School Committee Chair and looks forward to serving as Vice chair.

Ms. Belanger thanked FHS students Kristian Andersen and Chiara Pacini, for their contributions while serving as student representatives to the committee.

Ms. Raymond raised questions around current events and their impact on students, and asked when parents and students might have a better understanding of what a return to school this fall will look like. Dr. Berdos and Dr. Mello addressed both questions, citing ongoing Professional Development that includes a social justice component, and stating that guidance is still pending from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding opening this fall. Dr. Berdos will provide information to students, staff and families as it becomes available.

Ms. Belanger made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of wage/contract negotiations with Non-Union Personnel (Superintendent). The Committee will not return to open session.

Vote: Pearson – aye; Canfield – aye; Belanger – aye; Raymond – aye  
Mr. Ruter was not present at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Canfield  
Clerk

Attachments:

Policy BDA: School Committee Organizational Meeting

Policy BDB: School Committee Officers

2019-2020 FPS Retirees  
Regular Minutes of June 1, 2020  
Ms. Kate Campbell Resume  
Remote Learning and Planning for September Survey  
Student Opportunity Plan (SOA)  
Superintendent's Summative Evaluation Process  
MA Educator Evaluation System Contract Language for Collective Bargaining  
Plumbing Service and Maintenance Bid Solicitation  
Wampanoag Road Runners Donation

Approved: July 20, 2020