

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: September 2, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

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

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

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Mr. Pearson opened the meeting and stated that all School Committee members, Administration and audience members will be wearing masks during the meeting.

***Open Public Comment***

Since the August 5, 2020, meeting there were 23 Community Inbox submissions by 21 families. Mr. Pearson read the names of all submissions. All Committee members have received and read them all. Mr. Pearson thanked those who submitted comments/questions for their participation.

***Approval of Minutes***

Belanger moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the special meeting minutes of July 27, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of August 5, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

***Update on Summer Work and Preparation for the Opening of School***

Dr. Berdos, Mr. Yukna, and Facilities Manager Mr. Tony Moussalli presented a summer work update. Dr. Berdos noted preparation for the opening of school was much different this year as significant effort went into planning for a safe return to school incorporating public health guidelines and COVID-19 protocols. Staff returned to their buildings on August 25, and opening day formalities were attended virtually at individual school buildings. Schools will open on September 14 in hybrid mode for students. Virtual town halls have been planned for families and will be conducted for the elementary level and secondary level prior to the opening of school to address questions and concerns. Links have gone out to parents with specific information. Approximately 6% of families have opted for fully remote learning due to individual circumstances.

Dr. Berdos emphasized that the safety of students and staff is first priority, and there is great excitement having students return to school. Current enrollment is 2,482 students, 218 less than last year. She welcomed new staff members Igo Principal Kate Campbell, Director of Student Services Cory Mikolazyk, and K-8 ELA/Social Studies and Title I Director Kate MacKinnon. FPS also welcomes seven new teachers and five new educational assistants.

Staff will engage in ten (10) days of Professional Development that will include preparing to teach in a hybrid mode and necessary safety training. There are new protocols and expectations for everyone involved, and these will be communicated to parents. Signage is visible in all schools to reinforce new rules and safety measures due to COVID-19.

Mr. Tony Moussalli reviewed work done at each school building. The list of work completed included gym refurbishing and rubber roofing replacement at the Igo; isolation room installations, office exhaust upgrades, and installation of custom window screens at the Taylor; painting of science rooms, and plumbing and electrical work at the Ahern; and at the high school ceiling and lighting upgrades in room 122, installation of a BDA (Bi-Directional Amplifier) radio and antenna system for improved communication, and concession stand plumbing and electrical work at the Sam Berns Community Field.

Throughout the district, routine summer projects were completed. All floors and carpets were cleaned, all ventilation grills were removed, cleaned and reinstalled, furniture was disinfected, HVAC units and exhaust roofing units were cleaned, and filters were changed.

COVID-19 related projects included installation of Plexiglas where needed at all buildings, installation of signage, PPE purchase and distribution, purchase of electro-static equipment for disinfecting, and staff training in cleaning per COVID-19 protocols.

Mr. Yukna reported Colliers International conducted an independent review of the HVAC systems in all buildings. Recommendations are pending. The Committee had questions about HVAC exchange rates, and discussion followed.

Mr. Yukna also reported that the site of the Burrell renovation looks very good. Phase II of the project was able to start earlier than planned. The site is currently being hydro seeded, and the last set of foundations is being installed. The inside of the Burrell has been cleaned, and new spaces have been set up. The temporary classrooms are ready and are fully air-conditioned.

Mr. Aaron Hyre, Director of Technology, was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Mr. Yukna reported on technology projects conducted over the summer. The list included new computer installations at the Ahern, Igo and Burrell schools; white board upgrades, installation of Webex video and audio conferencing, remote workspace access, state reporting and student data upgrades, 1:1 computer deployment, complete inventory of all IT equipment, and additional software installations. The IT Department is awaiting a ship date and delivery of 2,600 laptops ordered back in April. Discussion followed about laptop distribution and a multi-staged deployment of laptops due to a limited quantity.

The Committee commended all parties on the extensive work done over the summer.

### ***Update on Athletics***

Athletic Director Joe Cusack updated the Committee on high school athletics. The Foxborough High School Athletic Department has worked closely with the Hockomock League and within the guidelines and limitations of the EEA (Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs),

the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) and local guidelines to organize the safest athletic experience possible for student-athletes. For fall 2020, FHS will offer golf, boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey, and boys' and girls' cross country. The MIAA approved a shift to four seasons for the 2020-2021 school year – Fall, Winter, Floating Season (Fall 2), and Spring. Sports offered by season are determined by level of risk (exposure) and the inability to play during this fall season due to inconsistencies in school schedules across the league. Start date for fall 2020 sports is September 18. The post season has been canceled. Plans will be constantly revised as the year progresses.

Mr. Cusack further discussed MIAA modifications made to each sport, waiver of Rule 40 which addresses out-of-season coaching limitations, the logistics of how students and spectators will be able to travel to and/or attend games, being mindful of discouraging large groups, cleaning of sports equipment, facility cleaning, limited use of school buildings, wearing facial coverings, and social distancing. The Hockomock League will only be allowing spectators associated with the host school at events. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Ms. Raymond commended the music department for their efforts over the summer. Mr. Yukna stated that two tents have been rented and will be installed before school starts, one at the Ahern and one at the high school, for band and chorus.

***First Reading of New Policy EBCFA – Face Masks***

Mr. Ruter read Policy EBCFA – Face Masks in its entirety. Discussion with the Committee followed. Policy EBCFA mandates the wearing of a facemask by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds, during school-sponsored functions and on school transportation even when social distancing is observed, until further notice. The policy described the type(s) of masks that are acceptable, the rare exceptions where an individual may be excused from wearing a mask, and the documentation required for the exception.

Policy BGB – School Committee Policy Adoption – was cited and states the following: *“The Foxborough School Committee may dispense with the above (policy adoption) sequence to meet emergency conditions.* It was determined that the COVID-19 pandemic meets the definition of emergency conditions and that Policy EBCFA needs immediate action to be adopted before students return to school. Therefore, Policy EBCFA will not follow the usual sequence of a second reading at the next School Committee meeting. Dr. Berdos reported that the Wellness Committee reviewed this policy as well.

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded

Motion to dispense with the usual policy approval sequence as cited in Policy BGB to approve the new policy – EBCFA – Face Masks

Vote: 5-0-0

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded  
Adopt Policy EBCFA – Face Masks, as amended  
Vote: 5-0-0

***Discussion Regarding Location and Schedule for 2020-2021 School Committee Meetings***

Mr. Pearson opened discussion around the location and schedule for 2020-2021 School Committee meetings. A proposed schedule was presented with the meeting location at the Town Hall Gala Room on Tuesday evenings based on available dates. Limited access to the high school in order to not interfere with the cleaning schedule is an important consideration as well as consistency in the meeting schedule. After discussion, the Committee agreed to the proposed meeting schedule and Town Hall location until further notice.

Ruter moved; Canfield seconded  
Approve the proposed 2020-2021 School Committee Meeting calendar as presented starting on September 22, 2020  
Vote: 5-0-0

***Acceptance of Donation***

Mr. Yukna presented a donation from Ms. Joan Gallivan in the amount of \$967.00 which represents the balance of her previous donation of \$10,000 used to beautify the entrance of Foxborough High School. This additional donation is to be used towards the completion of the concession stand and entrance to the new Sam Berns Track and Field Complex at the high school.

Belanger moved; Ruter seconded  
Accept with much gratitude to Ms. Gallivan her donation in the amount of \$967.00 to be used towards the completion of the concession stand and entrance to the Sam Berns Track and Field Complex at the high school.  
Vote: 5-0-0

***Other Matters***

Dr. Mello shared information about family forums conducted last week by Director of Student Services Cory Mikolazyk and the special education team. These family forums are similar to the virtual town halls conducted by administration for the elementary and secondary levels. Grade level forums for special education students are scheduled for next week on September 9 and 10. She noted the special education staff is working incredibly hard in reaching out to families and addressing questions and concerns.

At 8:57 p.m. the School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining related to COVID-19 and terms and conditions of employment for bargaining unit members of the Foxborough Education Association (Professionals and Educational Assistants). Chairman Pearson declared that holding the discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position or the collective bargaining process itself. The Committee will reconvene in open session to take a formal vote on the proposed Memorandum of Agreement for each bargaining unit.

Roll Call Vote: Pearson - Aye, Canfield - Aye, Belanger - Aye, Raymond - Aye, Ruter - Aye

The Committee returned to open session at 10:02 p.m.

Ruter moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement, with proposed edits, entered into by the Foxborough School Committee and the Foxborough Educators Association (Professionals) and designate the Chair to sign the formal agreement when settled

Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement, with proposed edits, entered into by the Foxborough School Committee and the Foxborough Educators Association (Educational Assistants) and designate the Chair to sign the formal agreement when settled

Vote: 5-0-0

Raymond moved; Ruter seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Canfield  
Clerk

Attachments:

Special Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2020

Update on Athletics

Policy EBCFA – Face Masks

Policy BGB – School Committee Policy Adoption

School Committee Schedule and Meeting Location for 2020-2021

Donation of Visa Stock

List of Community Inbox Submissions as of 8/5/20

Approved: 9/22/20