

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: November 24, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Richard Pearson, Mr. Rob Canfield

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Ms. Tina Belanger,
Mr. Brent Ruter

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Ms. Michelle Raymond

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

SCHOOL STAFF PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Dr. Alison Mello

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Ms. Chiara Pacini

Mr. Pearson opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance and those viewing at home. He introduced and welcomed School Committee Student Representative Chiara Pacini, an FHS senior, who participated in the meeting remotely. Ms. Pacini is FHS Student Council President and also served as student representative to the Committee last year.

Open Public Comment

No public comments were received since the last meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

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

Vote: 4-0-0

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the special meeting minutes of November 4, 2020, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Athletic Update

Athletic Director Joe Cusack provided an athletic update as he recapped the fall season and discussed preparation for winter sports.

The MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) Board of Directors provided guidance on sports to be offered for winter 2020-2021. Those approved are boys' and girls' basketball, ice hockey, and swimming. The winter season is scheduled to begin on December 14. Winter track is moved to Fall 2 due to facility access, and wrestling has been moved to the spring. Winter game schedules will follow the same approach as the fall: one team per week per sport in the same order. Specific rule changes and safety protocols for basketball, hockey and swimming were reviewed. Game structure and spectator access were discussed.

Mr. Cusack noted that through the fall season athletes, families and spectators fully cooperated in following safety guidelines. The Committee and Dr. Berdos thanked Mr. Cusack for his efforts and preparation for a safe athletic season going forward.

World Language Curriculum Review

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Alison Mello and K-12 World Language Department Head Ms. Christine Smith provided a broad and comprehensive review of the FPS World Language curriculum and proposed report card updates. During the 2019-2020 school year, the K-12 World Language Curriculum Review Committee conducted the review to evaluate the status of the current program and make recommendations for improvement. Both Dr. Mello and Ms. Smith presented the review remotely.

The Summary Report highlighted the goals of the Review Committee as follows: 1) redesign the elementary program so that expectations and goals are reflective of the current format; 2) identify necessary adjustments to instruction and assessment to transition to teaching with Comprehensive Input and Organic World Language (OWL) approach; and 3) identify if/how the World Language curriculum can support the district's SEL (Social Emotional Learning) objectives. Each goal was discussed in detail, positive findings and needs were defined, recommendations were made, and a timeline for implementation was provided.

In conjunction with the review, proposed changes to the language in the elementary report card for World Language were also presented. The proposed changes better reflect instructional shifts discussed in the curriculum review and will be effective with the 2021-2022 school year. After discussion, the following vote was taken:

Belanger moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the revised language to the elementary report card as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Curriculum Review Cycle

Dr. Berdos presented the Curriculum Review Cycle for the years 2010 through 2022. Changes to this cycle are considered based on events at the state level. For example, the Wellness Curriculum Review had been switched to this year (2020-2021) because the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was reviewing the standards, but that work stalled due to COVID-19. Therefore, it is proposed the Wellness review be done during the 2021-2022 school year. Making this change shows three reviews scheduled for 2021-2022, which will have to be reassessed going forward.

Ruter moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the change to move the Wellness Curriculum Review from the 2020-2021 school year to the 2021-2022 school year

Vote: 4-0-0

Parent Check-in Survey Results

Dr. Berdos presented results from an extensive parent/guardian check-in survey launched on October 23, 2020, after six (6) weeks of hybrid learning. The purpose of the survey was to illicit feedback and find out what is working well for families and students and assist in ongoing planning going forward. The overall response rate was 51% of families and represented students in all cohort models. It was reported a number of students returned to school in the hybrid model from the fully remote model, mostly in the elementary grades. Currently, 5.4% of the student population is fully remote.

Dr. Berdos introduced Principals Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla, Ms. Kerryn Frazier, Ms. Michele McCarthy, Mr. Mike Stanton and Ms. Kate Campbell, all of whom participated in the meeting remotely. Technology Director Aaron Hyre was present at the meeting.

Dr. Berdos presented survey data via a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights were survey participation rates broken down by school, grade and cohort; safety protocols; overall experience; biggest concerns/challenges; social emotional challenges; safety; remote asynchronous independent learning; technology; access to devices and screen time. Along with specific data points, parent comments were provided for each section. The comments were overwhelmingly positive about having students back in school, and students are also happy to be back. Parents/guardians of students in fully remote Cohort D also reported on their experiences with the remote platforms.

Questions and discussion with the Committee and school principals followed the presentation. Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and Ms. Kerryn Frazier discussed opportunities for extra help and enrichment for students at the high school and middle school. Elementary principals apprised the Committee of the hard work of their staff and the success they have achieved at their respective schools in implementing the new learning models. All five principals are happy to have students back in school.

Director of Technology Mr. Aaron Hyre discussed device deployment and outlined the timeline for getting devices to staff and students in Cohorts A, B and C. At this time, 1,150 devices have been received by the district. Mr. Hyre noted that the deployment is going well and has been a team effort.

Mr. Ruter left the meeting during this segment.

Acceptance of Donations

Dr. Berdos presented the Taylor P.T.O. donation of \$6,000 to purchase materials for the guided reading library. These materials are additional/enrichment titles for students.

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Accept with gratitude the donation from the Taylor School P.T.O. in the amount of \$6,000 to purchase enrichment/additional materials for the Guided Reading Library

Vote: 3-0-0

Mr. Yukna presented the donation of a pair of Yamaha speakers and amplifier from the Outlaws Lacrosse Group. They no longer need this equipment and are donating it to the FHS Music Department.

Canfield moved; Belanger seconded

Accept with gratitude the donation of a pair of Yamaha speakers and amplifier from the Outlaws Lacrosse group to the FHS Music Department

Vote: 3-0-0

Other Matters

Mr. Yukna updated the Committee on the completion of the concession stand and the Sam Berns Community Field. Photos were shown of the concession stand. The building is complete; however, the inside still needs to be equipped. Mr. Yukna further described landscaped areas at the entrance of the field and fundraisers that supported parts of the project. The completion of the concession stand, press box and field provides a full campus at FHS.

Ms. Belanger reported back on the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) virtual conference on November 7, 2020, which she attended as a delegate to the Committee. There were ten (10) resolutions requiring votes. She suggested that going forward the Committee review and discuss resolutions prior to the conference to reach a consensus on the items. This would be beneficial to the Committee and the voting delegate attending the conference.

She also commented on the COVID dashboard on the FPS main page and described it as a great resource as we move forward through this pandemic.

Dr. Berdos stated that the dashboard COVID information is updated every Wednesday. In terms of additional COVID information she shared the following:

- If a student has an individual in their classroom who has tested positive; that information will be sent out to families who have a student in that classroom;
- There are currently only two (2) states not considered high risk for traveling;
- The Governor's travel orders were sent out to families;
- In order to keep students in school, travel orders and all precautionary measures need to be followed.

Mr. Canfield added a reminder for families to be diligent over the holiday.

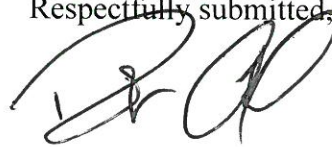
Dr. Berdos reported that individual districts can make the decision if a "snow day" call will mean a remote learning day. As of now, a "snow day" will remain a "snow day" – not a remote learning day as not all students have received a device. This will be re-evaluated as we move through the year.

In closing, the Committee and Administration wished a happy Thanksgiving to all.

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 3-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Canfield', written in a cursive style.

Rob Canfield
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of November 3, 2020
World Language 1-12 Curriculum Review and Report Card Updates
2010-2022 Curriculum Review Cycle
FPS Parent/Guardian Check-In Survey Feedback 11/24/20
Taylor P.T.O. Inc. Donation
Donation of Audio Equipment to the Music Department

Approved: December 8, 2020