

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

*Regular Meeting*

Date: November 3, 2020

Time: 7:02 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

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

Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Brent Ruter arrived during the Health Update segment of the meeting

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Ms. Michelle Raymond

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

SCHOOL STAFF NOT PRESENT: Dr. Alison Mello

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Mr. Pearson opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance and those viewing at home.

***Open Public Comment***

Mr. Pearson reported that two Community Inbox submissions were received since the last meeting, and read the names of those submissions.

***Approval of Minutes***

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of October 6, 2020, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

***Teaching and Learning Highlight***

Dr. Berdos updated the Committee on today's Professional Development Day. This year's PD looked a bit different than past years as many of the sessions were done remotely. A short video developed by Technology Integration Specialist Dan Ambrosio, K-8 Mathematics/Science K-8 Director Noelle Hendrixson, English Language Arts/Social Studies K-8 Director Karen MacKinnon, Literacy Specialist Breda Annis and many other contributors was shown. The video provided an overview of the day.

Professional learning was tailored to meet the needs of the staff and focused on the changing demands of teachers during this pandemic. The data collected via a staff survey sent out by the Professional Development Committee indicated teachers were asking for collaborative planning time regarding hybrid learning scenarios, social emotional learning and cultural proficiency needs, and support mastering technology tools. Many sessions were facilitated by FPS staff.

Ms. Angela Maiers, a well-known motivational speaker, delivered a transformative keynote around the message that "everyone matters."

It was a successful day of teachers learning from teachers. Discussion with the Committee followed.

***Health Update***

FPS Nurse Leader Jennifer Rosenberg, and Foxborough Fire Department Deputy Chief Tom Kenvin updated the Committee on Foxborough's latest COVID-19 data. Foxborough currently has seventeen (17) active cases, and the town has been placed in the red category. Deputy Chief Kenvin discussed how

to interpret this information as it relates to the profile within the community, and the schools in particular. The Department of Public Health is working closely with the schools in terms of testing and support.

Ms. Rosenberg described what would qualify as a “close contact,” and encouraged parents to reach out to her with any questions.

Dr. Berdos reiterated any communication regarding a positive COVID-19 situation would come from the school and classroom level. Staff is being vigilant following all safety precautions, and as a result there is no evidence of transmission occurring in the schools.

Questions and discussion with the Committee followed.

### ***Superintendent’s Update***

In response to Foxborough’s red zone designation, Dr. Berdos sent an email communication to FPS families last Friday which explained how any change in learning model would be decided. The district would consider multiple factors and weeks of data to make any change, and the profile as to where the cases are occurring in the community is another important indicator. Based on current information, our learning model will not be changed at this time.

Dr. Berdos reported on changes from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in guidance in the area of music instruction regarding the playing of wind and brass instruments indoors with proper spacing and additional safety protocols. Music classes will remain outside weather permitting. The difficulty of playing instruments outside in cold weather was discussed.

Food service has been doing a wonderful job providing meals and meal kits, and online ordering has been picking up. Families can order a month in advance. With the Veteran’s Day holiday on Wednesday next week, the pick up day will be moved to Thursday.

DESE has announced that MCAS is scheduled to be administered this year, which will be logistically extremely challenging.

Dr. Berdos discussed changes to student schedules the week of Thanksgiving. Early releases days are scheduled on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (11/23, 24 and 25) due to parent/teacher conferences. Elementary cohorts will see a change in schedule, and high school students may see one as well. Information will be coming out for parents with finalized details.

Local districts have the option of treating “no school” days called off for inclement weather as remote learning days or traditional “snow days.” Administrators, in collaboration with the Association, are weighing the pros and cons of those scenarios.

Mr. Yukna reported that the transportation and custodial/maintenance areas are running smoothly and managing well.

### ***Technology Update***

Director of Technology Aaron Hyre reported on several important technology updates. He was happy to report that a portion of our laptop order has been received by our vendor in Southwick, Massachusetts. Technology staff will travel to Southwick to test and verify the planned deployment process. The plan is to begin deployment to teachers the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, and a phased implementation to students starting the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Appropriate software will be integrated into the new laptops' configurations. Mr. Hyre is looking forward to a successful deployment.

Mr. Yukna discussed computers and student care. The deployment of devices is designed for multi-year use; and students and parents are responsible for the condition of the device loaned to them. The district expects all devices to be returned in usable condition and not damaged. The purchase of these laptops represents a significant investment made by the town. Mr. Yukna and Mr. Hyre both encouraged the purchase of a laptop cover and participation in the device protection (insurance) program. More information about this program will be emailed to families.

Technology staff will be trained and certified as Lenovo repair technicians. The laptop model is a Lenovo 300e, and was described as durable with a lot of great features.

Mr. Hyre also discussed the use of audio and video conferencing tools, including the transition during the month of November from Webex to using only Microsoft Teams. Discussion with the Committee followed.

### ***For Purposes of Discussion: School Committee Agenda Items by Month***

Mr. Pearson shared the list of School Committee agenda items expected during the school year and the month they would most likely be presented at a meeting. This list was provided as informational only and is subject to change or updating depending on circumstances.

### ***Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Report***

Dr. Berdos provided a brief overview of the Bi-County Collaborative's (BICO) September Quarterly Report. This was the first quarterly report from new Executive Director Jeanne Sullivan.

- The school year began on September 16 with 212 students;
- Students are attending in person, hybrid and remotely;
- BICO's enrollment continues to rise;
- A new science curriculum will be implemented this year;
- and Ms. Sullivan outlined her entry plan, focus and goals for 2020-2021.

### ***Acceptance of Donations***

Two donations were presented for the Committee's consideration.

Ruter moved; Canfield seconded

Accept the donation of a gently used student model Yamaha Baritone Horn from Ms. Tina Belanger to the FPS Music Department, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-1 (Belanger abstaining)

Ruter moved; Belanger seconded

Accept the donation of \$2,000 from the Foxboro Soccer Club in the amount of \$2,000 to support FHS soccer, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

***Other Matters***

Dr. Berdos reported on a new website developed by the Massachusetts Legislative Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse – [safekidsthive.org](http://safekidsthive.org) – which provides access to tools, guidelines and resources to assist organizations in keeping children safe from child sexual abuse.

Ms. Belanger will be attending the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) virtual conference on Saturday, November 7, as the official delegate from the Foxborough School Committee.

There was discussion regarding the timeline for decision making on winter athletics.

Results from the recent parent check-in survey will be shared at the next School Committee meeting.

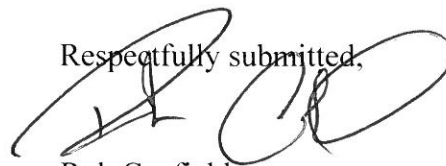
Ruter moved; Belanger seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Canfield  
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2020

November 3, 2020 Professional Development Day Schedule

List of Recurring School Committee Agenda Items by Month

Instrument Donation

Foxboro Soccer Club Donation

Approved: November 24, 2020