

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: May 18, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rob Canfield, Mr. Richard Pearson,
Ms. Michelle Raymond, Ms. Sarah LiDonni

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Mr. Brent Ruter

SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Amy Berdos, Dr. Alison Mello, Mr. William Yukna (joined
the meeting during the Teaching and Learning Segment)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Ms. Chiara Pacini

Mr. Canfield opened the meeting and officially welcomed new School Committee member Ms. Sarah LiDonni to her first in-person meeting.

Ms. LiDonni thanked the community for their support and looks forward to serving as a School Committee member.

Open Public Comment

Mr. Canfield stated there were no submissions to the Community Inbox since the last meeting.

Approval of Minutes

LiDonni moved; Pearson seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of May 4, 2021, as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Amy introduced the Burrell's Whole School Service Learning Project. Principal Michele McCarthy and four fourth grade Burrell students, Dexter Griffin, Grace Hutchison, Jake Saltmarsh and Olivia Foscaldo, joined the meeting remotely. Ms. McCarthy gave an overview of the service project, explaining that each year every grade works on a community project, but this year it was decided that all the projects would be connected and culminate into one finished product. A video of snapshots of students at work creating their pieces was shown while Ms. McCarthy explained the process. Preschool students created suncatchers; Kindergarten students grew herbs and flowers; first graders designed spring artwork; second graders decorated terra cotta pots, third graders researched recipes and typed up recipe cards; and fourth graders decorated canvas tote bags with spring designs. Student council members filled the decorated bags, and fifty bags were delivered to the Senior Center. The seniors did a grab and go, and thoroughly enjoyed their filled spring bags. Questions and discussion with the Committee followed. The students discussed how they felt making and donating the bags.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Berdos discussed the Governor's unexpected announcement yesterday that revised the face covering requirements for K-12 schools and youth sports. Although changes were implemented at the state level, as a district meetings with local health agencies and a call with the Commissioner of Education are scheduled before changes are made to protocols at schools. This allows the district to communicate a consistent message for the Foxborough school community. Masks will continue to be worn indoors, and the implications for other activities like graduation and move-up activities need to be addressed. The objective is to have clear messaging across the district with the safety being the top priority. Parents can expect a communication tomorrow about what those changes will look like.

Municipal Modernization Act (Warrant Signing Procedure)

Mr. Canfield introduced continued discussion regarding the Municipal Modernization Act, which allows simplification of the warrant signing procedure by allowing the School Committee to appoint one person to sign the weekly warrants and report back to the Committee what was approved. The current procedure requires three signatures each week, which is difficult due to member schedules. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of adopting the one-signature method. Mr. Yukna provided a sample warrant summary analysis and activity over a 45-day period that could be used to meet the requirement of reporting back to the Committee. This report also adds an additional level of transparency since the summary analysis will become part of the School Committee packet and provide additional information to the public.

After discussion, the following vote was taken:

Pearson moved; Raymond seconded

Approve the Municipal Modernization Act as detailed with a threshold of \$25,000 or greater for detail in the record as submitted, effective immediately

Vote: 4-0-0

Pearson moved; Raymond seconded

Appoint Ms. LiDonni as the signer of the warrants for six months with the responsibility to report back to the Committee, effective immediately

Vote: 4-0-0

MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) Rewards Program

Mr. Yukna provided background on the MIIA Rewards Program, a program that allows local government to earn credits towards their next insurance premium by participating in training specific to town departments that encourage best practices. For example, the School Board Liability for 2021 Rewards Program allows a maximum credit of 7% for attending specific courses and/or webinars about topics such as employment practices, changes to Title IX, and discrimination. Last year close to \$50,000 in credits was earned by the town. Mr. Yukna encouraged the Committee members to participate.

2021-2022 Appointment

This item was deferred from the last meeting so that more information could be gathered regarding the responsibilities of the School Committee Representative to the Recreation Department. After discussion, the following vote was taken:

Pearson moved; Raymond seconded

Appoint Ms. LiDonni as School Committee Representative to the Recreation Department for the 2021-2022 school year

Vote: 4-0-0

Other Matters

Mr. Canfield thanked School Committee Student Representative and FHS senior Chiara Pacini for serving the last two years and commended her for her constant insight into what is happening at the student level. He noted her participation was very much appreciated and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Dr. Berdos emphasized the important voice of our Student Representatives and stated Ms. Pacini did a fabulous job. She thanked her for being engaged and bringing her voice to the table.

Ms. Pacini thanked Committee for letting her sit in and commented that the experience opened her eyes as to how much goes into education and expressed her appreciation for everything the Committee and Administration does for students

Dr. Berdos reported that the annual K-12 Culture and Climate Survey will be sent out to all Foxborough families, teaching staff and students at the middle and high schools. The survey will be launched to parents today and students and staff next week. The data gathered from this survey is valuable at the school and district levels.

Dr. Mello shared that all grade six students participated in the Project Lead the Way curriculum this year. A final project was to create an ankle/foot orthosis similar to an orthotic, and students created a mock-up of their design to submit to the review process. She was pleased to announce that an Ahern student placed second across the Commonwealth for her design.

Mr. Canfield noted the next meeting is scheduled for June 1st. He encouraged the public to use the Community Inbox as a communication tool.

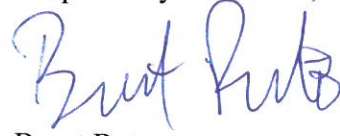
LiDonni moved; Raymond seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 4-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Ruter
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2021
Warrant Signing Procedure – Single Warrant Signature
Warrant Summary Analysis
MIIA Reward Credits

Approved: June 1, 2021