

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: June 1, 2021

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

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

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

Mr. Canfield opened the meeting and stated that the Committee would enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing wage/contract negotiations with Union Personnel (Foxborough Crossing Guards). The Committee is scheduled to return to open session at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Canfield requested a roll call vote to enter executive session:

Pearson-aye; Raymond-aye; LiDonni-aye; Ruter-aye; Canfield-aye

Vote: 5-0-0

The Committee returned to open session at 7:05 p.m.

Vote on Proposed FY '22 – FY '24 Foxborough Crossing Guards' Memorandum of Agreement

Mr. Yukna summarized the proposed changes to the Crossing Guards' Memorandum of Agreement. Items discussed were an increase to longevity pay; wage increases of 2% for FY '22, 1.5% for FY '23 and 1.5% for FY '24, as well as rolling unused personal days into sick time. After discussion, the following vote was taken:

LiDonni moved; Ruter seconded

Accept the proposed FY '22 – FY '24 Foxborough Crossing Guards' Memorandum of Agreement as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Open Public Comment

Mr. Canfield stated there were no submissions to the Community Inbox since the last meeting. He noted that meetings are now open to the public. Protocol per the Town Hall allows individuals who are fully vaccinated to attend meetings without wearing a mask.

Approval of Minutes

Pearson moved; Raymond seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of May 18, 2021, as presented

Vote: 4-0-1 (Ruter abstaining)

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos introduced Taylor Elementary Principal Mr. Mike Stanton who along with fourth graders Nour AbdelNaeem, Chace Albury, Emma Smith, Tessa Keefe and Aaron Weatherford presented elementary school memories in the form of the 4th Grade Taylor Yearbook. Mr. Stanton stated these five students represent thirty-seven of their classmates who participated in the 4th Grade Yearbook Club. The students overcame many challenges and gave up their recess time to finalize their project, conducted remote meetings and teacher interviews, and decided to whom the Yearbook would be dedicated. Each student described their favorite and their most challenging aspect of the project. Discussion with the School Committee followed.

FHS Guidance Services Update

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and Director of Guidance Ms. Lauren White presented the annual FHS Guidance Services Update. The update is comprised of several sections: Guidance Services, Developmental Guidance, Program of Studies, Career Specialist, College Information and Scholarships. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent late start and hybrid scheduling made for a challenging year. Ms. White discussed the continued use of Naviance software, describing it as a wonderful resource for students and families, and the transition from middle to high school as part of the Link Crew program. This year the high school experienced an increased need for tutoring, and tutors were available five days a week. It has been difficult delivering guidance services remotely. Programs such as the financial literacy workshop for seniors and safety workshop were delivered via PowerPoint presentations. Standardized testing (SATs, ACTs, MCAS and AP exams) were administered after several scheduling changes and delays, and approximately 500 AP exams were taken by FHS students. Career Specialist Ms. Ellen Pillsbury had to curtail field trips but did as much as she could remotely. Senior students were not able to participate in Senior Project or Senior Apprentice programs. Six college workshop dates have been scheduled over the summer for juniors to get started on their college applications.

Despite this year's challenges, matriculation numbers have remained consistent, and 88% of seniors will continue on to college. Scholarships awarded to the Class of 2021 totaled \$179,000. Ms. White thanks all of the generous scholarship sponsors. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Tiered Focused Monitoring Report

Dr. Berdos apprised the Committee of the result of the recent Tier 1 Tiered Focused Monitoring (TFM) Review (formerly Coordinated Program Review) the district had undergone. This review occurs every three years, and focuses on selected special education and civil rights criteria to determine the district's compliance with laws and regulations. The results indicated FPS is in compliance with all of the criteria monitored during the TFM Review, and no corrective action is required.

Director of Student Services Cory Mikolazyk explained that the process of a TFM Review is lengthy. The first step is a self-assessment and involves submission of documents DESE

(Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), followed by questions and answers, a desk review, and an on-site visit. Well over thirty criteria are assessed during the review, and a result of no findings is rare. He attributed the success to the hard work and accessibility of all those involved. Dr. Mello cited some of the documents provided during the review i.e., Civil Rights data, Program of Studies, English Learners Handbook, etc., as great examples provided to DESE that demonstrate meeting the needs of all students. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Review of Superintendent's Evaluation Process

Dr. Berdos discussed her annual evaluation process. She presented the five-step cycle review process, an update on her 2020-2021 goals and performance self-assessment, focus indicators for the 2020-2021 school year, and the Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation. Progress on goals for the 2020-2021 school year are rated in the areas of Student Learning, Professional Practice, District Improvement, and Other. All goals and focus indicators were discussed in detail.

Individual meetings will be scheduled for each School Committee member to meet with Dr. Berdos regarding her evaluation, and a summative evaluation will be compiled using individual member assessments. The timeline for submission of evaluations was determined. Discussion with the Committee followed.

During discussion, the Committee scheduled the annual School Committee Retreat for July 12th.

First Reading of Policies

Dr. Berdos noted the three policies on the agenda: EBCFA-Face Masks; JKAA-Restraint Prevention; and JBB-Educational Equity. These policies were reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee and are brought to the full Committee at this meeting for consideration. The face mask policy required a provision whereby the Superintendent in conjunction with the School Committee could change masking protocol as new guidance is received.

Policy EBCFA – Face Masks was read in its entirety. After the reading the following motion was made:

LiDonni moved; Raymond seconded
Adopt Policy EBCFA – Face Masks as revised and waive the second reading
Vote: 5-0-0

After discussion the following motion was made:

LiDonni moved; Pearson seconded
Rescind prior motion to adopt Policy EBCFA – Face Masks and to waive the second reading, but make revisions as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

This policy will be brought forward to the next School Committee meeting for a second reading.

Dr. Berdos stated the Restraint Prevention policy was revised in 2016, and tonight's revisions have been suggested by Special Education Attorney Tom Nuttall. Ms. Raymond explained that a lot of the changes reference the CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations), and the proposed revisions will make the policy language consistent. Policy JKAA – Restraint Prevention was read in its entirety. Discussion with the Committee followed. This policy will be brought forward to the next School Committee meeting for a second reading.

Policy JBB – Educational Equity was previously read at the March 2, 2020 School Committee meeting. After discussion, the following motion was made.

LiDonni moved; Ruter seconded
Waive the second reading of Policy JBB – Educational Equity
Vote: 5-0-0

Pearson moved; Ruter seconded
Adopt Policy JBB – Educational Equity, as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

Utility Bid Awards

Mr. Yukna described the bid award process and presented utility bid awards for electrical services and fire alarm service/maintenance. Two bids were received for electrical services, and one bid was received for fire alarm service/maintenance. These contracts are for school department buildings as well as all other municipal buildings. Both service bids were for 3-year contracts. He recommended Anderson Electrical Contractors as the winning bidder for electrical services. After discussion the following motions were made:

Ruter moved; Raymond seconded
Award the 3-year electrical service contract bid to Anderson Electrical Contractors, the lowest qualified bidder
Vote: 5-0-0

Ruter moved; LiDonni seconded
Award the 3-year fire alarm service bid to Home Electronic Life Protection (H.E.L.P.)
Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos stated the K12 Culture and Climate Survey did not get out to all elementary parents, and those who did not receive it can expect to receive it now.

Mr. Canfield asked the Committee if they would like to remain at the Town Hall for meetings or return to the High School Media Center. After discussion, it was decided that meetings would continue at the Town Hall until further notice.

Ruter moved; Pearson seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Ruter
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of May 18, 2021
Tiered Focused Monitoring Report for Special Education and Civil Rights
Superintendent's Summative Evaluation Documents
Policy EBCFA – Face Masks
Policy JKAA – Restraint Prevention
Policy JBB – Educational Equity
Service/Maintenance Bids: Electrical Services and Fire Alarm Services

Approved: