

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: September 21, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Bruce Gardner,

Ms. Beverley Lord, Mr. Stephen Udden, Ms. Marilyn Weiss

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Ms. Mical Henriquez, Ms. Melissa Lynch

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Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

Ms. Spinelli introduced Mr. Bera Dunau of the *Foxboro Reporter*, who is replacing Mr. Frank Mortimer who recently retired.

***Visitors***

None

Mr. Gardner introduced Ms. Mical Henriquez and Ms. Melissa Lynch, FHS seniors who have returned as student representatives to the School Committee for the 2015-2016 school year. Both students noted they are glad to be back.

***Approval of Minutes***

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of August 24, 2015 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

***Teaching and Learning Highlights***

Ms. Spinelli introduced Foxborough Special Education Parent Advisory (SEPAC) members Ms. Erin Bose, President; and Ms. Michelle Thackston, Vice President to present information regarding SEPAC. She also noted that Ms. Cathy Hickey, Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN), and Dr. Sandra Einsel, Director of Special Education, were in attendance in the audience. Ms. Bose and Ms. Thackston reviewed the Foxborough School District 2015 Team Action Plan created at the APPLE Leadership Institute. They then discussed the role of SEPAC within the schools, and the mission, vision and goals of SEPAC. A strong emphasis was placed on promoting communication and programs within the community to encourage understanding, respect, acceptance and inclusion of children with disabilities. Goals included providing outreach and support for families and establishing a support network among parents. It was noted that SEPAC and its resources are available to all families, and parents of students who

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receive special education services and parents who think their child may have learning or behavioral issues are encouraged to become involved.

### ***Back-to-School Update***

Ms. Spinelli reported it was a smooth and quiet opening of school, and there was not one glitch on opening day. She also noted that staff liked the calendar option of returning to school before Labor Day and felt it was a good way to transition back. The recent wave of unusually hot weather was discussed.

### ***Educational Assistant Evaluation Tool***

Ms. Spinelli introduced Educational Assistant Evaluation Tool Committee members Ms. Wendy Fay, Educational Assistant at FHS; Mr. Mark Crehan, Assistant Principal at the Ahern; Ms. Beth Sylvia, Assistant Principal at FHS; and Dr. Sandra Einsel, Director of Special Education; to present the new Evaluation Tool for Educational Assistants. Ms. Sue Collins, retired Educational Assistant at the Ahern, could not attend the meeting but did a fabulous job as a member of the committee. The new tool is modeled after the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System but adapted to outline the role of the educational assistant. She further explained that educational assistants are a valuable part of the classroom, and the current checklist evaluation system was not up to par. She reported the evaluation committee met several times throughout the spring, identifying specific standards on which to evaluate performance.

Mr. Crehan, Dr. Einsel, Ms. Fay and Ms. Sylvia each described their role and perspective as members of the evaluation committee. Ms. Spinelli then reviewed the rubric used in the new evaluation. Standards identified were Curriculum and Assessment Support, Supporting All Students, and Professional Culture. Each standard contains several elements which are rated as Unsatisfactory, Needs Improvement, Proficient or Exemplary.

Ms. Spinelli complimented Ms. Fay and Ms. Collins who planned and ran an informative Professional Development workshop to familiarize all educational assistants with the new evaluation tool. This will be the pilot year for the new evaluation, and the evaluation committee will reconvene next summer for discussion and review.

Discussion among the committee followed. The committee noted they were impressed with the thorough and detailed process and felt this is a great improvement in the evaluation tool that will be well received.

### ***Substitute Teacher Pay Rates***

Ms. Spinelli reported that every year we struggle getting substitute teachers for our professional staff. In an effort to stay competitive, and after researching the pay rates for substitute teachers in over 30 districts, it is proposed that substitute pay rates be increased. It was noted that FPS has not increased substitute teacher pay in over seven years. The current rates for daily substitutes are \$65 to \$80 a day, depending on qualifications. The proposed rate change is \$70 to

\$90 a day. The estimated budget impact is an increase of slightly over \$20,000 per year. Discussion among the committee followed.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded  
Raise substitute teacher pay rates as indicated  
Vote: 5-0-0

***Update on Outdoor Facilities at FHS***

Mr. Yukna reported the Sam Berns Memorial (a gift from the Class of 2015) is in process. Details of the project include a concrete patio area, a center section with an “S” for Sam, installation of four benches and a flagpole. Lighting has been in process with National Grid, and should be completed within the next few weeks. The power shed that holds the electronics that run the lighting will also be up and running within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Spinelli updated the committee on the progress regarding fundraising for the Sam Berns Community Field concession stand and thanked Ms. Caitlin Brown, Athletic Director, Ms. Melissa Maling and Ms. Marijo Carnino for their fundraising efforts. To date approximately \$25,000 has been raised – about 1/3 of the \$75,000 needed to complete the project. New and creative fundraising ideas are welcome, as well as donations.

Mr. Yukna remarked that we had a smooth start to the new school year.

***School Committee Appointment: Delegate to MASC Convention***

Mr. Gardner noted that a delegate to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) convention is voted on every year. After discussion, it was suggested that Ms. Lord be the Foxborough delegate for the 2015 MASC Convention to be held November 4-7, 2015.

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded  
Appoint Ms. Beverley Lord to serve as delegate to the November 2015 MASC  
Convention  
Vote: 5-0-0

***Audit Committee Appointment***

Ms. Spinelli reported she has been advised by the town that Mr. Frank Souza, the longstanding School Committee Representative to the town Audit Committee, is no longer able to serve in that capacity. This creates a vacancy that is an appointment of the School Committee. Ms. Spinelli reviewed the role of the Audit Committee. Mr. Gardner noted it is a two-year term, and encouraged anyone interested in serving to contact the school department. The committee would like to appoint a representative by the end of October.

***Other Matters***

Ms. Spinelli shared an email from Mr. Andre Tippett of the New England Patriots congratulating Coach Jack Martinelli on becoming the 15<sup>th</sup> coach in Massachusetts high school football history to reach 250 wins.

Ms. Spinelli presented donations made by community partners the Foxboro Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Foxboro of \$500 each for a new printer for the FHS Art Department.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Accept two \$500 donations, one from the Foxboro Lions Club and one from the Rotary Club of Foxboro, for the purchase of a new printer for the FHS Art Department, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-1 (Udden abstaining)

Ms. Spinelli shared that the senior yearbook committee plans to fly a drone at a few upcoming athletic events with an attached camera to add a new film dimension to the senior video, beginning with Friday's Homecoming football game. Opposing teams will be notified and the Foxborough Police Department researched this request and has no concerns. Discussion among the committee followed.

Ms. Spinelli reminded everyone of the Parent Leaders meeting tomorrow morning at FHS.

Mr. Gardner encouraged attendance at Parent Leader meetings and upcoming evening Coffee and Conversations with the Superintendent.

Ms. Spinelli noted she has attended many open houses already and all were very successful.

Ms. Weiss mentioned upcoming College Night at the high school and remarked that this week is Spirit Week.

Ms. Spinelli shared the preliminary MCAS and PARCC results press release and noted that we are awaiting a decision in November from the Department of Elementary and Education (DESE) regarding MCAS vs. PARCC. Ms. Spinelli stated regardless of what that decision is, we are glad to have had our students experience an assessment system where they apply what they know, and that they have had good practice with online assessment. Discussion followed regarding MCAS and PARCC. Dr. Berdos and Ms. Spinelli continue to review this topic closely. It is their collective opinion that MCAS is seventeen years old and ready to be updated. The next generation assessment system requires students to apply what they know as they are expected to do every day, and not just memorize.

Ms. Belanger cited the *Boston Magazine* article which ranked Foxborough 35<sup>th</sup> out of 125 school districts in the greater Boston area.

Dr. Berdos acknowledged those who were instrumental in putting together the Professional Development program at the beginning of the year. She noted the Professional Development Committee meets next Monday and will receive feedback at that time.

Mr. Udden mentioned the Foxborough Music Association held a bottle drive recently and extended his thanks to those who participated.

Ms. Belanger praised the Marching Band for an exceptional job done at the first home football game.

Belanger moved; Lord seconded  
Adjourn the meeting  
Vote: 5-0-0

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Belanger  
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2015  
Foxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)  
New Evaluation Tool for Educational Assistants  
Proposal to Increase Teacher Substitute Pay Rates  
Town Audit Committee

Approved: October 5, 2015