

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: October 19, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bruce Gardner, Ms. Tina Belanger,
Ms. Beverley Lord, Mr. Stephen Udden, Ms. Marilyn Weiss

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Ms. Melissa Lynch (Ms. Mical Henriquez was absent)

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

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of October 5, 2015 as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlights

Ms. Spinelli introduced Ms. Sue Abrams, Ahern Middle School Principal, who presented background information on Envision the Future, a project of the Southeastern Massachusetts STEM Network and CONNECT partnership. The project was a five-day science, technology/ engineering design and math program for girls ages 11-13 that allowed them to engage in challenging STEM activities, explore career options with STEM professionals, and meet women role models in STEM fields. The program was held at Bridgewater State University in July of 2015 and was attended by forty-eight middle school girls from surrounding districts in southeastern Massachusetts. Partners in Patriotism generously sponsored four Ahern Middle School girls to attend.

Ms. Abrams introduced two of Ahern Middle School's four attendees, Ms. Anna Marcucella and Ms. Grace Groves, both currently grade 8 students. Ms. Marcucella and Ms. Groves demonstrated an activity involving conducting electricity using ordinary objects such as a banana, alligator clips, and Play-Doh® to manipulate a computer keyboard. The students described other areas that were explored during their stay such as programming robots using LEGO® Mindstorms®, making vehicles operate under water and visiting the forensic science lab at

Stonehill College. Both students remarked this experience increased their interest in STEM fields and would recommend the program to other female students.

First Reading of Policy IJNDB – Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) – Students

Mr. Gardner reviewed the history of recent revisions to this policy and noted the Policy Subcommittee met again for further review. Ms. Belanger read the entire policy and explained that the latest change addressed two sentences that have been deleted as they were not written as clearly as they could have been. The overall intent of the policy is to make sure that FPS technology is used for authorized educational purposes. A second reading of the policy will take place at the next School Committee meeting.

Town of Foxborough Audit Committee Appointment of School Committee Representative

Ms. Spinelli noted that Mr. Frank Souza has served long and well on the town's Audit Committee as School Committee Representative, and since he is no longer able to continue in that role a new appointment must be made. Mr. Udden recused himself from the conversation due to a previous association with the proposed candidate. Ms. Belanger recommended Mr. John Spinney of 24 Windsor Drive for the appointment and reviewed his extensive background in finance, business and as a former member of the Advisory Committee, stating he is more than qualified to hold this position.

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Appoint Mr. John Spinney of 24 Windsor Drive, Foxborough, as School Committee Representative to the Audit Committee, a two-year appointment

Vote: 4-0-1 (Udden abstaining)

FY 16 Budget Update

Mr. Yukna presented the FY 16 budget update as of October 15, 2015. He reported salary adjustments at the Burrell and the Igo along with the appointment of an administrative assistant in the technology department serving both the schools and the town has left a projected surplus of \$6,174. There are no changes to report on the expense side except for the possible purchase of a truck to replace one that is no longer in use.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the FY 16 Budget Statement of October 15, 2015 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Update

Ms. Spinelli noted that Foxborough belongs to the BICO Collaborative which serves a number of special needs students in area towns. In reviewing the September 30th update, Ms. Spinelli highlighted the Collaborative's enrollment numbers, discussed professional development offered by BICO for administrators, teachers, educational assistants and service providers, and noted the hiring of a Development and Curriculum Coordinator, Dr. Laurie Sullivan. Updates will continue to be provided quarterly.

Acceptance of Sam Berns Community Field Donations

Ms. Spinelli presented a list of donations made by individuals, families and businesses to support construction of a concession stand at the Sam Berns Community Field. Rather than asking the School Committee to accept each donation individually, the donations were presented as a group in the amount of \$19,455 for consideration. This fundraising effort has been led by the Boosters. Ms. Spinelli read the list of donors and acknowledged others who have purchased tee shirts and event tickets to support to this cause.

Weiss moved; Udden seconded

Accept the list of donor contributions to support construction of a concession stand at the Sam Berns Community Field totaling \$19,455, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Spinelli noted the concession stand is an important feature that will allow Boosters and other town groups to raise money. Ms. Belanger pointed out there are so many groups that have donated or worked with an association who has contributed and that many parents have been working behind the scenes fundraising.

Any individual or business who would like to make a contribution may bring their donation to the Central Office or to the high school. Checks should be made payable to Foxborough Public Schools, with a notation in the check's memo section denoting Sam Berns Community Field.

Mr. Yukna provided an update on projects currently in the works at the turf field. He noted the lights have been installed, are now functioning and work is being done on the programming side. The Sam Berns "plaza" is about 80% finished. This project is scheduled to be completed within the next week and a half, with landscaping to follow. The plan is to have the Class of 2015 formally "open" the installation during Thanksgiving week. When completed, the main entrance to the field will be in the center, concessions will be to the left, with the "plaza" to the right. Mr. Yukna acknowledged the hard work of Mr. Brian DeVellis, Class of 2015, Mr. Chris McNamara and his staff at C Mac, Inc., and Mr. Bill Motta and his crew of Motta landscaping.

Other Matters

Ms. Weiss noted Mr. Robert Kraft attended the homecoming game; commended senior Austin Ryan on his 98-yard touchdown at Friday's game; and mentioned ACT's are scheduled for this coming Saturday.

Mr. Gardner noted it was a tough loss for the football team on Friday.

Ms. Lord accepted the invitation for an afternoon tour of Gillette Stadium improvements along with other School Committee members.

Ms. Lord voiced her concern about the low enrollment for the French and Spanish Exchange programs this year and attributed it to having too many travel choices for students occurring during the same school year. She suggested balancing the offerings so that opportunities for travel do not conflict. Ms. Spinelli agreed to research this topic.

Ms. Belanger noted the Student Council Induction ceremony is Wednesday night at the Ahern Middle School and that Ms. Lord is the featured School Committee speaker.

Ms. Spinelli thanked Mr. Robert Kraft for attending Friday night's football game; noted the second cohort of iSchool Advocates started their training to be student technology leaders at the high school; reported several of last year's iSchool Advocates presented at MassCUE this week; and mentioned Foxborough Public Schools is officially on Twitter.

Lord moved; Udden seconded

Go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing negotiation strategies with union personnel (Foxborough Custodial Workers' Association) and discussing strategy regarding school safety and security. The committee will return to Open Session.

Vote: Gardner – aye; Belanger – aye; Lord – aye; Udden – aye; Weiss – aye

The Committee entered into executive session at 8:28 p.m.

Udden moved; Weiss seconded

Return to open session

Vote: 5-0-0

Mr. Gardner reopened the meeting at 9:06 p.m. and explained the committee is returning from executive session for the purposes of discussing negotiation strategies with union personnel (Foxborough Custodial Workers' Association) and discussing strategy regarding school safety and security. The Committee is ready to vote on a proposed contract for the Foxborough Custodial Workers' Association.

Belanger moved; Lord seconded

Approve the 2015-2018 Foxborough Custodial Workers' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented in executive session

Vote: 5-0-0

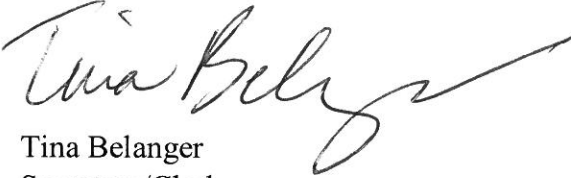
Udden moved; Lord seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

Adjournment: 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of October 5, 2015

Envision the Future

Policy IJNDB: Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) – Students

FY 16 Budget Summary of October 15, 2015

BICO Quarterly Update of September 30, 2015

Sam Berns Community Field Donations

Approved: November 16, 2015