

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: January 4, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bruce Gardner, Ms. Tina Belanger,  
Mr. Stephen Udden; Ms. Marilyn Weiss. Ms. Beverley Lord was not present.

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Were not present.

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

***Visitors***

FHS student Joe Gerraughty made a suggestion regarding Professional Development days.

***Approval of Minutes***

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2015 as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Udden moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the executive session meeting minutes of December 7, 2015 as presented

Vote: 4-0-0

Mr. Gardner reviewed the contents of the December 7, 2015 executive session minutes for the public's information which included a unanimous vote to increase the Superintendent's salary an additional 1% retroactive to July 1, 2015. The raise corresponds with the Superintendent's exemplary performance rating and the committee's recent work on a more flexible pay range based on performance for non-union personnel.

Udden moved; Belanger seconded

Release the executive session minutes of December 7, 2015

Vote: 4-0-0

***FY '17 Budget – Continued Discussion***

Referring to his PowerPoint presentation of the previous meeting, Mr. Yukna discussed the change in the slide "Major Components of FY '17 Changes." The budget impact of universal full-day kindergarten was clarified, and it was further explained that the increase in the budget from this expense will be offset by revolving accounts.

Ms. Spinelli noted an additional programmatic addition of a Computer Science course at the high school, explaining this will not have an additional financial impact since it will be accommodated in the high school budget.

Ms. Spinelli introduced Director of Special Education Dr. Sandra Einsel who presented an overview of what has driven increased costs in the area of special education. Dr. Einsel explained the increases for this school year (2015-2016) and next year (2016-2017), particularly regarding services for students with social/emotional, mental health and behavioral challenges. These students need additional adult support or a different school setting based on their individual needs, and several are educated out of district. Requests for an additional .5 school psychologist at the middle school level and a .2 adjustment counselor at the elementary level were discussed as part of the schools' effort to meet student needs in this area. Dr. Einsel further noted the district is always developing programs so that, to the extent possible, Foxborough students can be educated in their own community. We currently have 29 students who may be placed out of district. Associated transportation costs, which are mandated by federal law, were also discussed. It was emphasized that unexpected costs can incur when families of special needs students move into the community from other school districts. Discussion with the committee followed.

#### ***Discussion of 2016-2017 Capital Improvement Plan (DRAFT)***

Mr. Yukna presented the draft 2016-2017 Capital Improvement Plan. The following items were highlighted as capital requests for the 2016-2017 school year: computers/hardware/software/network upgrades; two full-size 77-passenger school buses; one mini bus; copy machines; Sam Berns Community Field concession stand and restrooms; paving and curbing at Igo Elementary; and the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) Burrell School Feasibility Study. Each item was reviewed in detail. The total FY'17 CIP Request is \$1,185,500 (Annual CIP Cost \$585,500; Burrell Project Feasibility Study \$600,000). It is anticipated a portion of the Burrell School Feasibility Study will be refunded by the state should the district be invited into the 2016 MSBA process which will be determined on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Discussion with the School Committee ensued. The cost of the Sam Berns Community Field concession stand and restrooms was further examined and explained.

#### ***FY '16 Budget Update***

Mr. Yukna discussed the FY '16 Budget as of 1/4/16. Special education costs are projecting about \$200,000 over budget. Projected balances at each school and/or department were reviewed. Funds will be transferred from the circuit breaker account to cover unexpected expenses. The total variance revised to forecast is a favorable \$26,957. Recent damage to the grass on the baseball/softball field behind the Igo Elementary School was discussed.

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the FY '16 Budget Update of January 14, 2016

Vote: 4-0-0

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

Ms. Spinelli covered the highlights of the BICO Quarterly Report of December 30, 2015. Of particular interest are expanded Professional Development offerings for member districts.

Course offerings in the areas of Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) and Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) for paraprofessionals and teachers are being offered by the collaborative.

***Acceptance of Donations***

Ms. Spinelli presented a donation from the Gardner family in the amount of \$500 towards the Sam Berns Community Field fundraiser for the committee's consideration.

Udden moved; Belanger seconded

Accept the donation from the Gardner family in the amount of \$500 for the Sam Berns Community Field, with gratitude

Vote: 3-0-1 (Gardner abstaining)

A donation to Foxborough Public Schools was presented for the Committee's consideration from the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$774.85 to be used for STEM initiatives.

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Accept the donation from the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$774.85 to be used for STEM initiatives, with gratitude

Vote: 4-0-0

***Other Matters***

Ms. Spinelli received notification that the Burrell Elementary School has been recognized by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mitchell Chester, Ed.D, as a 2015 Massachusetts Commendation School for narrowing proficiency gaps. Congratulations were extended to the Burrell School and to Principal Michele McCarthy for this recognition.

Ms. Weiss wished a happy new year to all.

Ms. Belanger extended congratulations to Ms. Lord on the arrival of her new grandson.

Mr. Gardner revisited the two school calendar options for the 2016-2017 school year that were presented at the last School Committee meeting. A discussion followed.

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger  
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Executive session meeting minutes of December 7, 2015

Regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2015

Major Components of FY '17 Changes Slide

FY '17 Capital Improvement Plan Requests

FY '16 Budget Summary of January 4, 2016

Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Update of December 30, 2015

Donation to Sam Berns Community Field Fundraiser

Approved: January 25, 2016