

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: June 18, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Chris Connolly, Ms. Tina Belanger,
Mr. Richard Pearson

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Ms. Beverley Lord, Ms. Marilyn Weiss

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Sharkey and Kendall Milender were not present

In the absence of Committee Chair Ms. Lord, Vice Chair Mr. Connolly conducted the meeting. Mr. Connolly opened the meeting and read the agenda. It was noted that Ms. Lord and Ms. Weiss are out of state and unable to attend.

Recognition of Retirees

Dr. Berdos and the Committee recognized FPS employees who retired during the 2017-2018 school year. There were nine retirees in all, with five in attendance, totaling 222 years of service. Mr. Connolly read the retiree list aloud. Retirees in attendance were presented with a gift and received warm congratulations from the Committee and Administration.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Pearson moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of June 4, 2018, as presented

Vote: 3-0-0

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded

Release the executive session minutes of June 4, 2018

Vote: 3-0-0

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of June 4, 2018, as presented

Vote: 3-0-0

FHS Overnight Travel – Music Dept. Trip to Australia July 2019 Update

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and K-12 Music Department Head Ms. Cami Tedoldi updated the Committee regarding a proposed trip by the Music Department to visit the Hale School in Perth, Australia in July 2019. Since last addressing the Committee on May 21st, Ms. Tedoldi held a meeting with students and parents and received positive feedback and lots of interest. About seventy-five students and parents attended. The cost of the trip is approximately \$5,000 to \$5,500 depending on flights, and a vote is needed so that fundraising efforts can begin. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded
Approve the Music Department trip to Australia in July 2019
Vote: 3-0-0

ELA Textbook Adoption

Dr. Berdos and Dr. Mello presented ELA Textbook Adoption Requests based on recommendations of the K-12 ELA Curriculum Review conducted during the 2016-2017 school year. FHS English Department Head Ms. Shannon Wasilewski and English Language Arts/Social Studies K-8 Director Ms. Sue Forrest joined the meeting and described the work done which led to the recommendations for new ELA textbooks for grades six and eight, and a new grade nine English textbook. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded
Approve the textbook adoption request for grades 6, 8 and 9, as presented:
Grades 6&8 ELA *StudySync*, 6-year Subscription, McGraw-Hill Education estimated cost \$31,044.40; and Grade 9 English *HMD Literature Grade 9* print and 6-year digital subscription, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt estimated cost \$15,380.22 – Total Estimated Cost: \$46,424.62
Vote: 3-0-0

Wellness Committee Update

Ms. Linda Mealey, FHS Head Nurse, and Ms. Janice Watt, Food Service Director, gave the annual Foxborough Wellness Committee report. The nine-member Wellness Committee is responsible for developing goals for nutrition education, physical activity, nutrition promotion and other school-based wellness activities. Ms. Mealey and Ms. Watt reported on recommended policy changes, progress to date on 2017-2018 school year goals, recommended goals for the 2018-2019 school year, and other wellness updates. Discussion with the Committee followed.

2018-2019 FHS Student Handbook Revisions

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and Assistant Principal Mr. David Pierce presented revisions for the 2018-2019 FHS Student Handbook. Dr. Berdos explained that the handbook has been reorganized to be more user-friendly and to make content easily accessible. She thanked Ms. Myers-Pachla, Mr. Pierce and Ms. Carla Laverty on their work in that regard. The following categories have been fine-tuned with related information placed in each as appropriate: General School Information, School Safety and Security (new category), Academic Information, Student Services (new category); Co-Curricular, Code of Conduct, Glossary (new category), Appendix, and Athletic Code of Conduct.

Mr. Pierce described changes to violations and consequences in the Code of Conduct, specifically in the area of Illegal and Banned Substances (Group F) and explained the rationale for more serious consequences to be imposed in this category. Staff, students and parents will be informed of these changes at the beginning of the new school year. Revisions will also be reviewed by legal counsel. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Preventing Bias and Discrimination Program Review

Dr. Berdos stated that during the 2017-2018 school year a Bias and Discrimination Committee was formed to review and assess curriculum to identify strategies and opportunities for

improvement in supporting and embracing differences and preventing and/or minimizing racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, or gender bias in our students and our schools. The Committee consisted of regular and special education teachers, members of our mental health team, district level directors and administrators. The following overarching questions guided this work:

- What are the perceptions of teachers in terms of our proficiency with bias and discrimination?
- What policies/procedures are in place to respond to incidents of discrimination?
- How do we put visibility to embracing differences and preventing and minimizing racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, or gender bias and/or discrimination in our students and our schools?
- Within our curriculum, where can we leverage opportunities for supporting and embracing differences and preventing and minimizing racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, or gender bias and/or discrimination in our students and our schools?
- What professional development is needed in the area of diversity training?

Several Committee members were in attendance and reported on specific findings in their area of focus.

Dr. Berdos was pleased to introduce FHS student Paulette Palomares, whose AP project concentrated on bias, discrimination and bullying and efforts to diminish them. Ms. Palomares recounted a personal experience where a misunderstanding of cultures caused unnecessary bias between two individuals. Her hope is that integrating global education would help people of different backgrounds understand each other.

Discussion with the Committee followed. A suggestion was made to create an ongoing Bias/Discrimination Committee.

2017-2020 Strategic Plan – Report on Progress

Dr. Berdos and Dr. Mello reported on the progress to date as of the end of year one of the 2017-2020 FPS Strategic Plan. Progress on each of the four objectives and their corresponding goals and strategies were described and discussed. The four objectives are:

- Objective 1: To develop responsible global citizens by providing dynamic learning experiences within a rigorous curriculum that fosters high levels of achievement for all students.
- Objective 2: To continue to strengthen school culture, ensuring that students, staff, parents and all stakeholders feel valued, safe, and have a voice.
- Objective 3: To enhance district infrastructure and technological capabilities to provide an increasingly safe and supportive physical and innovative academic school environment.
- Objective 4: To maintain strong support for public education within the town of Foxborough.

For each objective, progress was rated as “complete,” “significant,” “in progress,” “some progress,” “ongoing,” or “not yet.”

Social/Emotional Learning Update – Boomerang Project Student Transition Programs WEB and Link Crew

Dr. Berdos began discussion regarding the Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) Update, noting that during the last school year an SEL Committee was formed to review and assess PreK-12 guidance, counseling and mental health programs and services to identify opportunities for program improvement. As a result of that review, an area of recommendation was working with students in orientation, transition and student leadership.

To that end, Middle School Principal Ms. Sue Abrams and Assistant Principal Ms. Kerry Frazier presented WEB (Where Everybody Belongs), a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes new middle schoolers and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Ms. Abrams and Ms. Frazier described leadership training for staff and students, and student activities and assemblies as part of the program.

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla, Special Education Department Head Ms. Pam Anderson, and FHS math teacher Ms. Caitlin Adamakis presented, Link Crew, an orientation and transition program for high school students. Link Crew provides mentoring for students and guides freshmen toward academic and social success.

Both of these programs will be implemented in the fall, and training has already begun at both the middle and high schools. Ms. Abrams and Ms. Myers-Pachla discussed logistics and space usage. It was noted that these are researched based programs that have been successful everywhere they have been implemented in fostering positive relationships and helping students to feel connected to their peers and their school. Mr. Pearson commented these types of programs are critical to safe schools. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Superintendent's Evaluation – Continued Discussion

Dr. Berdos asked the Committee if they had further questions regarding her evaluation and the evaluation process. It was noted that all essential information was provided to the Committee at the last meeting, and there are no further questions at this time. Individual appointments have been made with the Superintendent by Committee members so they may complete their evaluations.

Service and Maintenance Bids

Mr. Yukna presented service and maintenance bids for the Committee's consideration. These vendors manage service and maintenance work that cannot be handled by in-house staff. The contracts are for both the school department buildings as well as all other municipal buildings. After discussion, the following votes were taken:

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded

Award Embree Elevator the elevator service/maintenance bid for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021

Vote: 3-0-0

Pearson moved; Belanger seconded

Award Home Electronic Life Protection (H.E.L.P.) the fire alarm service/maintenance bid for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021

Vote: 3-0-0

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded

Award Commercial Boiler Systems, Inc. the oil/gas burner service/maintenance bid for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021

Vote: 3-0-0

Pearson moved; Belanger seconded

Award Commercial Boiler Systems, Inc. the HVAC service/maintenance bid for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021

Vote: 3-0-0

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded

Award Anderson Electrical Contractors the electrical service/maintenance bid for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021

Vote: 3-0-0

FY '18 Budget Update

Mr. Yukna reviewed the status of the FY '18 Budget as of 6/18/18 and explained end-of-year processes as the 2017-2018 fiscal year comes to an end. Additional savings in the areas of special education and utility costs may be realized as accounts are closed. Boiler replacement at the Taylor and original white board upgrades were discussed. Mr. Yukna anticipates funds will be returned to the town. Currently the total variance to forecast is a favorable \$62,680.

Acceptance of Donation

Mr. Yukna presented a donation from Friends of Foxborough Sports, Inc. in the amount of \$16,653.87 to be used as follows: \$5,000 is intended to be unrestricted, to be used by the FHS Athletic Director in his discretion for the benefit of FHS Athletics; \$11,653.87 is to be used in the discretion of the FHS Athletic Director for the benefit of Girls' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Track and Girls' Tennis.

Belanger moved; Pearson seconded

Accept the donation from Friends of Foxborough Sports, Inc. in the amount of \$16,653.87, with gratitude

Vote: 3-0-0

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos noted that Friday marks the last day of school, thanked all staff, students and parents for a great year and extended a wonderful and safe summer to all.

Dr. Mello enjoyed attending the Special Olympics and commended FHS student Joe Gerraughty for an outstanding job as a peer buddy and mentor to the athletes. In addition the Igo held its move up day last week, and the Ahern will celebrate move up day this Friday.

Per Ms. Belanger, the Ahern is holding their Warrior Walk Monday and Tuesday. Their goal is to raise \$15,000 with a portion going to Progeria Research and at last update has raised \$12,000.

Mr. Pearson extended good luck to grade eight on their graduation this Friday.

Mr. Connolly thanked Dr. Berdos for organizing the first “Senior Walk.”

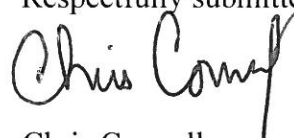
Dr. Berdos acknowledged technology integration staff, Mr. Dan Ambrosio, Ms. Darlene Reed, and Ms. Julia Greenstine for their work on the Senior Walk video.

Ms. Belanger reported that former FHS student and basketball standout Ms. Sarah Behn will be honored at the MIAA Legends event on June 25th at Gillette Stadium. Congratulations to Sarah!

Pearson moved; Belanger seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Connolly
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

2018 Retirees

Executive session minutes of June 4, 2018

Regular meeting minutes of June 4, 2018

Social Emotional Learning Update – Boomerang Project Student Transition Programs WEB and Link Crew

ELA Textbook Adoption Requests

Foxborough Wellness Team Report, June 18, 2018

FHS Handbook Reorganization and Changes for the 2018-2019 School Year

K-12 Bias and Discrimination Program Review Committee

FPS Strategic Plan 2017-2020 – End-Of-Year Update on Progress

Service/Maintenance Bids

FY '18 Budget Summary Statement 6/18/18

FHS Athletics Donation

Approved: July 23, 2018