

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: December 7, 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. Mical Henriquez (Ms. Melissa Lynch was absent)

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

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Udden moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of August 24, 2015 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Belanger moved; Udden seconded

Release the executive session minutes of August 24, 2015

Vote: 5-0-0

Udden moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of October 19, 2015 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Belanger moved; Lord seconded

Release the executive session minutes of October 19, 2015

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Udden seconded

Approve the joint meeting minutes of November 9, 2015 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2015 as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Udden moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of November 16, 2015 as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Release the executive session minutes of November 16, 2015

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Spinelli introduced Ms. Allison Melo, K-8 Math/Science Director, and Ms. Kristen Walsh, Igo Elementary 1st Grade Teacher, along with six 1st grade students who presented the Igo Grade 1 Mega Math Day. Ms. Walsh described how she developed the idea of using mega-sized props such as cups, number lines, games and cartoon super heroes that allowed students to explore math concepts with giant manipulative tools. The Mega Math activities took place in the Igo gym and made learning math concepts visual, fun and unforgettable for students. Pictures and video showed students in action as they employed a variety of strategies and the giant tools to complete math problems.

Textbook Adoption – Computer Applications Course at FHS

Mr. Jon McCabe, FHS Business Education Teacher, joined the meeting to discuss the immediate need to update the current Microsoft textbooks for the Computer Applications College Prep and Honors courses at Foxborough High School. The purchase of 25 textbooks entitled *Enhanced Microsoft Office 2016* in the amount of \$3,400 was recommended. This is an upgrade from the current textbooks dated 2007 and will be covered by the high school textbook adoption budget. Discussion with the committee ensued.

Lord moved; Udden seconded

Approve textbook adoption *Enhanced Microsoft Office 2016* in the amount of \$3,400 for 25 textbooks to be used for the Computer Applications College Prep and Honors courses at Foxborough High School

Vote: 5-0-0

Approval of FHS Overnight Travel

Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla, FHS Principal, presented proposed FHS overnight travel for the 2015-2016 school year. Ten trips were presented, one of which is new and some of which require group qualification for an event before the trip is confirmed. Several club advisors of the international trips were in attendance at the meeting.

Discussion among the committee followed and emphasized travel safety given recent world events. Ms. Belanger noted the State Department issued a travel alert and suggested that students and parents make themselves aware of its contents. The consensus among the committee was that opportunities for travel should be made available to students and agreed to go forward and support Ms. Myer-Pachla's request.

Lord moved; Udden seconded
Approve FHS overnight travel plans for the 2015-2016 school year
Vote: 5-0-0

FY '17 Budget – Proposal to Phase Out Kindergarten Tuition

Mr. Yukna outlined the benefits and cost of implementing free universal full-day kindergarten at FPS and reviewed a four-year budgetary plan to support the phase-out of kindergarten tuition. The four-year plan includes an initial decrease in tuition from \$3,000 to \$2,500 for next year, with elimination of tuition after FY '17. A majority of surrounding districts offer free full-day kindergarten, and it is currently the only program offered by FPS that requires a fee. The number of families who participate in half-day kindergarten is steadily dwindling, with only 14 families this year opting for the half-day program. Discussion and questions from the committee followed.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded
Support the four-step phase-out plan as presented to support full-day, tuition-free kindergarten
Vote: 5-0-0

Student Activity Accounts - FHS

Mr. Yukna discussed the background and creation of student activity accounts at the high school and middle school, reviewed changes in regulations for managing them, and outlined four steps for the School Committee's consideration in order to bring FPS into compliance. A list of Student Activity Accounts for the high school and the middle school were reviewed for the Committee's approval. It was suggested that policy JFJ: Student Activity Accounts be reviewed for accuracy in light of these changes.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded
Approve the current lists of Student Activity Accounts for Foxborough High School and Ahern Middle School as presented
Vote: 5-0-0

Lord moved; Weiss seconded
Approve to limit the maximum amounts to be kept in Student Activity Accounts at \$25,000 for Foxborough High School, and \$20,000 for Ahern Middle School
Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Ms. Spinelli noted the following:

- Receipt of a telephone call from the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) regarding the status of the Statement of Interest for the Burrell Elementary School renovation project;

- Many thanks to Ms. Ellen Pillsbury, FHS School-to-Career Specialist, for a wonderful Career Day;
- FHS has accepted its first international student for the second semester this year – a female freshman from China;
- Ms. Janelle Erskine, FHS Wellness teacher, applied for and has been accepted to take part in “Game Change: The Patriots Anti-Violence Partnership,” a youth violence prevention program.

Ms. Belanger reported the BIT auction was phenomenal; mentioned two wonderful theater productions (high school and middle school); and is looking forward to the Holiday Concert later in the week.

Dr. Berdos noted that PARCC results are in the process of being mailed out to parents.

Ms. Lord mentioned that she was unable to attend the Sam Berns dedication but heard it was beautiful.

Ms. Weiss recapped the recent football game; expressed her thanks for a wonderful Exchange City and Career Day; and complimented the integration of 1st graders and seniors for the Mega Math segment.

Mr. Gardner expressed his thanks for the committee and the FPS leadership team; those who were involved in the BIT Auction and the Sam Berns Memorial; another FPS top ranking in Massachusetts; and the work of reporters Mr. Bera Danau of the *Foxboro Reporter* and Mr. Dan Libon of the *Foxboro Patch* and Mr. Mike Everson and Mr. Mike Webber of Foxborough Cable Access.

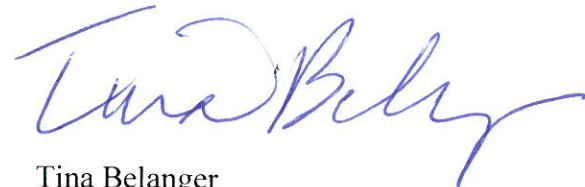
Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing wage/contract negotiations with Non-Union Personnel. The committee will not return to open session.

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

Adjournment 8:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Executive Session Minutes of August 24, 2015
Executive Session Minutes of October 19, 2015
Joint Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2015
Executive Session Minutes of November 16, 2015
Business Textbook Adoption Request
Approval of FHS Overnight Travel
Free Universal Full-Day Kindergarten
Student Activity Account Authorization

Approved: December 21, 2015