

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: November 21, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Dimitri Davis; Alex Shilcusky was not present;

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of November 7, 2016 as amended

Vote: 4-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Spinelli introduced Ms. Julia Greenstine, Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Assessment, and Mr. Tom Murray, Social Studies Department Head, who presented “FPS Online Classroom and Assessment,” a digital tool that allows teachers to manage all of their classes, create and grade assignments, collaborate with teachers and students, and provide immediate feedback. Ms. Spinelli described this as another great opportunity to again experience how technology is used in the classroom. During the presentation the many uses of the Online Classroom were described, such as, common assessment format and questioning (can integrate passages, pictures, maps and video), the ability to obtain immediate scores by classroom and student (teachers can see all performance data with a single click), and data analysis. Scoring information is available to students immediately which allows for more genuine feedback. This type of assessment promotes authenticity and deeper connections.

Online Classroom is also being used at the middle school level, and grade 4 elementary students are participating in a pilot program – Where Literacy Meets Digital Citizenship. Here students are engaged in using digital journals, blogging, and participating in classroom online book talks. Online Classroom is a safe platform for student collaboration and for practicing digital citizenship skills.

Ms. Greenstine noted the strong support of the Technology Department. Ms. Spinelli commented on the important role Technology Integration Specialists play in putting this technology in the hands of teachers. Discussion and questions followed.

MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) Updates

Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Yukna updated the committee regarding progress on the Burrell renovation project. Last week the MSBA held a meeting in Boston attended by Ms. Debbie Spinelli, Mr. Bill Yukna, Ms. Michele McCarthy, and Ms. Tina Belanger, at which the MSBA voted to move the project to the next phase.

Mr. Yukna explained that this is the phase where the Foxborough School Building Committee (SBC) becomes very active. The make-up of the School Building Committee is designed of individuals with specific qualifications (as per MSBA), are from various town departments and/or members of the community. School Committee Chair Tina Belanger is the School Committee Representative to the School Building Committee and the Selectmen have a representative as well. A complete list of SBC members was provided by Mr. Yukna. In order to move the project forward, this phase requires the appointment of an Owner's Project Manager. This individual will oversee the project, making sure that all things are done properly and on time, etc.

Mr. Yukna presented a 21-page Request for Owner's Project Management Services (RFS) for the committee's consideration. Advertising deadlines and timeframes were discussed. Specific attention was given to the 12-point evaluation criteria and interview scheduling. The RFS also requires several School Committee votes. After thorough discussion, the following motions were made:

Gardner moved; Connolly seconded

Authorize the School Building Committee (SBC) of the Town of Foxborough to act on behalf of the Foxborough School Committee on the Mabelle M. Burrell School Addition/Renovation Project.

Vote: 4-0-0

Gardner moved; Weiss seconded

Authorize five members of the School Building Committee (SBC), to serve as a sub-committee to review, evaluate and select a finalist for the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) for the Mabelle M. Burrell Elementary School project. The committee will have the following make-up: two members representing the school department, one member representing the Town Administration, and two members representing the Permanent Municipal Planning and Building Committee (PMPBC). The OPM finalist to be forwarded to the MSBA for its review and approval.

Vote: 4-0-0

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the RFS as presented, further move that the SBC be allowed to make any changes required by the MSBA after its review process prior to final distribution.

Vote: 4-0-0

Gardner moved; Connolly seconded

Allow the School Building Committee to advertise the RFS, as outlined in the Draft RFS Advertisement, in the *Central Register* and *The Foxboro Reporter* for the week of December 7, 2016, publication.

Vote: 4-0-0

MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Conference Update

The 2016 MASC Conference held in November was attended by Superintendent Debbie Spinelli and School Committee members Ms. Beverley Lord, Ms. Tina Belanger and Mr. Bruce Gardner. Social/emotional issues were a main focus of the conference. Information offered at the conference can be used in the upcoming social/emotional program review.

Ms. Lord received the 2016 MASC Lifetime Achievement Award, which was established to honor individuals who, through service to their community and local school committee, have exhibited the best characteristics of public service. Congratulations to Ms. Lord!

The Conference was well attended by school districts across Massachusetts.

Continued Discussion of FY '18 Preliminary Budget

Ms. Belanger revisited, for purposes of clarification and review, the recent joint meeting between the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen and the Preliminary Revenue Estimate for the FY '18 Operating Budget. This preliminary revenue estimate proposed a 2.5% tax increase. Topics discussed included level funding versus level services, fixed costs (salaries, benefits), special education costs, and the impact on services if a decrease in revenue was to occur. The committees discussed exploring options to assist Foxborough's senior population with tax relief.

Mr. Yukna described the budget process and what would be effected by a decrease to the proposed 2.5%; reminding everyone that these are rough numbers and that fixed costs cannot be changed. The consensus of the committee was to "stay the course," noting that they respect the professional opinions of Mr. Yukna, Finance Director Randy Scollins, and Town Manager Bill Keegan, and want to see town services remain at their current level.

Other Matters

Ms. Spinelli attended the screening of "Screenagers" last Wednesday and thanked Partners in Patriotism for funding the evening. Both Ms. Spinelli and Ms. Belanger agreed that it was a very powerful video. Dr. Berdos noted that kids do appreciate their parents setting limits for them.

Those who missed the screening can go to www.screenagersmovie.com to find out about upcoming screenings.

Ms. Spinelli wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

It was noted that the next School Committee meeting falls on Monday, December 5, the same day as the special town meeting. The committee agreed to cancel the December 5 School Committee meeting.

Ms. Weiss noted how impressed she is by the collaboration between the high school Art Department and the Igo students as reported in the *Foxboro Reporter*.

Mr. Connolly commented on the excellent Veteran's Day presentation by Kelli McCarthy. Mr. Gardner noted that Ms. McCarthy was also voted the MVP in the Hockomock League for field hockey.

Ms. Spinelli reported that the FHS Drama Club presented "*The Crucible*" last week. The production was excellent!

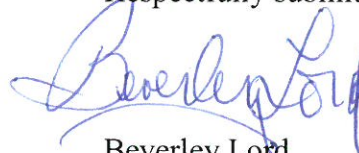
Ms. Belanger noted that the Taylor School's 50th Anniversary will be celebrated with a reception on Wednesday, November 23 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Taylor. All are welcome to attend.

The Thanksgiving football game will be held in Mansfield this year. Go Warriors!

Weiss moved; Gardner seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverley Lord
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2016

FPS Online Classroom

MSBA Burrell School Approvals

School Building Committee Members

Request for Owner's Project Management Services (RFS)

Approved: 12/19/16