

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: January 23, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

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

SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Amy Berdos, Mr. William Yukna; Ms. Debra Spinelli was not
present

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Dimitri Davis; Alex Shilcusky was not present

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. She noted that Ms. Spinelli was not able to attend the meeting due to illness.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Gardner moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the January 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes, as amended

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Julia Greenstine, Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Assessment, and FHS students Brady Gardner and Dimitri Davis (also School Committee Student Representative) presented an iSchool Advocates update on inventing apps (applications). Dr. Berdos explained this project has been in the works for a couple of years, and it has been difficult to find an appropriate trainer. The MIT App Inventor Master Trainers Program, software used to design and program apps, has proven to be a good fit. Guided by a master trainer, a full-day of training was provided to FHS iSchool Advocate students in December with another session to take place in March or April. Five Skype meetings will also occur over the next few months to continue app development. FHS students Brady Gardner and Dimitri Davis explained what they learned during the app building process, first working with cropping blocks and then moving on to coding. Both students reported working with the App Inventor was extremely helpful. Various uses and specific applications were discussed; i.e., scheduling and calendars. Questions and discussion with the committee followed.

Proposed 2017-2018 FHS Program of Studies

FHS Principal Diana Myers-Pachla, and Department Heads Ms. Laureen White (guidance), Mr. Paul Charpentier (science), Ms. Sue Carle (math), and Ms. Kerry Frazier (world language) presented the Proposed 2017-2018 FHS Program of Studies. Each reviewed new course offerings in their subject area. New courses proposed are Intro to Entrepreneurship, AP

Calculus, Conceptual Physics, Advanced Communication Arts, and Contemporary Hispanic Society for Advanced Students.

Two courses have had title changes, but the content remains the same. The former Spanish 5 College Prep course is now Spanish and Latin American Film and Literature; and the former Spanish 5 Honors course is now Spanish Culture and Conversation for Advanced Students.

Ms. Myers-Pachla described the AP (Advanced Placement) Capstone Program, a diploma program from the College Board concentrating on independent research, collaborative teamwork and communication skills. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two new AP courses – AP Seminar and AP Research. Students who participate can earn an AP Capstone Diploma, or an AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

The committee revisited discussion about the importance of the Personal Finance course.

Ms. White reported students can start course selection on February 10, and teacher recommendations will be completed by that date.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the Proposed 2017-2018 FHS Program of Studies as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Mr. Gardner and Ms. Belanger thanked the staff for their work in addressing the needs of students.

Approval of the 2017-2018 School Calendar

Dr. Berdos opened discussion and explained the proposed calendar for the school year 2017-2018 mirrors the current year. One change to mention is that Professional Development has been moved back to October when it typically occurs since there will be no presidential election. It was noted that staff is aware to build in the five (5) extra calendar days if needed for school cancellations.

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the FPS 2017-2018 school year calendar as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

FY '18 Budget Public Hearing and Vote of Recommendation

Mr. Yukna stated having received no further questions from the committee, the proposed FPS FY '18 Budget in the amount of \$34,089,604 (a 3.4% increase over the current year's budget) will go forward. Ms. Belanger noted that the budget has been discussed extensively over the last two committee meetings. Mr. Yukna continued that the budget represents the School Committee's philosophy and is based on policies and processes that support AP courses, technology requirements, class sizes and staffing needs. Ms. Belanger expressed her appreciation to Mr. Yukna and the Budget Subcommittee for their time, attention to detail and thorough discussion.

Gardner moved; Lord seconded

Approve the Foxborough Public Schools FY '18 Preliminary Budget as presented in the amount of \$34,089,604

Vote: 5-0-0

Approval of FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Mr. Yukna explained there have been no changes to the FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan as previously presented. The request contains standard items such as computer/hardware/software/network upgrades, bus and copier replacements, as well as projects related to the FHS Turf Field Athletic Complex. The total CIP request for FY '18 is \$1,613,000. The majority of this request (\$1,150,000) includes work to complete the athletic complex at the high school (installing an 8-lane track, bleachers and press box). This project benefits the entire community, and plans for bringing it forward are being made in concert with the Finance Director and Town Manager. Ms. Belanger explained we are in the fifth year of the athletic complex project, and the vision has always included a complete athletic facility. Comments and discussion followed.

Weiss moved; Lord seconded

Approve the FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan as proposed in the amount of \$1,613,000

Vote: 5-0-0

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos noted the following:

- Commended FHS Wellness Teacher Eleanor Petrovick for being named a “Massachusetts Women in Athletics Distinguished Service Award” winner by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). This award “*recognizes the contributions made by a few special women who have devoted their time and energy to guide and nurture female athletes.*” Dr. Berdos noted that Ms. Petrovick is well-deserving of this award.
- Discussed revisions to the January 2017 Community Report, specifically listing FHS students’ college acceptances. The report is ready to go out to all mailing addresses in town.
- Reminded all that there is no school for students on Friday, January 27 as it is a Professional Development day.
- Noted the success of two recent Ahern events, the Winter Carnival and Exchange City. She expressed thanks to all involved.

Mr. Connolly noted the upcoming March 24 and 25 performances of *Into the Woods* at the Ahern. He also questioned the use of DDM’s (District Determined Measures) and an Assessment Committee in place at Sharon Public Schools. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Connolly was asked to come back to the committee with more detailed information regarding this topic.

Ms. Weiss reported on recent SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment) meetings, DECA’s competition success, and supported Mr. Connolly in his recent comments regarding proper procedure when resolving conflict at school.

Ms. Belanger extended her congratulations to all DECA winners.

Mr. Gardner thanked Dr. Berdos for filling in for Ms. Spinelli at this meeting, and wished a speedy recovery for Ms. Spinelli. He also remarked that he enjoyed the CBS pregame video about Foxborough that was shown prior to the Patriots play-off game.

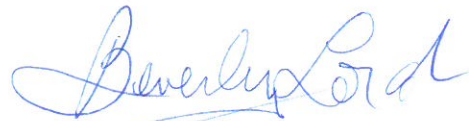
Ms. Lord noted she had the privilege of attending the retirement party for two bus drivers, Pat Larkin and Jean Lincoln, and congratulated both of them of their long careers and well-deserved retirements.

Ms. Belanger called attention to two upcoming concerts at FHS – Thursday’s Winter Fest and Saturday’s Jazz Symposium, and wished good luck to students during mid-terms week.

Lord moved; Weiss seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverley Lord
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of January 9, 2017
Proposed 2017-2018 FHS Program of Studies
Proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar
FPS FY '18 Preliminary Budget
FY '18 Capital Improvement Plan Request

Approved: 2/6/17