

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: October 16, 2017

Time: 7:03 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bruce Gardner, Ms. Tina Belanger,
Ms. Beverley Lord, Ms. Marilyn Weiss, Mr. Chris Connolly

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

Mr. Gardner opened the meeting and read the agenda. Mr. Rick Foster and Ms. Alexandra Gomes of *The Sun Chronicle* were both in attendance. Ms. Gomes was introduced to and welcomed by the Committee, as she will be covering School Committee meetings going forward. Mr. Foster noted it was a pleasure to fill in for the last few months after Mr. Bera Dunau's departure.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of October 2, 2017, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the executive session minutes of October 2, 2017, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Connolly moved; Lord seconded

Approve the release of the executive session minutes of October 2, 2017

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Ms. Spinelli introduced Ms. Jesenia Castro, the new METCO (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) Director for Foxborough and Walpole Public Schools. Ms. Castro expressed her enthusiasm for the METCO program, explaining that it is the oldest voluntary busing program still in existence, with thirty-two (32) communities participating. Foxborough has thirty-four (34) METCO students, and Walpole has forty-one (41). Ms. Castro described the average day for a METCO student and discussed new programming she would like to explore i.e., a host family program and a parent advisory group.

Ms. Castro holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Wheelock College. She previously served as the Director for the Office of Student Affairs in Brookline Public Schools, METCO Program Director for Reading Public Schools and a School Social Worker in the Boston Public

Schools. Her passion is working with students and making rewarding connections with students and families. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Incoming Superintendent's Contract Update

Mr. Gardner began by describing the three main functions of the School Committee: 1) to hire the Superintendent; 2) to set the school budget for the town's consideration, and 3) to maintain school department policy. He revisited the Committee's decision over the summer to appoint Dr. Amy Berdos as incoming Superintendent effective January 1, 2018, noting the last remaining item is to negotiate her contract. Mr. Gardner announced that the Committee has offered Dr. Berdos a three-and-a-half-year contract for the period January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, at an annual prorated salary of \$177,500 for 'FY 18.

Discussion with the Committee followed. Dr. Berdos noted her appreciation of the leadership team and their support and finds it a privilege to continue the work of educational excellence with the focus on instruction. Ms. Spinelli and the Committee voiced their unwavering confidence in this appointment.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Move forward with the appointment of Dr. Amy Berdos as Foxborough Superintendent of Schools effective January 1, 2018, with an annual salary of \$177,500 for 'FY 18.

Vote: 5-0-0

Mr. Gardner and Dr. Berdos each signed the contract, making the appointment official.

International OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development) Test for Schools - Results

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development in Paris, France) developed the OECD Test for Schools based on PISA (the Programme for International Student Assessment), an international test that compares the academic achievement of students in countries around the world. The OECD test is considered a system diagnostic that provides rich data that districts can use to drive their school improvement efforts. For the past several years, Massachusetts has been participating in PISA to obtain state-specific results, as if Massachusetts were considered a "country." The advantage to the OECD test is that it allows for individual school-specific results. In the spring of 2017, seventy-five (75) randomly-selected 15-year-old FHS students voluntarily participated in the OECD Test for Schools. Since this is not a grade level test, test results represent students' cumulative knowledge, skills, and educational experience throughout their school career from Kindergarten through age 15, not their progress in a particular curriculum or course.

Ms. Spinelli analyzed a comprehensive and thorough Summary of School Results developed by OECD. Main highlights of the summary rated the mean performance of FHS in reading, mathematics and science as compared to other countries such as Shanghai-China, Singapore, Japan, Korea and Mexico. International context, level of proficiency, comparison of FHS to other countries and economies, and comparison with public and private schools in the United States were reported. Of particular interest, results showed that FHS performed as well as private schools in the United States in reading, and better than private schools in mathematics and science.

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla, Ahern Middle School Principal Ms. Sue Abrams, and K-8 Math/Science Director Ms. Alison Mello joined the meeting and also discussed OECD testing results. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Third Reading of Policy GBGE – Domestic Violence Leave

Ms. Spinelli explained that the Domestic Violence Leave policy is now a separate policy and does require revision. Ms. Belanger suggested that the reading of the policy be forwarded to the next School Committee meeting so that changes to the language can be reviewed before a vote is taken.

Lord moved; Belanger seconded

Waive the third reading of Policy GBGE – Domestic Violence Leave until revisions are made

Vote: 5-0-0

October 1 Enrollment Update

Mr. Yukna provided an FPS enrollment update as of October 1, 2017. As of that date, 2,625 students were enrolled in Foxborough Public Schools. He explained that the one (1) student variance represents an itinerant preschool student who receives services at the Burrell but does not attend the preschool. Twenty-seven (27) students are currently in out-of-district placements. Enrollment will be watched closely as it is fluid with students moving in and out of the district during the school year.

Acceptance of Donation

Ms. Spinelli reported that two more donations were made to the Gerry Roy Scholarship Fund for an additional \$200, which brings the total as of October 16, 2017 to \$16,298.

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Accept an additional \$200 in donations to the Gerry Roy Scholarship Fund, with gratitude

Vote: 5-0-0

Bi-County Collaborative (BICO) Quarterly Report

BICO's quarterly report of October 3, 2017 reported on a variety of information and activities. New spaces were found for several of their programs. They are sharing space with the TEC Collaborative and are therefore able to provide more resources to enhance and expand programming (therapeutic pool, cafeteria, activity room, fitness area and art room). BICO's school adjustments counselors will be piloting two social emotional learning assessments, and professional development work continues through the newly formed Member District Professional Development Committee.

Other Matters

Ms. Belanger mentioned that the French Exchange students have arrived and expressed thanks to the Foxborough families who are hosting them. They have a wonderful week planned.

Ms. Lord commented that having implemented the French Exchange Program when she was a World Language Teacher at FHS, she is pleased to see it continue.

Ms. Belanger remarked that Foxborough Food Service has a wonderful video about the school lunch program and suggested it be shown during a meeting.

Ms. Spinelli looks forward to attending the home football game Friday night and the FMA (Foxboro Music Association) cookout as well. She reported that things are moving ahead with the high school musical and will keep the Committee posted on progress.

Mr. Gardner congratulated the Varsity Boys Soccer Team on qualifying for tournament play. They have been having a great season.

Dr. Berdos commented on a very successful Professional Development day on October 6th. Workshops were well received by staff. Progress is being made on the new technology plan, and focus groups will be conducted in November.

Mr. Connolly reminded everyone to vote in the special state election on Tuesday, October 17.

Ms. Weiss reported on the progress made in the Assistant Superintendent interview process: forty-nine (49) individuals applied; that group has been pared down to five (5); interviews are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday; and then a final recommendation will be made.

Mr. Yukna discussed food service participation rates, noting that a number of positive changes have resulted in a large increase in participation. Last year's (2016-2017) participation increased 14.3% over the prior school year, and for the month of September 2017 alone there was a 16% increase over last September.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2017
Executive Session Minutes of October 2, 2017
Jesenia Castro Resume
OECD International Test for Schools – 2017 Results
Policy GBGE: Domestic Violence Leave
October 1, 2017 FPS Enrollment
Gerald Roy Scholarship Donations as of 10/16/17
Bi-County Collaborative Quarterly Report – October 3, 2017

Approved: November 6, 2017