

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: February 26, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bruce Gardner, Ms. Marilyn Weiss, Mr. Chris Connolly

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Ms. Tina Belanger, Ms. Beverley Lord

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Matt Sharkey and Kendall Milender

Mr. Gardner opened the meeting, read the agenda and noted that Ms. Belanger and Ms. Lord were unable to attend.

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2018, as presented

Vote: 3-0-0

Dr. Berdos acknowledged with sadness the passing of Isaiah Spencer, a fourth grade Igo Elementary School student who unexpectedly passed away during February vacation week. A moment of silence was held in his memory. The Committee expressed their heartfelt condolences to Isaiah's family.

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos introduced *The Great Kindness Challenge*, a nation-wide program whose mission is to create a culture of kindness in schools. Guidance Counselor Ms. Kristen Siddle introduced the Challenge at the Igo three years ago, tracking acts of kindness over a one week period, each year trying to outdo the last. The program shows students how they can positively impact their school and the community. The Challenge included an all-school assembly. Igo Principal Mike Stanton, Ms. Siddle and eleven Igo Elementary fourth graders described the Challenge, and the students explained what kindness means to them. A short video was shown with students demonstrating that kindness comes in many forms. Mr. Stanton described the students as ambassadors of kindness. The possibility of expanding the program to all elementary schools was discussed, and the Challenge will be brought up to the middle school as well.

Dr. Berdos related this type of program directly to guidance lessons and the social/emotional learning curriculum. She noted that the mental health and wellbeing of students is an important component of school safety. The mental health staff was at the Igo today to support students and staff coping with the loss of Isaiah. This demonstrated how important their role is and how much of a community we are.

School Committee Student Representative Kendall Milender commented on the timeliness of the topic of kindness. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Superintendent’s Mid-Cycle Review

Dr. Berdos presented the Superintendent’s Mid-Cycle Review explaining that it is unique this year due to her transition to Superintendent effective January 1, 2018, after Ms. Debbie Spinelli’s retirement. The mid-year review provides an opportunity to have an open and productive dialogue with the School Committee regarding this year’s joint goals which were initiated at the beginning of the school year by both Dr. Berdos and Ms. Spinelli. Mr. Gardner explained that the state requires an extensive evaluation process for superintendents, and this conversation contributes to that process. Dr. Berdos discussed goals for the 2017-2018 school year in the categories of Professional Practice, Student Learning, District Improvement and Other Goals. Each area was discussed in detail regarding progress made. Dr. Berdos reported that she is most proud of her efforts to build on the inclusive culture and climate of our schools and of the conversations taking place focusing on supporting and embracing differences, and meeting the needs of all students. Discussion with the Committee followed. Dr. Berdos was commended for handling her transition to Superintendent smoothly. It was noted that Dr. Berdos and Assistant Superintendent Ms. Alison Mello continue to be responsible for the position of K-8 Curriculum Director for ELA and Social Studies, essentially performing three jobs. The new hire for that position will start April 23, 2018.

As part of the discussion of the Superintendent’s goals, information was provided regarding completion of the high school athletic complex. Mr. Yukna provided an update on two projects and presented an architectural drawing that delineated plans for the concession stand, public bathrooms and ticket office. Mr. Yukna described the design and layout, noting that the building will be as durable and maintenance-free as possible. Funding for this phase has been approved, and once started, the project will take three to four months to build and could be ready for next fall.

The second project includes construction of the press box, eight-lane track and bleachers. This proposal appears as a separate request on the FY ‘19 CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) because it is so large (\$1,150,000). This will allow the taxpayers to decide if they want to approve funding for this specific project, which will benefit the entire community. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Burrell School Renovation Project Update

Mr. Yukna provided a copy of the floor plan approved by Foxborough’s School Building Committee (SBC) which was forwarded to and approved by the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) as the approved plan for the Burrell School renovation. Mr. Yukna discussed the structure of the SBC, the design approval process, the rationale behind new construction versus renovation, and provided a summary schedule of next steps. The SBC is working hard to aggressively move this project forward. Completion is estimated at three and a half to four years. Discussion with the Committee followed. The Committee, by consensus, indicated their support for the plan as presented.

FY ’18 Budget Update

Mr. Yukna presented the FY ’18 Budget Summary Statement of 2/26/18. Currently the total variance revised to forecast is a favorable \$13,849. This is due to additional savings related to salaries and solar energy credits. Mr. Yukna discussed possible future savings generated by the two solar fields and looking at energy programs to bring costs down even further.

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded
Approve the FY '18 Budget Update of 2/26/18 as presented
Vote: 3-0-0

Acceptance of Request of Proposal (RFP) for Athletic Training Services

Mr. Yukna presented the results of the recent solicitation for Athletic Training Services for the next three school years – FY '19, FY '20 and FY '21. Brigham and Women's Hospital/Department of Orthopaedics is the current vendor for these services and was the only submittal received. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded
Accept the Brigham & Women's Hospital/Department of Orthopaedics athletic training services bid for FY '19 through FY '21 for 1,175 billable hours at a rate of \$30.30/hour for FY '19, \$30.91/hour for FY '20 and \$31.53/hour for FY '21
Vote: 3-0-0

Acceptance of Donations

The following donations were presented to the Committee for approval.

Weiss moved; Connolly seconded
Accept the \$500 donation from the Foxboro Rotary Club to support the Credit Fair for Life, with gratitude
Vote: 3-0-0

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded
Accept the \$2,459 donation from Chestnut Hill Studios, Ltd. to Foxborough High School, with gratitude
Vote: 3-0-0

Other Matters

Mr. Connolly will be judging the upcoming National History Competition at FHS.

Mr. Gardner commented on the great sports seasons the high school hockey and basketball teams have had.

Ms. Weiss remarked that the annual Credit Fair for Life is coming up. She also discussed today's FHS speaker on drug abuse, *No First Time*. School Committee Student Representatives noted it was a worthwhile assembly.

Ms. Mello reported the elementary Family Math Game Night is scheduled for March 22nd. Parents are asked to RSVP by February 27th.

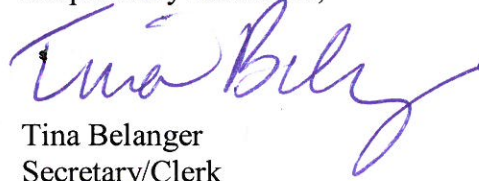
Dr. Berdos congratulated former Foxborough resident Connor Hogan, who will ski for Team USA in the Paralympic Winter Games this March.

Mr. Gardner cited the 2018 Niche Report which placed FPS at #31 when ranking the Safest School Districts in Massachusetts. Ranking criteria was discussed.

Connolly moved; Weiss seconded
Adjourn the meeting
Vote: 3-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Belanger
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2018
Superintendent's 2017-2018 Mid-Cycle Review Process
Burrell School Project
FY '18 Budget Summary Statement of 2/26/18
Athletic Trainer Services Request for Proposals
Donations: Rotary Club of Foxboro
Chestnut Hill Studios

Approved: March 19, 2018