

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: May 21, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Foxborough High School Media Center

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Sharkey, Kendall Milender

Ms. Belanger opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. She explained the meeting is beginning at an early time of 6:00 p.m. so that Committee members can adjourn in time to attend Town Meeting at 7:30 this evening.

Ms. Belanger extended the sympathies and condolences of the Committee to Stoughton High School and also to Santa Fe High School in Texas, who both recently suffered heartbreaking tragedies and loss. Mr. Richard Pearson was welcomed to the table as the newest School Committee member, and commented he is appreciative of the opportunity to serve the community. Ms. Belanger thanked all those who participated in the election and those who came to last week's Town Meeting and supported the School Department Budget, the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), and Article 6 for the eight-lane track and bleachers as part of the FHS Athletic Complex. She also noted she is delighted to be re-elected for another three years.

School Committee Reorganization

Ms. Belanger introduced the School Committee Reorganization per Policy BDA and explained this is the annual reorganization of School Committee leadership since it is the first meeting following the town's annual election. Positions of School Committee Chairman and Vice Chair/Secretary will be voted in this evening. Ms. Belanger opened the floor for nominations of Chair.

Mr. Connolly nominated Ms. Lord as Chair.

As there were no other nominations, the following vote was taken:

Belanger – aye; Lord – aye; Weiss – aye; Connolly – aye; Pearson – aye

Ms. Lord is unanimously elected Chair

Ms. Lord thanked everyone for their support, congratulated Ms. Belanger on her re-election, and extended her congratulations to Mr. Pearson as well.

The floor was then opened for nominations for Vice Chair/Secretary.

Ms. Lord nominated Mr. Connolly as Vice Chair/Secretary.

As there were no other nominations, the following vote was taken:

Belanger – aye; Lord – aye; Weiss – aye; Connolly – aye; Pearson – aye

Mr. Connolly is unanimously elected Vice Chair/Secretary

Visitors

None.

Approval of Minutes

Weiss moved; Pearson seconded

Approve the special meeting minutes of May 8, 2018, as presented

Vote: 4-0-1 (Connolly abstaining)

Belanger moved; Weiss seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of April 23, 2018, as amended

Vote: 3-0-2 (Connolly and Pearson abstaining)

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos introduced Burrell Elementary student actors from the production of *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*. Students J.J. Blanchard, Mia Flanagan, Addie Geno, Reese Hassman, Ayva Lopez and Addison Sham performed the musical number *Steak* to the delight of the Committee. The play was directed by Burrell Librarian Ms. Darisa St. Germain who was assisted by Grade 3 Teacher Ms. Karen Washburn. After the performance, students and staff described their experiences from initial rehearsal to production. Discussion with the Committee followed.

FHS Overnight Travel Proposal

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and FPS Music Department Head Ms. Cami Tedoldi presented a proposal for a reciprocal visit to the Hale School, an independent boys' school in Perth, Australia, scheduled for July 2019. Ms. Tedoldi explained that students from the Hale School have visited Foxborough twice and have extended the invitation for Foxborough music staff and students to visit their school.

Ms. Tedoldi outlined a preliminary itinerary for the FHS Jazz Ensemble, FHS Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the FHS Chamber Orchestra to begin their visit in Sydney and continue on to Perth and the Hale School. The trip is scheduled over 14 days. FHS students will be staying with families in Australia, attending rehearsals, participating in workshops, and the trip will culminate with a combined community concert the Hale School traditionally performs once a year. The trip will provide a wonderful cultural exchange for students and staff.

The cost is estimated at about \$5,500 per student. The next steps include parent meetings to determine if there is enough interest in the trip, and fundraising. Up to 40 students could participate. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Weiss moved; Belanger seconded

Approve the preliminary proposal for a trip to Sydney and Perth, Australia for FHS music staff and students in July 2019

Vote: 5-0-0

FHS Guidance Services Update

FHS Principal Ms. Diana Myers-Pachla and Director of Guidance Ms. Lauren White presented the annual year-end Guidance Department Report for 2018. As always, the report was a thorough description of the many services provided by the Guidance Department. Main topics of discussion were: use of the Naviance network; transitioning from middle school to high school; scheduling; AP (advanced placement) opportunities; college counseling and college campus visits; scholarships; standardized testing; developmental guidance; new class offerings for the 2018-2019 school year; school-to-career programming; and college acceptance data. It was noted that \$240,000 in scholarships were awarded this year.

A new offering this year that received very positive feedback was the Safe Choices Workshop for seniors. The goal of the program was to talk with students about the challenges they may face as they enter adulthood after leaving high school. Sessions and topics included internet safety, basic self-defense, college campus safety, domestic violence and sexual assault. The program's goal was to encourage students to make safe choices, increase awareness, and provide important information as they move on from FHS.

New programming for next year will include Link Crew, a high school peer mentoring, transition and orientation program. Link Crew aims to improve school safety, promote anti-bullying, provide leadership skills to upperclassmen, and continue to grow a positive school climate and culture.

Discussion with the committee followed.

Other Matters

Dr. Berdos reported that due to the threat of rain the annual Street Art Festival at Patriot Place scheduled for last weekend had been moved from Saturday to Sunday.

Ms. Belanger noted the upcoming Chamber Concert on Thursday which will premiere the commissioned piece in honor of Mr. Steve Massey, former Foxborough music educator. She extended her thanks to Chief Baker for changes to the senior ride around the rotary, noting it was nicely done and a lot safer. Last Friday was the annual Heinricher Hustle which had the largest number of participants in its three years.

Dr. Mello noted that the Ahern had their second annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) day, and it was a great success.

Ms. Weiss extended her congratulations to Mr. Pearson, and mentioned the recent success of DECA at the international competition.

Mr. Connolly stated the Special Olympics will take place on June 5 at Attleboro High School.

Dr. Berdos hosted the Global Learning Network and a number of other districts who participate in OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) testing. Discussions focused on what is working well and how we can improve students' global competitiveness.

Ms. Lord commended Dr. Einsel, Special Education Director, on a clean mid-cycle review per the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She also wished each graduating senior much success and congratulated their parents.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Connolly
Secretary/Clerk

Attachments:

FPS Policy BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting
Special meeting minutes of May 8, 2018
Regular meeting minutes of April 23, 2018
Request for Overnight Travel – Music Tour to Australia July 2019
2018 Year End Guidance Department Report

Approved: June 4, 2018