

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: July 20, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Richard Pearson, Mr. Rob Canfield, Ms. Tina Belanger, Ms. Michelle Raymond; Mr. Brent Ruter joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

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

Mr. Pearson opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Ms. Belanger motioned to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing wage/contract negotiations for Non-Union Personnel (Superintendent).

Roll call vote: Raymond – aye; Belanger – aye; Canfield – aye – Pearson – aye.

The Committee returned to open session at 5:35 p.m.

Superintendent's Contract and Evaluation

Mr. Pearson described the superintendent's evaluation process which culminates in a summative evaluation after each individual School Committee member submits an individual evaluation. The superintendent is evaluated on progress toward goals and four state-determined standards. The Superintendent's overall rating for the 2019-2020 school year is Proficient. The Committee commended Dr. Berdos for her strong leadership during this current, unprecedented situation.

The Superintendent's compensation for the 2020-2021 year will include a 2.75% increase in base pay, a \$1,000 annual longevity payment, and level funding of reimbursement of expenses, for a total of \$197,550. The term of the Superintendent's next contract was negotiated for five (5) years (FY 21 - FY 26) and will provide stability for the district.

Belanger moved; Canfield seconded

Approve the total compensation for the Superintendent in the amount of \$197,550, for the 2020-2021 school year.

Vote: 5-0-0

Open Public Comment

Mr. Pearson read one open public comment submitted by Ms. Bebe Simone of 2 Cherry Tree Lane, who suggested an open forum for families to ask questions regarding the return to school.

Ms. Lynne Davis of 17 Granite Street was in attendance and addressed the Committee. She was concerned about Wi-Fi capacity in homes where students learn remotely. Mr. Yukna addressed the question and described many different scenarios that could affect Wi-Fi capacity.

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved, Raymond seconded
Approve the regular meeting minutes of June 22, 2020, as presented
Vote: 4-0-1 (Ruter abstaining)

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded
Approve the June 22, 2020, executive session minutes, as amended
Vote: 4-0-1 (Ruter abstaining)

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded
Release the executive session minutes of June 22, 2020
Vote: 5-0-0

Update of Reentry Plans for Fall 2020

Dr. Berdos provided a broad and sweeping update on school reentry planning for the fall. She described the process as a difficult and frustrating exercise and noted that the health and safety of staff and students is always the most important factor in decision making.

The initial three-component plan (in-person model, hybrid model, and full remote learning) was due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on July 31, 2020, and districts were asked to wait before deciding which model they would use. Dr. Berdos described what the models look like and the pros and cons of each. DESE released an extensive list of protocols that will be followed in each circumstance. The final decision on a reopening plan is due to DESE August 10, 2020, and requires School Committee approval.

The Steering Committee, along with its eight (8) Subcommittees (School & Facility Operations, Transportation, Health, Wellness & Safety, Auxiliary Programs, Academics: Teaching and Learning, Personnel, Whole Child Supports: SEL, and Technology) have been meeting and planning constantly as guidance is provided and updated, as well as collaborating with the Department of Health. The District is still awaiting finalized guidance. Our priority is to get as many students as we can back in school safely.

Dr. Berdos reported on a current Feasibility Study and discussed the back-to-school guidelines regarding spacing of desks and social distancing. Classrooms are being measured, alternative spaces are being considered, and movement of students is being streamlined.

Mr. Yukna spoke at length regarding back-to-school protocols from a facilities standpoint i.e., HVAC ventilation, directional signage, the use of electrostatic cleaning machines, PPE, cleaning supplies, custodial schedules, and more. Extensive and detailed precautions will be followed in all buildings.

Other areas of discussion were cafeteria usage and transportation challenges and protocols. The final guidance on transportation has not been released. Technology and the deployment of laptops rather than Chrome Books were discussed.

Dr. Mello mentioned Professional Development opportunities that will be available for staff this summer on a self-serve basis on the Foxborough website and resources for distance learning, noting that integrating technology will be worked into the daily routine for students. Planning and training is ongoing. Teachers are eager to come back to school prepared.

Questions and discussion with the Committee were ongoing through the presentation.

***2020-2021 School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols and
2020-2021 School District goals and School Committee Functions and Responsibilities***

The Committee agreed by consensus to move these two items forward to the next School Committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for August 5, 2020.

Food Service Pricing 2020-2021

Mr. Yukna presented the request for a meal price increase for the 2020-2021 school year submitted by Food Service Director, Ms. Janice Watt. Mr. Yukna read the accompanying memo that indicated the last food service pricing increase was in July 2017. A meal cost survey from surrounding towns was included. The increase request is for \$.25 across the board; which would increase the elementary lunches to \$3.00; middle and high school lunches \$3.25; breakfasts for all grades \$1.75; and adult meals \$4.50. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Belanger moved; Ruter seconded

Approve the meal price increases for the 2020-2021 school year as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Acceptance of Donation

One donation was presented to the School Committee for consideration.

Canfield moved; Belanger seconded

Accept the donation from the Foxboro Soccer Club in the amount of \$1,293.90, for the purchase of soccer mannequins, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

The Committee discussed tentative dates for future meetings. The next School Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Belanger moved; Ruter seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Canfield', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Canfield
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular meeting minutes of June 22, 2020

Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2020

Update of Reentry Plans for Fall 2020

DESE Initial Fall Reopening Guidance

Foxborough School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols 2019-2020

2019-2020 School Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Request for Meal Price Increase for 2020-2021

Foxboro Soccer Club Donation

Approved: August 5, 2020