

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

Date: October 6, 2020

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Gala Meeting Room, Town Hall

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Richard Pearson, Mr. Rob Canfield,
Ms. Tina Belanger, Mr. Brent Ruter, Ms. Michelle Raymond

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

Mr. Pearson opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance and those viewing at home.

Open Public Comment

Mr. Pearson reported there were nine Community Inbox submissions since the last meeting. All submissions were sent to all School Committee members. Mr. Pearson read the names of those who submitted public comments

Approval of Minutes

Belanger moved; Raymond seconded

Approve the regular meeting minutes of September 22, 2020, as presented

Vote: 5-0-0

Teaching and Learning Highlight

Dr. Berdos introduced Ms. Karen MacKinnon, English Language Arts/Social Studies K-8 Director. Ms. MacKinnon joined FPS in July 2020 after the retirement of Ms. Sue Shea. Dr. Berdos discussed Ms. MacKinnon's work history and career in education and the private sector. She brings an extensive literacy background to Foxborough, previously serving as literacy coach, Title I Director, and classroom teacher in public education, and nine years at Houghton Mifflin Publishers as an educational consultant.

Ms. MacKinnon discussed her employment history and talked about her passion for literacy. She explained that her focus this year is to help teachers navigate the hybrid learning model and implement the new social studies curriculum. Overall, her role in Foxborough is to support teachers in their instruction, development of horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment, and teaching the standards. Discussion with the Committee followed.

Fall Athletics Update

Athletic Director Joe Cusack updated the Committee on fall athletics. The season started on September 18, and there are just under 200 students participating. Sports being offered this fall are boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey, golf and cross country. Freshmen, Junior Varsity and Varsity teams are offered for both soccer programs and field hockey. Other fall sports will move to the Fall 2 season.

Mr. Cusack discussed the playing format and practice and game protocols agreed upon in conjunction with the MIAA(Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) and the Hockomock League. COVID-19 protocols are followed at all times; masks are always worn; and student/athletes are social distancing. All of these changes have been met with cooperation by students, coaching staff and the public as well as around the use of fields and limitations for spectators. Mr. Cusack explained the use of QR codes to monitor the number of student/athletes, coaches and spectators at practices and games. Monitoring will also assist with contact tracing if needed. Players are allowed two spectators each at home games in order to keep attendance numbers low. Games are being streamed live by Foxboro Cable Access.

Mr. Yukna explained that all school buildings will continue to be closed after the school day is over in order to maintain cleanliness, noting our primary goal is to keep students in school.

Questions and discussion with the Committee followed.

Superintendent's Goals – 2020-2021

Dr. Berdos presented her goals for the 2020-2021 school year. She noted that all educators are currently developing their own goals for the year. Her goals focus on the district and work in tandem with administrators and teaching staff. A priority will be to support the new elementary Principal and Director of Student Services.

Dr. Berdos discussed each of her five (5) performance goals in the areas of Professional Practice, Student Learning, District Improvement and Other. Supporting documents included 2020-2021 Focus Indicators, Summary of Strategy, and Draft Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation. The Indicator Rubric included a detailed description of the four (4) broad standards: Standard I: Instructional Leadership; Standard II: Management and Operations; Standard III: Family and Community Engagement; and Standard IV: Professional Culture. Dr. Berdos demonstrated the connection of each of her goals and where they fall within the indicators under each standard.

Questions and discussion with the Committee followed.

COVID-19 Financial Update

Mr. Yukna provided an analysis of costs incurred to date relative to COVID-19 expenses. The analysis was broken down by funds spent during the second half of FY '20 and through September 2020 for FY '21. The largest cost factor was the purchase of laptop computers at \$728,713 to support a 1:1 device environment. Additional costs were for the cleaning and disinfecting of public buildings, purchase of PPE, increased professional staff cost, increased support staff cost, and remote learning platforms tuition. Total expenditures to date are \$1,068,342.

All costs incurred last year and to date this year have been covered through various funding avenues such as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) , the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act and state and federal grants.

Without additional funding relief, the District will face a significant funding shortfall for expenses incurred in the spring. Expected delivery date of the laptop order was discussed. Further discussion with the Committee followed.

School Committee Appointment: Delegate to the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Convention

Mr. Pearson reported that the MASC Delegate Session will be held virtually this year on Saturday, November 7, 2020. The Committee discussed the appointment of a Foxborough delegate. It was agreed by consensus that Ms. Belanger be appointed as Foxborough's delegate for the November 7 session.

Other Matters

Ms. Belanger reported attending her first Recreation Board meeting last month. Some Halloween events are being planned.

Mr. Canfield thanked administration and staff for all their planning and execution related to the opening of this school year.

Ms. Raymond was pleased the district added an additional nurse to assist with COVID-19 needs and commended the nursing staff for a job well done. She mentioned that a flu clinic will be held on Tuesday of next week.

Mr. Ruter also thanked staff and administration for their efforts this year, and reminded parents that all staff is dedicated to helping students and to reach out to their child's teacher as needed.

Dr. Berdos reported on next week's flu shot clinic, noted that school picture day is coming up, and encouraged parents to view the virtual open houses that have been prepared by their child(ren)'s teachers.

Dr. Mello noted that a neighboring district is interested in our elementary hybrid plan. She thanked staff for their efforts; and reminded all that during stressful times self-care is important for both students and adults. The upcoming Professional Development day on Tuesday, November 3, will offer some self-care options.

Mr. Pearson expressed his thanks to parents and the school community for their continued support.

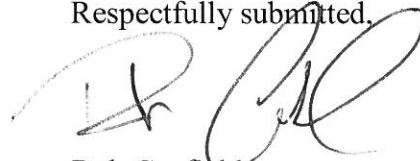
Ruter moved; Canfield seconded

Adjourn the meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rob Canfield
Clerk

Attachments:

Regular Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020
Superintendent's Performance Goals for 2020-2021
COVID FY '20 and FY '21 Expenditures
Official Delegate Form (MASC)

Approved: November 3, 2020