

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 15, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Mrs. Kuechler, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Powers, Mr. Veitch

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Baldwin, Mrs. Kohler, Ms. Bouchard, Mrs. Potter

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Isabelle Pacheco, Student Advisory Representative

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30p.m.

The chair informed the audience that the meeting was being videotaped.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bueno, McKenna, Powers, Kuechler, Veitch, Monroe

Motion made by Ms. Kuechler, seconded by Mr. Bueno to approve regular minutes of December 11, 2019. Minutes were unanimously approved, 6-01.

There was no public comment.

Dr. Baldwin began the meeting with a discussion of the tour of Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, highlighting the recently remodeled gym.

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

Isabelle Pacheco spoke regarding the happenings at Fairhaven High School. She detailed Boys Basketball, Drama's "Little Shop of Horrors" production, the District Choir where a record number of students were sent, and introduction of a new club - American Sign Language.

Student Enrollment

Dr. Baldwin reviewed the attachment for the Student Enrollment Data. There is no change in the data since the last review.

Annual Report

Dr. Baldwin began to review the Annual Report. He indicated that not everything presented in the report that was given to the School Committee will go into the report given to the town. He also went on to review some of the highlights of the report including the fact that the high school now has over 700 students, the District has a flat or growing enrollment, and the mention of the video "A Million Dreams" which was shown at opening day and at the School Committee meeting in Acushnet. Highlights also included the maximum scheduling time for core academic learning, the 2019-2020 K-2 Literacy

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Initiative, equitable technology, and the implementation of the Innovation Classroom. Additionally, more highlights were initiatives in kindness, juvenile police academy, senior class graduation walk, honor society, AP students are at a record number, Commissioner Riley coming to speak at FPS PD, snow removal PSA, and District accreditation.

Ms. Powers commented that is great to see progress, and can be even better.

Mr. Bueno spoke of FPS being models for what education should be like.

Dr. Baldwin mentioned the unified basketball game video that has over 48,000 views as well as the "Firework" Lipdub video.

Mr. Monroe stated that FPS is doing a great job.

Dr. Baldwin gave credit to the people who work for FPS.

FY21 Budget

Dr. Baldwin went over the salary summary. He also explained the Zero Base Budget which shows what cost to run each department is to the town. He gave an overview of the budget; salary side and operational side. Class size goals were discussed and included how they are determined and how we can continue to have manageable class sizes. Other parts of the budget report that were reviewed were the graphics for all schools as well as student services, athletics, and student activities. Each of the graphics did give most aspects broken down for explanation.

Dr. Baldwin also gave the date for the state government's budget to be released which is January 22, 2020. He also stated that 85% will go to urban schools. Dr. Baldwin is delivering the budget before the money comes in from the state.

Ms. Powers stated that she thinks that the report is easy to read. She also stated that the building of Student Adjustment Counselors is important to Teaching and Learning.

Ms. Kuechler asked Dr. Baldwin to explain what Title 2 and Title 4.

Dr. Baldwin explained that Title 2 supports Professional Development, Teaching and Learning, and mentoring. Title 4 supports curriculum, safety and security, and technology.

Ms. Kuechler also asked if we have seen the programming be effective and are we managing staff for growth.

Mrs. Kohler indicated that this is being looked into and will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Monroe spoke regarding school psychologists and the fact that there are only 2.

Mrs. Kohler responded that there is an upcoming meeting with the school psychologists to discuss things such as testing process, meetings, how each role looks, and procedural duties.

Ms. Kuechler spoke regarding inclusion of all students.

Mrs. Kohler responded that we are using universal screeners and community resources with the schools.

Dr. Baldwin also stated that the District Improvement Plan goals include looking at guidance and school psychologists' workloads.

Mr. Monroe spoke regarding the reimbursement of some services.

Mrs. Kohler responded that some services can be reimbursed if over the threshold and that depends on the insurance.

Mr. Monroe suggested a coding and billing specialist.

Dr. Baldwin stated that reimbursements have been cut in half and that Mrs. Sullivan would know more.

A discussion began regarding the addition of staffing to enable a medical billing and coding specialist, the duties of a Student Adjustment Counselor, Medicaid reimbursement, and outcomes.

Mr. Bueno asked when we would get the amount from Chapter 70.

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Dr. Baldwin explained the way that Chapter 70 works indicating that the 10th decile is the most poverty stricken and Fairhaven is the 8th decile. Chapter 70's money comes from the state, then to the town, and the town appropriates it.

Mr. Vietch referred back to the student services category in the budget report. He asked if in the future we could provide metrics to measure the efficiency and outcomes. Mrs. Kohler stated that we are in the process of giving them the tools to do so at the upcoming meeting with student services.

Dr. Baldwin stated that we are in the process of providing the least restrictive environment, Special Education Teachers, & a para to work with the Special education teacher dedicated to specific areas. This should, in time, decrease out of district tuition.

Mr. Vietch asked if there would be a way that they could see the trends in all programs, perhaps in a different format than what was originally presented.

Mr. Monroe also gave an example of the implementation of the music program and how they would like to see if the implementation is working.

Dr. Baldwin acknowledged the requests.

Mr. Monroe asked the other members to review the document thoroughly as this is ongoing. He also asked for the first draft of Dr. Baldwin's goals for evaluation for the next meeting.

The next meeting is 02/05/2020.

Mrs. Potter presented the items to be voted upon. She explained that both donations went to Fairhaven High School to help students and their families.

Ms. Kuechler motioned, seconded by Ms. McKenna, to vote to approve the acceptance of a donation of \$500 from Raw Seafoods, Inc., approved, 6-0, unanimously.

Ms. Kuechler motioned, seconded by Mr. Vietch, to vote to approve the acceptance of a donation of \$100 from Phil Harding, approved, 6-0, unanimously.

There was no Executive Session.

Ms. Kuechler motioned, seconded by Mr. Vietch to adjourn, approved, 6-0, unanimously.

Adjourned at 7:44pm.



Robert Baldwin, Ed.D
Secretary to the School Committee
Fairhaven Public Schools