

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 5, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. McKenna, absent with prior notice

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

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Abigail Bernardo, Student Advisory Representative, Isabelle Pacheco, Student Advisory Representative, Debra Almeida, Gerry Rooney, Ayako Rooney - representing the Whitfield Manjiro Friendship Society, Catherine Cooper -SMEC

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, Powers, Kuechler, Veitch, Monroe

Motion made by Ms. Kuechler, seconded by Mr. Bueno to approve regular minutes of January 15, 2020. Minutes were unanimously approved, 5-0.

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

Abigail Bernardo spoke regarding the happenings at Fairhaven High School. She detailed Boys Basketball, Spring Sports Registrations, and Senior Sweatshirts. Isabelle Pacheco detailed Drama's "Little Shop of Horrors" production and the happenings of the music program. Mr. Monroe mentioned that the Track Teams won the Conference.

Student Enrollment

Dr. Baldwin reviewed the attachment for the Student Enrollment Data. There is a variation of 1 since the last review.

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SMEC Policy Amendments

Catherine Cooper reviewed the changes to the Articles of Agreement. Fall River Public Schools has requested membership and in order for them to become members the Articles of Agreement need to be amended and agreed upon. This would be effective 07/01/2020. Ms. Cooper also went over the amendment to the article regarding Capital Reserve. She explained that the amendment would allow them to use funds for any property that they have a long term lease. She also mentioned that SMEC shall potentially add another 5-year term to Tripp School lease and would like to start those conversations.

Ms. Kuechler motioned, as Mr. Veitch seconded a motion to approve the SMEC Capital Reserve policy and SMEC Articles of Agreement revisions. These were unanimously approved, 5-0.

Mr. Monroe spoke regarding the lease with SMEC. He stated that Dr. Baldwin and a committee member works with SMEC/Ms. Cooper to have lease and terms. Dr. Baldwin stated that they have a positive relationship with SMEC.

Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society Presentation

Mr. Rooney of the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society presented first. He told the story of how it came to be. He also spoke regarding the exchange program and the rekindling of the sister school relationship.

Ms. Almeida of the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society spoke regarding the rekindling of the exchange program. She stated that Japanese children would take classes in the morning then do activities. They have also done baseball exchange programs. They would like to ask that the first 2 weeks of March of 2021 be used to have the children come over. She also described the courses that they offer for PDP/Graduate Credits. She presented what the courses entail and what they receive. She gave out handouts regarding the frameworks, structure of the exchange program, and the synopsis of the workshop they offer.

Mr. Bueno asked Ms. Almeida about grants for funding. Ms. Almeida responded that they did fundraisers in the past. Mr. Veitch restated the idea that this is an opportunity to rekindle. Mr. Monroe asked student representatives if they would be interested. Both agreed it would be of interest.

Ms. Kohler mentioned policies that surround the ability to travel abroad. She also discussed that there could be some hindrances and challenges. Mr. Monroe asked for someone to look into it.

Dr. Baldwin stated that the passion of the representatives is commendable. He also stated that we will look into it. He stated that "All means All" and that funding for some may be an issue. We would have to look at the capacity and timing of March 2021 to see if this is plausible. Mr. Monroe asked to start the conversation, see if it's possible, and that it would be positive to incorporate local history and other cultures.

Ms. Powers asked about having a discussion regarding the policies and if they are too restrictive. She also suggested alternate years and that we could at least start the program. Dr. Baldwin suggested a Skype "Adopt a Classroom".

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Mr. Monroe suggested the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society contact Ms. Bouchard to set up a meeting to hear more.

FY2021 Budget Process Update

Dr. Baldwin spoke regarding the Chapter 70 funds. He reviewed anticipated amount of \$8.5 million and the actual amount received is \$8.29 million. He also spoke about the increase in charges in regards to school choice and charter schools. He stated that we received \$70 per student and most schools received \$30 per student. He explained the change in the socioeconomic status of the community. He also stated that numbers at the town and free and reduced lunch percentage has changed. The town anticipated a 2.9% revenue stream and a 3.02% budget request was made.

Mr. Veitch asked if anyone saw this coming. Dr. Baldwin explained this is over 7 years. He stated that over 200 municipalities received \$30 per student. He explained that it is influenced by free and reduced lunch numbers and socioeconomic status. He also stated that over a 2-year period the district's net school spending went up \$1.7 million.

Mr. Veitch asked who decides this allocation. Dr. Baldwin explained that some urban districts are receiving \$7-11 million. Mr. Veitch also asked for clarification by asking if this is to make some towns that are not as economically burdened contribute more. Dr. Baldwin stated that is accurate. Dr. Baldwin also discussed that as part of the law, the new process in which there will be a 4-page document that will need to be approved by the School Committee that details how we spend the money.

Ms. Powers spoke regarding the \$1.7 million. She stated that for the people watching, the \$1.7million is just a guideline, that the town does not have to give the district that money. Dr. Baldwin clarified the money goes to the town. The town relationship with the district is such that they do not want the schools to suffer.

Ms. Kuechler asked if there was a timeline for the distribution of funds to the town. Dr. Baldwin stated that he is monitoring the factors at this time.

FY2021 Capital Plan Update

Dr. Baldwin explained the two types of money – ongoing flow and one-time money that can't be used for programming or running budgets. We submitted two projects and they received very high scores. The first project was the maintenance building for equipment, both maintenance and athletic. This has been recommended for approval. The second project of the turf athletic field was also recommended for approval. If approved, the town will be contributing \$1.2 million towards the turf project. This will be coming from certified free cash and/or capital money.

Mr. Veitch asked how this relates to the building project. Dr. Baldwin stated that it does not. This is part of the Capital Improvement Plan, not the Public Facilities Project. He also stated he does not know when listed items on the Public Facilities Project will be started.

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Ms. Powers raised concerns about the lack of progress on the Public Facilities List and where the district's buildings fall on the list. Dr. Baldwin stated that this was done by an outside consultant and these concerns would have to be addressed through them.

Mr. Monroe expressed his concern for the lack of federal funding. He stated that he is grateful that our town is giving the district these items. He also stated he would like an update on the plan for the list from the Public Facilities Project. Dr. Baldwin stated he will investigate getting clarification for the School Committee.

Mrs. Kohler also stated that the immediate concerns on the Public Facilities list were all remedied and addressed.

Superintendents Goals

Mr. Monroe went over all the goals. He asked the School Committee to review the goals and process the information.

The next School Committee Meeting is 03/04/2020.

Ms. Kuechler motioned, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to vote to approve the acceptance of donations for NJHS for EHMS, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Mr. Bueno motioned, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to vote to approve to surplus outdated athletic equipment, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

There was no Executive Session.

Mr. Veitch motioned, seconded by Ms. Kuechler to adjourn, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Adjourned at 8:07pm.



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