

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 9, 2019

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. McKenna (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

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:29p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bueno, Powers, Kuechler, Monroe, Veitch (Ms. McKenna had let the Chair know that she would be absent or arrive late)

Motion made by Pam Kuechler, seconded by Kyle Bueno to approve regular minutes of September 25, 2019. Minutes were approved, 4-0-1. Mr. Veitch abstained.

Public Comment

Diane Hahn signed in to speak. School Committee informed her of the 3 minute threshold and the rules of speaking at the meeting under public comment. Ms. Hahn spoke regarding the Student Opportunity Act. She spoke of the Act increasing funding for State Education by \$1.5B by 2027(statewide). Ms. Hahn urged everyone to call their state legislator to show support. She gave handouts and information on where to go to find the legislators contact information. Ms. Hahn also spoke regarding the Civics education in the High School as well as the Middle School. Mr. Monroe noted that this has already been discussed and that it is on the radar. Ms. Hahn hopes for student support.

Student Advisory

Abigail Bernardo spoke regarding Spirit Week that is happening this week (10/7-11) at FHS. Ms. Bernardo spoke regarding the causes that are being supported by the different classes on Tuesday (10/8). The Freshman Class wore orange to show support of Anti-Bullying, The Sophomore Class wore yellow in support of Suicide Awareness, the Junior Class wore red for Heart Disease Awareness, and the Senior

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Class wore pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. Ms. Bernardo also discussed outcomes in sports and the upcoming Homecoming Game at 4:30 on Friday, 10/11.

Isabelle Pacheco informed the School Committee of other recent and upcoming events taking place at FHS. She went over music, clubs, and fundraising. Ms. Pacheco also discussed the Unified Basketball Game from 10/8. She spoke regarding how emotional the event was and the level of involvement of the student body. Mrs. Kohler also stated that this was a beautiful event and shared videos. Pam Kuechler spoke regarding the photos on Facebook and thought they were awesome. Stasia Powers remarked that it was amazing to see community inclusion. Kyle Bueno stated that we have a unique school system that demonstrates student pride and love. He also stated the Facebook photos were incredible. Colin Veitch spoke regarding the feeling of so much joy, happiness, and love at the event. He commented this is a great event. Dr. Baldwin spoke regarding the football team suspending practice to watch and support the Unified basketball team. Student body also would like to get a fan bus to go to the away games. Dr. Baldwin spoke regarding Mr. Kulak's observations of smiles everywhere. Dr. Baldwin also spoke of how our student body are examples and we are very proud.

Student Enrollment Data

Dr. Baldwin reviewed the document provided to the School Committee and the many changes amongst schools. There is an idea that parent are moving to Fairhaven to send their children to FHS. Dr. Baldwin also spoke regarding overall state enrollment is down and that we are one of the only districts in the region that remains steady or increasing. At the next meeting, an analysis will be provided.

Facilities

Dr. Baldwin went over the ongoing and completed projects: the Performing Arts Lighting Project is complete, the Fiber Project is complete, and the HVAC Project is almost complete. The reason that the HVAC project is not complete yet is because there were final glycol checks and those revealed that the numbers for the remaining glycol were too high. This results in more flushes being necessary. These flushes were not anticipated. There is a change order. The cost associated is \$20,000-\$30,000 more than originally planned. This has been worked through the project manager. The final flush was originally included, but the amount of glycol was not what they thought it would be. Nicole Potter spoke on the main factors which are the product, labor and disposal of the glycol. She also stated that the boiler may be playing a roll due to its age/condition. While unfortunate and unforeseen, she assures that everyone is working together to handle this while keeping costs down.

Capital Planning

Dr. Baldwin began by giving a basic overview of the HKT assessment of public facilities that had been completed. He reminded the audience that report is separate from what we are asking. He pointed out that there were police and fire facilities on that docket as well as the school department. The school department had something from every school and the administration center. These things mentioned are all on the public facilities plan. The things that are not on the plan are the following: no storage for athletics or maintenance and turf for the fields. In regards to the storage, Dr. Baldwin made reference to removing the current boxes and add buildings. As for the turf for the fields, Dr. Baldwin addressed the issues we currently face with the fields as they are which include inclement weather, wear and tear, and the idea that the students should have a home field that is located at their school. Mr. Monroe made a comment that this is not just about football, but all sports. Ms. Kuechler would like to see our

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investments maximized and give the students the most access to them. Dr. Baldwin mentions contacting the alumni to see if we can rely on their help. Dr. Baldwin also indicated that the Athletic Director will be addressing these items. Mr. Monroe made reference to the Capital Planning documents and indicated they mention Tripp School renovations. Dr. Baldwin responded that the documents state the renovation was a recommendation for administrative and high school programming.

District Improvement Plan

Information received at the last meeting and SC members have had the chance to review. Dr. Baldwin reviewed the goals (both exploratory and needs based) and action plans. He also spoke of the concentration on specific areas and moving the district forward. He also stated that he should have the principals' plans in a month or so.

Mr. Veitch asked a question regarding the K-2 program. He wanted to know if this was a program or an approach. Mrs. Kohler responded that it is an approach that adds to a teacher's toolbox, enabling them to look at accuracy and comprehension instead of just looking at speed. The new approach incorporates brain research and tracking. It is a blended approach with leveled readers. The students will be reassessed at 6 weeks. Mrs. Kohler went more in depth regarding the program and cited examples.

Mr. Monroe talked about the Superintendent's evaluation and the state's new guidelines. Dr. Baldwin responded that he believes the new evaluation has reduced the redundancy and changed the wording. He also stated that these changes are happening with the evaluation due to issues throughout the commonwealth. Mr. Monroe stated that once he & Dr. Baldwin attend the meeting, they will have more information.

Next Meeting

October 23, 2019

Dr. Baldwin advised that the School Committee may be invited by the Finance Committee to attend a meeting next week.

Vote to approve to establish Unified Sports Student Activity Account. Mrs. Potter presented regarding the establishment of an account for the Unified Sports Activity Fund. Pam Kuechler motioned to approve, Stasia Powers seconded. Approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Vote to approve to establish a Golf Student Activity Account. Mrs. Potter presented regarding the establishment of an account for the Golf Student Activity Account. Kyle Bueno motioned to approve, Colin Veitch seconded. Approved, 5-0, unanimously.

There was a mention of Titleist donations. Mr. Monroe questioned these donations. Mrs. Potter confirmed that they will be bringing it to the School committee once they receive complete and accurate info on what the donations consist of.

Vote to approve of the Elementary Advisor Clubs: East Singers Choral Club. Wood singers Choral Club, and Floor Hockey at Wood. Mrs. Potter presented regarding the approval of these clubs/activities. Pam Kuechler motioned to approve, seconded by Stasia Powers, Approved, 5-0, unanimously.

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Kyle Bueno spoke of his tour of Elizabeth Hastings Middle School. He was impressed with the creativity of the 6-8 graders. He also stated that there was so much pride in the school. Kudos to Dr. Bettencourt and the EHMS staff.

Colin Veitch brought up the Unified Game. His statement was that culture like that can't happen when you are treading water and we need to keep going in that direction. Dr. Baldwin thanked the School committee for giving the programming and reorganization to meet the needs of the kids. The kids are engaged and loving learning. Mrs. Powers emphasized ALL the kids.

Mr. Monroe brought up a dinner that he attended recently and a discussion that he had with Japanese students. He brought up the idea of an exchange program.

The vote to ratify the Agreement between AFSCME Council #93, Local 851-Fairhaven Schools Secretarial Employees and the Fairhaven School Committee will be handled after the Executive Session.

Adjourned to the Executive Session at 7:23pm.

Motion made to adjourn and then reconvene by Pam Kuechler, seconded by Kyle Bueno. Adjourned, unanimously, 5-0.

Executive Session called to order at 7:26pm. Motion by Stasia Powers, Kyle Bueno seconded to adjourn and reconvene to regular session at 7:34. Adjourned and reconvened as regular session, 5-0, unanimously.

Regular Session reconvened at 7:36pm.

Vote to ratify the Agreement between AFSCME Council #93, Local 851-Fairhaven Schools Secretarial Employees and the Fairhaven School Committee. Stasia Powers motioned to approve, Kyle Bueno seconded. Approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Colin Veitch, seconded by Stasia Powers. Approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Adjourned at 7:37pm.



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