

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 3, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Felecia Connelly – Food Services Representative, Erin Long – Food Services Representative –
Chartwells

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

The Chair informed the audience that the meeting was being recorded for public access. The Chair also explained the use of Zoom for this particular meeting.

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

Pledge of Allegiance. **The Chair played a recorded version of the pledge. **

Motion made by Ms. Kuechler, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve the minutes from May 20, 2020. Minutes were approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Student Advisory

Students did not attend the meeting. Therefore, there wasn't an advisory report.

Public Comment

Mr. Monroe stated that everyone can speak, but they will be limited to 2 minutes. He also asked that they send a chat or raise their hand if they would like to speak. Since there was no response, there was no Public Comment.

Chartwells Presentation

Ms. Long spoke regarding a review of the program through the month of March and then the emergency feeding program that has been implemented since then. She also will speak regarding next year's plan. She went on to give credit to Felecia Connelly, Julie Costa, and the team for all the work they have done during the pandemic. She reviewed events such as Students Choice, Harvest of the Month program, and Mood Boost. The Emergency Meal Program is being run out of Hastings. They average between 150-200 meals being distributed daily. She reviewed the grant that allowed fresh produce to be boxed for families. She stated that had we had a normal end of the school year, we were trending to be in the black financially. The last few months have been a subsidy situation due to the lack of income and the drop in meal counts. At the end of June, we will probably end up in a subsidy situation of \$35,000-\$40,000. Her projections for a potential summer program and under the same scenario, we would be at a financial loss to the district of about \$7,000-\$8,000 for the 33 days it would be operating.

Mr. Veitch asked about raising prices for next year. Ms. Long answered that the waiver that has been afforded to school districts allows them to decline to raise prices. She also stated that it would probably not be the best time to raise prices due to the pandemic. She also stated that she believes this will affect the district possibly the year after or the year after that. She stated that as long as a district has funds in their revolving account, the price raising could be waived. Mrs. Potter spoke regarding the potential deficit with the summer program running, we are looking to the town to see if there any grants or funds to help offset. She hopes to be able to update everyone at the next meeting. The increase in price was also discussed as we had just increased prices last year per the tool from the government. It was expected that this increase would hold us

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for 2 years, so we do not have to increase prices. She also said they run a virtual gateway export to capture families that are qualifying for other types of assistance through the Department of Transitional Assistance. This helps capture families that may qualify for free and reduced lunch. She stated we are trying to help our families get the assistance they need in a timely manner. Ms. Powers suggested submitting an application to the Community Foundation as they are who distributes the COVID19 One Fund and that they are emergency funds and can be used for whatever you need them for. Ms. Kuechler stated that the most recent round has just closed but there will be another round and that it is a great suggestion. Ms. Connelly hopes for a great summer program and that she wishes they could have closed out the year normally. Mr. Monroe commended her and her team's work. Ms. Long stated that next year is still unknown. She asks that everyone keeps food service in mind when planning for next year and keep them in the loop as much as possible. She went over different models that a committee for Chartwells has discussed. She said they are making several plans for different scenarios, but would like to make decisions soon so that they stay ahead and can have access to equipment before a shortage occurs. Mr. Monroe said that we will continue to work closely as a team to ensure that our kids get fed. He also thanked her for all of her efforts during this time.

Fairhaven High School Class of 2020

Dr. Baldwin spoke regarding graduation. He discussed how the whole event came together and how everyone came together for the kids. Dr. Baldwin thanks everyone who made this possible. He spoke how this sets us apart and makes us special. Mr. Bueno echoed Dr. Baldwin's sentiments. He said there was so much community proud and it will be remembered. Ms. Powers stated that it was amazing and breathtaking. She felt that this was giving the parents the best seat in the house. She said that she has heard great feedback. She stated that this gave a united feeling throughout the community. Ms. Kuechler is in agreement with Ms. Powers. She stated that this was a real opportunity for the community to give these give the kids the celebration that they deserve. It was memorable for the Class of 2020 and the Town. She thanks everyone who had a hand in making this happen. Ms. McKenna thanks everyone. She said it was an unforgettable day. Mr. Veitch stated how great it was to see the two towns come together. He spoke of the staff coming out for support. He said it was apparent how much work went into it and thanks everyone. Mr. Monroe has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. He stated that this couldn't have turned out any better than it did. It was one of the most positive experiences he has ever been through. He thanks everyone involved. He also acknowledged the police and fire departments from all the different communities who came to support.

End of the Year Activities/Transitions/Celebrations – Identify and Support Students Not Effectively Engaged in Remote Learning

Dr. Baldwin stated that end of the year activities will begin next week and will be communicated by each individual principal. He stated that we will continue to follow the rules that have been cleared by the Health Agent. Ms. Kohler discussed the educational plan going forward. She stated that they have calendar days that are traditional learning, test days, field trips, etc. The last learning plan that will be given will be the week ending the 12th. The plan is to give the kids the same sort of end of the year vibe. The kids are still meeting with their teachers. We have already notified those who are in danger of staying back (those who were not doing well prior to March 13 and still have not completed the learning plans). We are now identifying kids who were doing well before March 13th, but now have not completed all of the standards. These kids will be given through the 19th to meet with their teacher and hopefully meet the mark. This will help us determine who will still need some extra help in the fall. At the High School and Middle School levels, they are also working on a system so that it doesn't affect GPAs but reflect positively the work that has been done this year. The fun activities will also start to happen. Promotion ceremonies will be held for 5th grade on June 16th, and June 18th for grade 8. Ms. Powers asked about report cards. Ms. Kohler said that Middle School will get a letter of completion. The High School will get a final report card. Ms. Powers asked about juniors regarding their future applications to college. Ms. Kohler explained that terms 1 & 2 will affect their GPA, but the rest of the year will be a pass/fail. Ms. Powers asked about getting transcripts. Ms. Kohler said they will be available at the close of the year, but if they needed them before that, it would not show a GPA and only a current status of grades. Mr. Monroe asked about the coding system for grades for the high school. Ms. Kohler explained the capabilities of the system and how they have to interpret things for the system to not affect the GPA. She also spoke regarding the comments that will be input. She stated that the comments are universal and are as follows: 1. Met standards, completed

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course for the year, 2. Not meeting standards, more work needed (this is the student that we will need to give more support to next year), 3. Failing prior to remote learning, likely will fail for the year. Ms. Kohler also said that there are secondary comments to help parents understand as well as give us an idea for students who do well or do not do well in that environment (future remote learning).

Communication/Reopening Schools

Dr. Baldwin spoke of the rampant uncertainty of COVID19 and how quickly things change. He stated that there are 3 different scenarios. The first is a vaccine is discovered and we are all back in school in September. The second is there is an extensive uptick in COVID19 and we will be 100% remote in the fall. The third is somewhere in the middle. We should be made aware that 85-90% of this is coming from the state. He said that we are only able to mitigate COVID19, not eliminate it. We cannot give any answers until we know for sure. He hopes to have a direction from the state the week of June 15. The next School Committee meeting will be of importance as we will be discussing budget and next year. He also stated that we are most likely looking at coming back at some sort of combination of live and remote learning. Budget will not be delivered from the state until July or August. There are many questions that need to be answered such as: Will you send your child to school? Will you use the bus? Next year will look different and we will have to adhere to the rules set forth by the health agents. Mr. Monroe said we will wait for Dr. Baldwin to give us the concrete answer and we will try to avoid speculating.

Upcoming Events

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

**This is the pre-set up day for the Town Meeting. We have been advised we should move the meeting to a different date. Dr. Baldwin said that the Town Meeting may be moved to November. Mr. Monroe said they will make a decision after the Selectman's meeting and the outcome of whether or not the Town Meeting will be moved to November. **

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Motion to establish The Class of 2024 Student Activity Account made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Motion to approve Food Service Donation of \$28.75 made by Ms. Powers, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Questions from Individual Committee Members

Mr. Bueno made a general comment about what has been going on in the country with the protestors. He thanks Chief Meyers and the Fairhaven Police Department for the peaceful dialogue. He also thanks our youth for marching for social justice and equality for all.

Mr. Veitch suggests keeping in mind that all the changes will be difficult for all. Our business model is togetherness and not having that in its regular form saddens him.

Mr. Monroe stated that its best to take it one day at a time and be there for the students and get through it together.

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Ms. Powers thinks it's best to take it one day at a time as well and to not make decisions too hastily and not be able to change the decisions that are made.

Ms. Kuechler feels that this group and district takes adversity and learns from it and uses it as an opportunity to teach our kids. She states this is uncharted territory and we don't have something to go by.

Dr. Baldwin reiterates that we are going to have learn to tolerate the unknown. We will do our best for all our kids.

Roll call vote to adjourn to Executive Session without returning to Regular Session: Mr. Veitch, Mr. Bueno, Ms. McKenna, Ms. Powers, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Monroe all voted in favor of going to Executive Session at 7:51pm.

Adjourned at 7:51pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Baldwin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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