

## FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 4, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Monroe, 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, Michelle Souza, Paraprofessional, Wendy Weidenfeller, Principal – East Fairhaven Elementary School

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

The Vice-Chair informed the audience that the meeting was being videotaped. Mrs. Kuechler read the notification of video rules.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Bueno to approve regular minutes of February 5, 2020. Minutes were unanimously approved, 4-0, Mrs. McKenna abstained.

There was no public comment.

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

Abigail Bernardo spoke regarding the happenings at Fairhaven High School. She detailed Boys Basketball, Cheer, Spring Sports Registrations, Robotics, and stand out student athletes. Isabelle Pacheco detailed Drama's "Little Shop of Horrors" production youth day in May, and classroom hydroponics plant growth.

Student Enrollment

Dr. Baldwin asked how the School Committee would like to proceed on future updates of student enrollment data since the enrollment doesn't change much month to month. Mrs. Powers stated that if there are drastic changes, then she feels they should be notified, but if not then she feels as though a beginning, midyear, and end of year report and discussion would be sufficient. Mr. Veitch suggested a monthly receive and place on file monthly approach and leave it up to the Chairperson to ask questions if warranted. Mrs. Kuechler determined that we will continue with a monthly receive and place on file to keep it part of the public record. Dr. Baldwin agreed to proceed this way and if the Chair has any questions, they will be addressed.

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### District Improvement Plan Update

Mrs. Kohler presented a K-2 Literacy update. She discussed goals, particularly embedding more types of assessment to really look at the whole child. She went into a review of the handouts as well as a chart presentation. She also gave an explanation of the types of assessment.

Mr. Veitch stated that having it by room helps to also identify personnel issues, weaknesses with different needs, and different processes. Dr. Baldwin stated that at the PD in January, all teachers were issued a challenge to find their group, find where they can grow. Mr. Veitch looked at the drop in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and asked about referrals. Mrs. Kohler answered that referrals are still happening at the classroom levels. Mrs. Kohler then referred back to the handouts and explained the different groups. Mr. Veitch asked if this data drives resources requirements for the budget. Mrs. Kohler replied that currently they have been doing it through grants and titles. Mrs. Kohler reviewed another handout that reflected a checklist for assessment. She went over the assessment range, matching, and monitoring. Mr. Veitch stated that all the handouts and data shows just how difficult it is to be a teacher. Mr. Bueno appreciated the fact that Mrs. Kohler did not label the schools and that it reflects that we are a community and that we have raised the stakes. He also commented on the methodologies of the program. He appreciates that we have educators who are willing to push beyond the boundaries and be adaptable. Mrs. Powers stated that this is a very important demonstration on data collection and how it works so we can make sure kids get what they need. Mrs. Kuechler agrees with her colleagues and recognizes the excitement. She also stated that this creates a foundation for a great educational experience, as well as provides clear evidence that we are always looking for ways to be better. Mrs. Souza spoke about the movement component and going through the learning curve. She stated that the kids are engaged and don't even realize they are learning. Mrs. Kuechler thanked Mrs. Souza and Wendy Weidenfeller for being a part of the team and their hard work. Dr. Baldwin stated that Mrs. Kohler has been obsessed and driven with this program. Our educators are accepting change and doing what is best for all. Mrs. Souza concurred that it is "students first".

### Physically Safe and Supportive Schools

Mrs. Kohler spoke regarding a recent PD that she attended with Wendy Weidenfeller and Andy Kulak. This PD was with one of the chiefs from the Parkland shooting. She stated that they learned about the mistakes that were made there. She also spoke regarding the recognition that she received that we are on the right track. They walked away with many things to test out and go over at their next PD with staff, including the strength of the relationships between police and fire departments. They also felt this PD allowed them to have forward thinking and devise a safety team. Dr. Baldwin stated that when issues happen, people tend to be critical. We are proactive and thorough, just not publicly. Mrs. Kuechler stated that she appreciates the constant preparedness. She also thinks that it is great to talk about the prep plans and ideas in this way so that everyone is aware that we are continuous in our plans and ideas to think ahead.

### FY2021 Budget

Dr. Baldwin stated that we are at that time of year where its election time and budget time at the same time. He stated there is a request by the Town Administrator to reduce our budget by \$200,000. He spoke regarding the revenue and chargebacks. He also stated that this is about a \$300,000 difference. Dr. Baldwin asked if the reductions were across the board and the answer was "yes." He stated we will continue through the process. We will need to schedule our open budget hearing. Every district must



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have a plan, signed off by the school committee, and the community is allowed to have a say. This must be submitted by April 1. Mrs. Kuechler agrees to have open budget at the next meeting and would like to hear recommendations from Fin Comm. She suggested we have some ideas for the reductions for the accountability portion for the next meeting. Mrs. Powers clarified Mrs. Kuechler's statement by asking if she asked Dr. Baldwin should show different scenarios for reduction. Dr. Baldwin stated that we try to make a balance, that it can't be all operational or salary. He also stated that we could cut \$30,000 right off the top for grass and field maintenance if we move forward with the turf from the Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Baldwin stated that we are also not looking to reduce our service level. Mrs. Powers also asked for clarification regarding the \$143,000 from the state. Dr. Baldwin stated that the town kicks in the difference and he went further to explain how the monies are divided from state to school. He also stated that the demographics that received the most money from the state deserve it. Mrs. Powers spoke regarding her conversation with Ed Lambert as she spoke to him about the accountability and the amount of money given by the state. Mr. Bueno thinks it's very important to share the story of our impact from student, families, and communities.

### Student Opportunity Form

We covered this in the prior conversation. It refers to the accountability plan approved by a school committee, and community. Mrs. Kuechler asked if any one has any questions, they may contact Dr. Baldwin.

### FY2021 Capital Improvement Plan Update

Dr. Baldwin spoke regarding spring sports and that they are planning away "home" games. Dr. Baldwin reviewed the many different reasons to improve and the increased use of this field. He stated that our fields are degrading while the use has increased. While originally built to host only football, we have grown to use it for Field Hockey, Soccer, and Lacrosse. We have a plan in place for a redo in 10 years when the turf needs it. We are competing with other schools when student have school choice and our kids deserve the opportunity to have a functional field. Dr. Baldwin also reviewed the facilities project and timeline, including the places for Fairhaven Public Schools and the amount that is planned. Dr. Baldwin reviewed a document that had been given previously. Mrs. Powers was happy to see that we are in the queue.

### Roundups

Dr. Baldwin acknowledged email Roundups. It's a snapshot and our brand promotion. Mrs. Kuechler said it's nice to see that it's the whole community and all the departments get highlighted. Kudos to the outreach folks & that it is a great way to communicate.

### First Reading of School Calendar

Dr. Baldwin discussed a couple of different scenarios that we will be reviewing for next year's calendar. School year start date may be 8/31 or 8/24. Dr. Baldwin would like to do some research prior to presenting next year's calendar.

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Vote to accept \$100 from the Quirk Family for the Hardship Fund. Mrs. Potter spoke regarding the family's friend who's wish was to have them do a random act of kindness so they chose to donate to the Hardship Fund. Stasia Powers motioned to approve, Donna McKenna seconded, Approved, 4-0, unanimously.

There was no executive session.

Stasia Powers motioned to adjourn, seconded by Colin Veitch, approved, 4-0 unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

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