

**FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**August 24, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bueno, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Andersen, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Kohler, Mr. Balestracci, Mrs. Potter, Ms. Bouchard

STAFF ABSENT: Mrs. Weidenfeller, Dr. Nicholas Bettencourt, Mr. Kulak

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community and staff

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kuechler at 6:33pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Kuechler read the recording policies for the meeting.

Roll Call of Committee Members: Mr. Andersen, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Kuechler

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from June 22, 2022 was made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Ms. McKenna, 5-0, approved 5-0-1, Mr. Veitch abstained.

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

No Student Advisory Committee members were present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Receive update regarding opening of school.

Mrs. Kohler presented. She spoke of the hiring crisis. The principals are constantly interviewing. She stated that teachers are choosing our District because they have heard that they will have a voice. She stated the custodians have been working hard over the summer to get the schools ready. Professional Development with leadership team was held today. They talked about global issues and the effects on families and children, and our mission is "All Kids, All the Time". She spoke about the Department of Education originally spoke about shifting away from testing. She then stated that the Commissioner recently announced that they will be raising the standards for MCAS. She stated that if you continue to do the right thing to engage kids more fully, the test scores will come. She went on to talk about improvements with communications. She also spoke about the College and Career position. She stated that she will be going to 2 guidance counselors this year. We will be fully supporting the College and Career position to ensure that kids truly know what options they have ahead of them. She went on to talk about grade 7 Math and how we will be teaching the main standards to everyone, with goals of what it would be nice to get to and then enrichment activities. She stated that we have had some movement with grade level teachers at the elementary level. Mr. Monroe would like to know how they can advocate for our students against the state's decision for MCAS scores. Mrs. Kohler stated that they should contact MASC. A discussion regarding the new evaluation system for advanced pathways was had.

Receive update regarding COVID-19 protocols.

Mrs. Kohler presented. There will no longer be any quarantines. If there are symptoms, then isolation will be recommended. The nurses will be receiving updates regarding COVID and Monkeypox as well.

Receive information regarding the Eagle Scout Project.

Mrs. Kohler asked to table this item as the person presenting was unable to be here.

Receive and place on file 2022-2023 Fairhaven High School Student Handbook.

Mr. Kulak presented. He stated the majority of the changes in the handbook have to do with COVID. He also pointed out that we will be allowing responsible use of electronic devices and that we will be stricter with the policy now that COVID policies are revamped. He also discussed the change to the attendance policy. It was originally changed due to COVID protocols but now that those are no longer in affect, the attendance policy will be returning to what it was in years past. He also discussed Credit Restoration. He stated that historically students would lose credit if they had exceeded the number of allowable absences. Now the credit restoration procedure is that the student can earn that credit back. For example, part of the procedure is that they would need to be in school for a certain number of days without incident. Mr. Monroe went over some things he had questions about. The majority have been corrected already and Mr. Kulak went into detail about the cell phones, Photo IDs, and dress codes.

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 24, 2022

PAGE 2

improve the website and help with clear communication plans. He will also be involved in the Social Media aspect and involving his students. For student engagement, we are going to take feedback from data and the afterschool activities and come up with a grounding document with the principals. This will enable us to be able to see what we are able to offer students and families when they become students at Fairhaven Public Schools.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: September 14, 2022

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Kuechler spoke regarding a reception to get to know the new administrators as has been tradition. It will be held 45 minutes to an hour prior to the next meeting on September 14.

New Business

Vote to on a School Lunch Price

Mrs. Kohler presented. She explained the tool that is used to determine lunch rates. It will be free for everyone this year but we thought it would be good to be proactive and vote as if it wouldn't be free so that we do not fall behind when it comes time to set the rate. The recommended rates are \$3.50 for secondary, \$3.00 for elementary, and \$4 for adult meals. Motion to move forward with option 2 as the set the lunch rate made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to approve Elementary School Handbook

Mrs. Weidenfeller presented. She stated that her handbook changes consisted of mostly omissions. She also noted language change for arrival for Wood School. She also noted language changes regarding lunch as it is no longer federally provided and it is state provided. She stated that the COVID protocols are also being omitted. She stated that dress code language has been changed. The term ending dates have been updated, and midterms as well. Mr. Monroe asked for the dress code language to be in alignment across all schools. Mr. Monroe also asked about COVID protocols and Mrs. Kohler stated that we will be handling it as a Health Office issue with best practices and reminders. Motion to approve the Elementary School Handbook made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Mr. Monroe approved, unanimously 6-0.

Vote to approve the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Handbook

Dr. Bettencourt presented. He stated that one change is the grade and that it denoted between 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He said the grades and the weights are the same across all 3, but the difference is with 7<sup>th</sup> grade it is separated between homework and classwork, and in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade the categories are combined. He stated that they also made a change regarding skipping school on a full day vs a half day. He made updates to lunches and open air. He also went over bathroom use and the wall bins. Mr. Monroe brought up the Honor Society criteria. He feels that it is too high. Dr. Bettencourt stated that he will make the recommendation to the panel of faculty and staff who make the determination. Motion to approve the Elizabeth Hastings Handbook made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna approved, unanimously 6-0.

Vote to surplus books

Mrs. Kohler reviewed the list of outdated texts and books. Motion to surplus books made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to surplus equipment from Elizabeth Hastings Middle School

Mrs. Kohler reviewed the list of items with the School Committee. Motion to vote to surplus items made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved, unanimously, 6-0.

Vote on the sub-teacher rate of certified \$140/day, uncertified \$120/day, and sub-para rate of \$65/hour.

Mr. Veitch recused himself. Mrs. Kohler presented. She would like to keep rates the same which were sub teacher rates of \$120/day for uncertified, \$140/day for certified. The rates for a sub para are \$15/hour or \$65/day (it is a typo on the agenda). She would like to keep the rates the same to hopefully bring people in to offset the hiring crisis. Motion to approve the sub teacher rates of \$120/day for uncertified, \$140/day certified and sub paras rates of 65/day made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, unanimously 5-0-1.

Receive on 1st reading, Face Coverings: Policy EBCFA.

Mr. Balestracci presented. He spoke of the meeting from the past regarding the mask policy. He stated that we added some language that would allow us to suspend or impose a mask policy if the circumstances warranted it. This will be up for a vote at the next meeting.

There will be Executive Session (to discuss staffing) without a return to open session.

Motion to adjourn regular session and go into Executive Session to discuss contractual and staffing issues made by Mr. Andersen, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, 6-0, unanimously. By matter of roll call vote: Mr. Andersen, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Kuechler.

Adjourned at 7:50p.m.



Tara M. Kohler  
Secretary to the School Committee  
Fairhaven Public Schools