

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 12, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community and staff

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kuechler at 6:30pm.

Ms. Kuechler read the recording policies for the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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 September 28, 2022 was made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved unanimously, 4-0,2 abstentions (Mr. Monroe, Mr. Veitch).

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

Adin Monroe and Elizabeth DaCunha presented. The audio was unclear and there were technical difficulties during the presentation.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Receive information regarding possible Middle School Athletic Program

Mr. Balestracci presented. He spoke of the possibility of joining middle school athletics in the spring. The Committee agreed to pursue.

Receive update regarding Fall Town Meeting Request

Mrs. Kohler presented. She stated that the Article that we proposed regarding the \$58,000 from the Special Education Stabilization Fund replenishment will be moving forward at the next Town Meeting.

Receive update regarding MCAS Recovery Data

Mr. Balestracci presented. He explained that MCAS is a little bit different this year in terms of how we view the data and measuring growth and purposes of what they are calling loss of net gain during the pandemic years. He reviewed the data with the Committee and stated that the state overall went down in ELA, but remained steady in Math. He stated that per the given data we are in pretty good shape comparatively to the state. The Math results were excellent in the District. We are double digits above state in most grade levels. This was for the 2022 data. Mrs. Kohler reviewed the Recovery Data. Mrs. Kohler reviewed the data with the committee going over the numbers from 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022. She explained how the State was comparing the data from the years. Mr. Balestracci also explained how we fared against the State in Math and ELA. For the most part in Fairhaven, we have fared well against the State. It appears grade 3 was the only anomaly and we will be digging into find the why of those results. Mr. Veitch reminded everyone of where those grade 3 children were at during the pandemic and if that could have had an impact. Mrs. Kohler agreed and is looking into it. Mr. Bueno made a statement regarding the trajectory seeming equal across the schools as a whole. Mrs. Kohler also stated that we have shared the data with the Principals and we are all looking into ways to promote growth with all students, at each and every grade level. There was discussion regarding the Commissioner's decisions regarding the weight of the MCAS.

Receive Superintendent's goals

Mrs. Kohler will be giving an overview of her goals. Mrs. Kohler would like to remain active in NSIP and finish year 2. The next area she would like to be proactive in is Finance and Budget. She would like to be able to help guide our budget going forward since we face the challenge of ESSER funds falling away. The four parts she would like to be a part of her evaluations are the College and Career aspect at the high school, partnerships with Upper Cape Tech, the Culture and Climate, ensuring all families feel seen. She also wants to look deeper into engagement and what defines true engagement. Mr. Monroe questioned the proposed Middle School Athletic Program since we may be forced to cut things in the future. Mrs. Kohler stated she is looking at that program from the side of student engagement.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: October 26, 2022

****Next meeting we will be inviting the Leadership Team to a reception in the Library at 5:30pm****

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Vote to accept \$5,000 from Scott Hutchens for FHS Football safety equipment

Motion to accept \$5,000 from Scott Hutchens for FHS Football safety equipment made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to accept \$2,000 from Grant Menard for FHS Girls Soccer apparel

Motion to accept \$2,000 from Grant Menard for FHS Girls Soccer apparel made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Mr. Veitch, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to accept \$50 FHS Scholarship donation from Antone and Theresa Cardoza in Memory of former FJHS Teachers: Peter Mendell, George Brazil, Gene Grace, Joe Rapoza, and Mrs. Gibbs.

Motion to accept \$50 FHS Scholarship donation from Antone and Theresa Cardoza in Memory of former FJHS Teachers: Peter Mendell, George Brazil, Gene Grace, Joe Rapoza, and Mrs. Gibbs made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to surplus technology items (Receive info prior to meeting)

Motion to surplus technology items made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to establish a District Hardship Fund

Mrs. Kohler explained that we need a District Hardship Fund so that it may be used at any grade level. Motion to establish a District Hardship Fund made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Vote to accept an anonymous donation of \$600 for the District Hardship Fund

Motion to accept an anonymous donation of \$600 for the District Hardship Fund made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Mr. Monroe asked that we get a bathroom building update and High School Repair Project at next meeting.

There will be Executive Session without a return to regular session.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session without a return to Regular Session made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, 6-0, unanimously. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andersen, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Kuechler.

Adjourned at 7:44p.m.



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