

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 9, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Andersen – with prior notice

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

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community and staff; Laura Garner and Kristy Acevedo.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kuechler at 6:31pm.

Ms. Kuechler read the recording policies for the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from October 26, 2022 was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously, 5-0

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

Elizabeth daCunha presented. She spoke regarding Athletics, Fundraising, and Yearbook Club, Environmental Club, Culture Club, and Drama Club.

Public Comment

Laura Gardner and Kristy Acevedo presented regarding librarians.

Receive update regarding class size goals.

Mrs. Kohler presented. She stated that we are in limit, on the smaller side, but with intention. We had used ESSER funds to employ additional teachers at certain grade levels so that we would have more equitable classes.

Discuss Turf Field Rental.

Mrs. Kohler presented. She went over the recent incidents that have happened at Pop Warner games. She was clear about wanting to set them up for success and what to prioritize. She is concerned that the organization did not report it her immediately. She feels as though the games may not have enough coverage. She would like to discuss the integrity in how we work together with the organization. She feels it is imperative to have a set of expectations in order to continue the relationship. The Committee spoke about setting a high level of expectations and convey that message to Pop Warner, and devise a plan for prevention. They moved to a discussion regarding Viper Soccer. Viper Soccer has petitioned to use the field as well. Mrs. Kohler would like to have the same type of meeting with Viper Soccer and set the expectations. There are no immediate dates for Viper Soccer. The Committee agrees that Mrs. Kohler should proceed as discussed.

Receive update on the NEASC Visit.

Mrs. Kohler presented. The process has changed and we have been a part of that change. Mrs. Kohler extends her gratitude to everyone who took part. They will send us a full report with some commendation and recommendations, and we will work on those items. NEASC will return in 2 years for another review. When the full report is received, we will place it on the agenda for the Committee.

Receive update regarding Elementary Report Cards.

Mrs. Kohler presented. The process is finally finished from the 2019-2020 report cards project where the standards match the report cards.

Receive update regarding status of MA Historical Grant.

Mrs. Potter presented. We were awarded a grant of \$50,000 over the summer for the windows. We have received news that they are increasing our grant amount to \$70,000. We will be going out to bid on the 16th and the work needs to be completed by May 31, 2023.

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 9, 2022

PAGE 2

EHMS Roof Project

Mrs. Potter presented. She reminded the Committee of the Spring of 2021 roof repair of \$5600. In Summer of 2021, the roof company recommended an infrared study. This cost \$3850. The recommendation that came from that was a full roof replacement. The Capital Planning Committee recommended funding this in 2024. If the Committee agrees, we will submit again in the spring. In fall of 2022, we needed to do a roof repair that cost \$74,300. The MSBA program is paused for 2024 and that will not be an option for us for funding. The updated estimated cost is \$2,397,000.

High School Project

Mrs. Potter went over the gable restoration project. They are trying to figure out how they will gain access to the gables and are still working on the project. She stated that we applied to the Community Preservation Committee for \$200,000. Town Meeting had already voted to allocate the \$2,275,000, and if we are approved through the Community Preservation Committee that will lower the cost for the Town to \$2,075,000.

Storage Facility at Alumni Field

Mr. Balestracci presented. Students from New Bedford Voc Tech have been brought over to the site to start the planning and project proposals. Mrs. Kohler spoke about the FHS bathrooms and stated that we are at a standstill.

Elementary Playgrounds

Mrs. Kohler presented. She reminded the Committee about the past efforts to raise money with the Fun Runs. East raised money for the playground at the time and Wood was raising money for 1 to 1 technology. The District was already headed in that direction for the technology so Wood still had some funds. There has been some peeling in places at the Wood School playground. The estimated cost to resurface and replace the entire surface is estimated to be between \$175,000 and \$200,000. We have done patches instead. Life expectancy of playground surfaces is roughly around 10 years and we are at the 10-year mark. This may be a great opportunity to do some fundraising with the PTO as East has done in the past.

Receive draft Budget Calendar.

Mrs. Potter presented. We are waiting for the Town to release their draft budget calendar. This is a tentative look at ours. We plan to have a draft budget by the January 11 meeting. She also reviewed the timeline of events.

Receive update on District calendar.

Mrs. Kohler presented. She stated that December 23 will be a half day.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: December 14, 2022

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Vote to approve MOA regarding media/communications stipend position. Motion made to approve MOA regarding media/communications stipend position made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Vote to approve the use of up to \$70,000 from FHS Trust to match MA Historical contribution for the FHS Library windows. Motion made to approve the use of up to \$70,000 from FHS Trust to match MA Historical contribution for the FHS Library windows made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Veitch, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Mr. Monroe reminded the Committee about the meeting request from Superintendent Watson at New Bedford Voc.

There will be Executive Session without a return to regular session. Motion made to adjourn regular session to go to Executive Session without return to regular session made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, 5-0, unanimously. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Kuechler.

Adjourned at 7:45p.m.



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