

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 8, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Kohler, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Balestracci, Ms. Bouchard, Ms. Morgan Matthews – Family Engagement Center, Diane Sullivan – Family Engagement Center

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, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Veitch

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from January 11, 2023 was made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously, 6-0.

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

Mr. Monroe spoke of athletics, Class of 2023 happenings, Mr. Fairhaven, yearbooks, and drama club. Ms. DaCunha spoke of Class of 2024 happenings, culture club, and environmental club happenings.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Receive update on vaping concerns

Mrs. Kohler presented. She stated there were still very serious concerns. There is a PSA still in the works. We are also exploring our legal options for School Committee expulsions for repeat offenders. The problem is now leading to medical emergencies. The Committee and Mrs. Kohler discussed detectors and being proactive.

FY24 Preliminary Budget update

Mrs. Kohler and Mrs. Potter presented to the Town. We were asked to cut down to 2.5% increase instead of what we originally asked for. This budget was originally level service budget. We did add some components such as a security officer at the Middle School, the Unified program, Middle School Athletics, the Family Engagement Center, and a Maintenance worker. She stated that she will go with whatever the School Committee deems fit. Mr. Monroe asked when the grant funds run out. Mrs. Kohler answered that ESSER 2 runs out in September of this year and ESSER 3 ends in 2024. Mr. Monroe asked Mrs. Kohler what the percentage was that we were asking for this year. The amount we were asking for is 4.29%. The difference in the amounts is about \$400,000. We will revisit this after taking a look at it a little closer. Mr. Monroe asked what the Town's reasoning in asking for the cut was. Mrs. Kohler answered that it has to do with Prop 2.5, which means that property taxes can only go up 2.5%. However, we believe there could be an increase in Acushnet tuition and Chapter 70 funds. Mr. Monroe would like Mrs. Kohler to present at the next meeting what we will need to be able to be at level service and does the 2.5% cut into our level service budget. Mrs. Kohler also mentioned that FY23 Acushnet shared that there was an error in the figures that they had given us. The effect will be on Acushnet and not on us.

Receive update RFP for Extended Day and Summer childcare

Mrs. Kohler is looking for a committee member who might be interested in helping to review the proposals that come in. Mrs. Potter presented. We are nearing the end of the 3-year contract with Champions, our extended day program. We are out to bid for that. The proposals will be in at the end of February. Typically, it is a 3-week review to rate them, and then choose our vendor and determine pricing structure. This was an area Town Meeting voted to allow us to extend to a 5-year contract so we would do a 3 year contract with two 1 year options to extend. Mr. Veitch volunteered to be part of the selection process.

Receive Phase I - High School Project Update
■ OPM Process

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Mrs. Potter presented. We are on our third round of bidding for the Window Project. We hope to have a viable bid by the next meeting so that we can get started on the project as it needs to be completed by June. Regarding the High School project, because it is valued at over \$1.5million (we know it's about \$2.3million) an OPM (Onerous Project Manager) by Mass General Law is required. We are in the process of putting together a Request for Service for one. We will also have to go out for architecture services as well. Mrs. Potter would like a committee member to be involved with that process as well. Both Mr. Monroe and Mr. Andersen volunteered. Mrs. Potter hopes to have this out by the end of the month.

FY24 Draft School Year Calendar

Mrs. Kohler presented. This calendar is just for looking at vacation days and such. We will be presenting different options to the Committee next meeting based on feedback we have received regarding PD. This gets out of school June 7, 2024. With this calendar, Christmas break will be December 25 through January 1, 2024 with a return to school on January 2, 2024.

FY24 Draft School Committee Dates

The Committee reviewed the dates presented.

Pop Warner

Mrs. Kohler asked to pass over this item. The Committee agreed.

Receive Family Resource Center Update

Ms. Matthews and Mrs. Sullivan presented. Mrs. Sullivan gave a general overview of the growth and services being offered at the Center. Ms. Matthews presented more details. She gave an update of the use of the center over the summer. She also reviewed the needs such as housing, food, and mental health. She also helps with donations for clothing and helps students apply for jobs. She reviewed their Thanksgiving baskets donations. She stated we were able to help 117 families over the holidays. She also reviewed donations and organizations that have supported the center. The Committee had a discussion regarding all the possibilities for the Family Engagement Center.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: March 8, 2023

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business.

There will be Executive Session to discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiation with non-union personnel 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, 6-0, unanimously. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andersen, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Kuechler.

Adjourned at 7:35p.m.



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