

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 14, 2022

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Veitch – with prior notice

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

STAFF ABSENT: Mr. Balestracci

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community and staff; Mr. Kulak, Mrs. Allaire, Nathan Deslauriers

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2022 was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously, 4-0-1, Mr. Andersen abstained.

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

Mr. Monroe spoke of athletics, honor society, and other happenings at FHS. Ms. DaCunha also commented on Athletics, clubs, field trips, and the music festival.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Receive presentation from FHS Unified Program

Mr. Kulak presented. He stated that Fairhaven High School was recently recognized as a National Banner School, by the Special Olympics, one of 12 in Massachusetts, and one of 166 in the country. Mrs. Allaire presented a history of the Unified program at Fairhaven High School and how far it has come. The Committee commented on the growth of the program and how they hope to help it continue.

Receive presentation from FHS student Nathan Deslauriers on his Eagle Scout Project for FHS

Mr. Kulak introduced Nathan Deslauriers, a junior at Fairhaven High School. He stated that Mr. Deslauriers had approached the administrative team at the end of last year. Mr. Deslauriers presented his Eagle Scout project. It is an Emergency Lockdown Bucket. Among many items, each bucket contains items such as tape, toilet paper, door stops, and gloves.

Receive update on concerns regarding Vaping/Smoking Concerns

Mrs. Kohler presented. She stated this is an ongoing issue, not only in Fairhaven, but nationwide. She stated a PSA will be going out for families to bring it to their attention. She spoke of a lawsuit against the vaping companies. She would like to join the lawsuit. She hopes that it may be able to help pay us back for some of the monitors and other things we have purchased preventatively. Motion to join the lawsuit against the vaping companies made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, 5-0, unanimously.

Receive update regarding FY24 Budget Process

Mrs. Kohler presented. She indicated a desire to stay transparent with the Committee and the community. The Committee was presented with schedules. The schedules and timelines were reviewed. Mrs. Kuechler and Mr. Bueno discussed the possibility of inviting the Finance Committee to the School Committee meetings to help remain transparent and clarify any questions.

Receive update on Capital Improvement Projects

Mrs. Kohler presented. The first update is that New Bedford Voc should be working with us on by January to give us the plans for the High School project. The other update is that we should be receiving bid documents in early February for the preservation project at the High School. The CPC Committee has been ongoing. Spencer Preservation and Mrs. Potter have discussed whether or not it will broaden or offset. We hope that we can broaden the project, possibly extending to the slate roof.

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 14, 2022

PAGE 2

■ EHMS Roof Project

Mrs. Kohler presented. We were going to bring it forward to the Capital Improvement Committee. However, Ms. Lopes-Ellison suggested it should be its own article at Town Meeting as she is leaning towards a borrowing action. She believes it may be too large a project to put through Capital Improvement.

■ LeRoy L. Wood Elementary School playground surface

Mrs. Kohler presented. The Town has approved using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to fund the entire resurfacing.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: January 11, 2023

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Vote to Surplus 2012 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD (Needs complete overhaul).

Motion made to Surplus 2012 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD (Needs complete overhaul) made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Vote to Surplus broken milk cooler - East Fairhaven.

Motion made to Surplus broken milk cooler - East Fairhaven made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved, 5-0, unanimously.

Vote to accept \$132,840 in grant funds for the Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health and Wellness (311).

Mrs. Kohler presented. Our new Special Education Director applied for a grant and we were given \$50000 for a mental health screener and give us supports such as a consultant to build our program and have a defined curriculum. Motion made to accept \$132,840 in grant funds for the Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health and Wellness (311) made by Mr. Andersen, seconded by Mr. Bueno, 5-0, unanimously.

Vote to award the FHS Library Wood Window Restoration project to Westmill Preservation.

The Committee agreed to pass over this item.

Ms. McKenna spoke regarding her attendance at the VocTech Fairhaven Day on November 14, 2022. She stated that it was a very nice experience that was specifically for Fairhaven.

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. Andersen, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Ms. Kuechler.

Adjourned at 7:29p.m.



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