

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 26, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bueno, Mr. Andersen – Via Zoom, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Pickup -via Zoom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Monroe – with prior notice

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

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community and staff

Mr. Veitch read the recording policies for the meeting.

Mr. Veitch asked for a motion to suspend the rules of the regular session. Motion to suspend the rules and move into the public budget hearing made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved unanimously by matter of roll call vote: Mr. Andersen, Ms. Pickup, Mr. Bueno, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, 5-0.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Veitch at 6:33pm. There was no Public Comment for the Budget Hearing. Motion to adjourn public budget hearing and move in to regular session at 6:34pm made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved unanimously by matter of roll call vote: Mr. Andersen, Ms. Pickup, Mr. Bueno, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, 5-0.

The regular session meeting was called to order at 6:37pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from April 12, 2023 was made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Mr. McKenna, approved unanimously by matter of roll call vote: Mr. Andersen, Ms. Pickup, Mr. Bueno, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, 5-0

Report of the Student Advisory Committee

There student representatives were not in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Receive FY24 Preliminary Budget update

Mrs. Kohler presented. She shared the latest recommendation regarding the \$200,000 cut. The figures reflected the original proposed budget, and the revised figures for FY24. She stated that there are reductions out of operational costs. There is a reduction in monies out of district leadership and administration, professional development, instructional technology, transportation services (this is an offset of PreK tuition), student athletics and student activities (Middle School Athletics), and 1 teaching position out of the salary line. This will allow us to keep the Family Center which we have found to be needed. This means that if the cut is made, we will make it work but, in the future, we may not be able to fund the activities and programs that seem to be in demand. The teaching position that may be cut is the art teacher at the middle school. It has been difficult to fill, and we have had to absorb that into other electives, and that may lead to larger class sizes in those areas. The formula has shifted and while we are down in enrollment, the needs of the students we have were taken into consideration in the shift. The thought was to embed the ESSER funded programs into the budget with SOA yearly increases, but this won't be possible given the cuts and coming so close to net school spending. The Select Board and FinComm have voted for us to receive the \$200,000 cut, and that would not allow us to have our full budget. If the override does not go through, the Budget will be subject to the \$200,000 cut. If the override goes through, we get the full budget. Mrs. Kohler reiterated that we have a problem with Net School Spending, and if we don't hit it, there will be penalties. The Committee Members offered their thoughts on the budget and the cuts. There was a discussion regarding Middle School Athletics and Mr. Balestracci stated that there were about 84 student athletes at the Middle School signed up for spring athletics. Mr. Andersen asked how close to Net School Spending. Mrs. Potter stated we will be at about 1% above Net School Spending. These numbers are based off of FY23 numbers as FY24 hasn't been released yet. Mr. Andersen asked about the fines. Mrs. Kohler stated that it could be a warning up to \$100,000 fine, or a percent of your budget. The Committee plans to discuss more in depth and certify their budget at the next meeting as well as Town Meeting.

Special Education Adjustments

Mrs. Kohler presented. She stated that by April 1 we could have move ins and changes in student placements. We have the Special Education Stabilization funds that we have had to use in the past. She stated that we are going to have to use it again this year. Since the original numbers were presented, we have had 2 students go residential and 2 move ins. As a result we are going to yield a \$281,000 increase in our cost in Special

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Education. We have about \$385,000 in the Stabilization funds. It does not offset our budget and it is to pay for the ins and outs of our special education program.

Receive Facilities projects updates

Receive EHMS Roof Update

Mrs. Potter presented. She stated that we started the interview process for the OPM for the Middle School project this week. She hopes to have the process wrapped up by the end of the week or early next week to get the process moving.

Fairhaven High School - Phase I OPM update

Mrs. Potter presented. She stated that we have received proposals for the OPM. We will be evaluating the proposals for the OPM at the High School Historical Restoration Project after we wrap up the Middle School roof OPM process. She explained what an OPM is. An OPM is an Owner's Project Manager. Any construction project estimated over \$1.5M the Town must appoint an OPM because we may at times have an architect or engineer that is on payroll or you must hire an outside consultant. Typically, an OPM has an architectural background or an engineering background. They are also licensed through the Inspector General's Office, and they are usually familiar with the bidding laws and other things pertaining to large scale projects.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: May 6, 2023 – Town Meeting
May 10, 2023 Regular Session School Committee

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Vote to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute the OPM contract for the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Roof. Motion made to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute the OPM contract for the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Roof made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Bueno, approved unanimously by matter of a roll call vote: Mr. Andersen, Ms. Pickup, Mr. Bueno, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, 5-0.

There will be Executive Session without a return to regular session to discuss strategic initiatives for upcoming negotiations.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session without return to regular session made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Bueno, approved, unanimously by matter of roll call vote: Mr. Andersen, Ms. Pickup, Mr. Bueno, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch, 5-0.

Adjourned at 7:25pm.



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

Approved
May 10, 2023