

**FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**August 23, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Veitch, Erik Andersen, Donna McKenna, Brian Monroe, Stephanie Pickup, Kyle Bueno

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Tara Kohler, Assistant Superintendent Mark Balestracci, School Business Manager Nicole Potter, Sheri Souza

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community via Zoom, staff members, newly appointed leadership members and their families.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Veitch at 6:33 pm.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve regular session minutes from June 14, 2023 made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, unanimously (6-0).

Motion to approve executive session minutes from June 14, 2023 made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved, unanimously (6-0).

***Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:***

Introduction of New Leadership Members:

Mrs. Kohler introduced the new Leadership Members to the Committee: Mr. Andrew Davey, Fairhaven High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Donald Joseph and Mr. John Ricciardi, Fairhaven High School Co-Athletic Directors, Mr. Kyle Alves, Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Principal, Mr. Jeremy Kennefick, Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Assistant Principal, and Ms. Nicole McNeil, Assistant Director of Student Services.

Leroy Wood Elementary School Playground Update:

Mrs. Kohler stated that the Leroy Wood Elementary School Playground has gone through the final processing and has been approved by the County Commissioners and will be going out to bid. It will be one solid color because it will last longer, comes with a better warranty, and is more cost effective.

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Roof Update:

Mr. Balestracci updated the Committee on the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Roof. The project is about ninety seven percent complete. It will not affect the start of school and student learning in any way. It will be done by our substantial completion date with only minor items left over to complete.

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Tennis Courts Update:

Mrs. Kohler shared a photo (Attachment A) of the newly renovated tennis courts at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School. The project was funded by the Fairhaven Tennis Association.

Received and Placed on file: Fairhaven High School Handbook:

Mrs. Kohler noted that with the exception of the middle school handbook, the only changes made to the handbooks were in order to align with the new laws that have to do with discipline. Mr. Monroe noted he is in full support of the hand book's rule regarding electronics in the classroom.

***Upcoming Events:***

Opening of School:

Mrs. Kohler introduced the new school year calendar (Attachment B). The new calendar will designate half days and some events ahead of time. No objections were made by the committee on the new format of the calendar.

Mrs. Kohler gave a brief update on hiring. There have been 36 new hires. Some of the vacant positions were due to some moving from one school to another. Mrs. Kohler is happy with the hiring this year. The new teacher orientation was very positive. Mr. Balestracci appreciates the tremendous effort the principals put in. He also stated the candidates are excited to come to our District. Mrs. Pickup asked about the secretarial positions moving forward. Mrs. Kohler stated that they are in the middle of impact bargaining. Mrs. Kohler also noted the bus routes will be posted, they are balanced and the bus stops remain the same.

The Special Town Meeting will be held on November 13, 2023. Mrs. Kohler stated we have no articles in this Town Meeting.

The next School Committee meeting will be held September 13, 2023.

***New Business:***

Motion made to surplus equipment (Attachment C) made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, approved (6-0).

Motion made to establish the Class of 2027 Student Activities Account by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved (6-0).

Vote to Approve Elementary and Middle School Handbooks:

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 14, 2023

PAGE 2

Mrs. Pickup commented on the Elementary schools handbook stating she believes the vaccine policy may be incorrect. Mrs. Kohler stated she will look into that. Mrs. Pickup also commented on a section of the handbook referring to sex education not being consistent with the verbiage from the High School handbook. Mrs. Kohler will check with legal regarding the concern. Mrs. Kohler mentioned that the word scholar has been changed to the word students in order to keep the terminology consistent throughout the District. Mr. Alves also made some changes to the discipline portion of the handbook to include the verbiage “up to” and “including” which aligns with the laws. Mr. Monroe encouraged Mr. Alves to review the Honor Society requirements within the next couple of years.

Motion made to approve the amended versions of the Leroy Wood Elementary School and East Fairhaven Elementary School handbooks was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved (6-0).

Motion made to approve the amended version of the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School handbook was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved (6-0).

Motion made to accept a donation of photo equipment from Brahmin Leather LLC (Attachment D) by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approved (6-0).

Motion made to approve the 23-24 lunch rates (Attachment E) by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved (6-0).

Questions from Individual Committee Members:

Ms. Pickup asked for an update on the Family Center. Mrs. Kohler will add this to a future agenda.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved, unanimously (6-0).

Adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Attachments:

- A. Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Tennis Courts
- B. New School Year Calendar
- C. Surplus List
- D. Brahmin Equipment Donation
- E. Lunch Rate Memo

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

Approved September 13, 2023





# FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August/September 2023 (22 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
28	29	30	31	1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October 2023 (20 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November 2023 (19 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

December 2023 (16 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

January 2024 (20 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February 2024 (16 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

March 2024 (20 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April 2024 (17 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May 2024 (22 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

June 2024 (8 days)				
M	T	W	T	F
GRADUATION JUNE 2nd				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

## 2023 - 2024

IMPORTANT DATES	
August 28 & 29	Teacher Orientation Days / No School for Students
August 30	First Day Students / Grades 1 - 12
September 1	First Day Students / Grades PreK & K
September 4	Labor Day
October 6	PD Day / No School for Students
October 9	Columbus Day
October 12	PD Day / Early Release for Students
November 10	Veteran's Day
November 20 & 21	Early Release / Elementary Students Only
November 22	Early Release
November 23 & 24	Thanksgiving Break
December 14	PD Day / Early Release for Students
December 25 - January 1	Christmas Vacation
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 16	PD Day / No School for Students
February 8	PD Day / Early Release for Students
February 19 - February 23	Winter Vacation
March 14	PD Day / Early Release for Students
March 29	Good Friday
April 15 - 19	Spring Vacation
May 17	Prom / Early Release FHS Only
May 27	Memorial Day
May 31	Junior Day / Early Release FHS Only
June 2	FHS Class of 2024 Graduation
June 12	180 <sup>th</sup> Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 20	185 <sup>th</sup> Day



180 school days are mandatory.

We note the 185<sup>th</sup> day so you may plan to be available for additional school days due to possible school closures.

Please be advised, the school calendar is subject to change due to emergency closing, inclement weather, and other unforeseen occurrences which may require the rescheduling of the established student attendance days.

Parents and staff should plan accordingly.

School Calendar  
Adopted by School Committee: 4/12/2023

## FPS Surplus Items

School	Type of Device	Number of Items	Reason for Surplus	Notes
EHMS	Acer Laptops	35	Outdated	
EHMS	Asus Laptops	5	Outdated	
EHMS	HP laptop	1	Damaged	
East	Macbook Pro	1	Outdated	
East	Microsoft Surface Pro 3	1	Outdated	
East	Microsoft Surface Pro 4	1	Outdated	
East	Desktop all-in ones	3	Outdated	
East	Dell Desktop 745 Optiplex	1	Outdated	
East	iMac dsektops- art	4	Outdated	
East	Ipad Mini (Nurse)	1	Outdated	
East	Macbook Air (Long-Roise)	1	Outdated	
EHMS	Microsoft Surace Pro 4	1	Outdated / Damaged	
EHMS	ipad	4	Outdated	
LWS	Macbook Pro	1	Outdated / Damaged	
EHMS	Phones	60	Replaced	
LWS	Phones	55	Replaced	
FHS	Phones	150	Replaced	
EFS	Phones	50	Replaced	
Ad Center	Phones	12	Replaced	
FHS	Macbook Pro	1	Outdated	
FHS	AIO's	20	Outdated	
FHS	Workstations	14	Outdated	
FHS	Monitors	30	Outdated	
FHS	Sound system	3	Broken/Outdated	
FHS	Printers	3	Broken/Outdated	
FHS	Laptops	4	Outdated/Damagaed	
East	Broken Food Steamer	1	Damaged	Zero Value
FHS	Chair-cushioned	6	good - maroon cushion	
FHS	Computer table-5 side angle	1	fair	
FHS	Computer table-green top	31	good	
FHS	Computer table-half round	1	good	
FHS	Computer table-tan/brown top	23	good	
FHS	Computer table-white top	5	good	
FHS	Display Case-aluminum	2	fair	
FHS	File cabinet-2 drawer	1	fair	
FHS	File cabinet-3 drawer	1	fair	
FHS	File cabinet-4 drawer	1	fair	
FHS	Laptop cart	1	good	
FHS	Magazine display-rotate	1	fair	
FHS	Plexiglass desk barriers	multiple	good - various sizes	
FHS	Stools-wood	2	fair	
FHS	Table-rectangle	3	fair	
FHS	Table-rectangle-folding	1	good	
FHS	Table-rectangle-green top	2	good	
FHS	Table-round	2	peeling top	
FHS	Table-round-green top	1	good	
FHS	Table-round-white top	1	good	
FHS	Table-square	1	good	
FHS	TV Cart	2	outdated	
FHS	VCR cart	1	good	
FHS	Whiteboard	1	fair	
FHS	Fridge	1	old / damaged	

# BRAHMIN

To: Christine Neville – Fairhaven High School Photo Department

From: Brahmin Leather LLC. Photo Studio

We would like to let it be known that the photo studio at Brahmin Leather would like to make an equipment donation for the betterment of the photo program at Fairhaven High School. We no longer have a use for the equipment but hope that it might help further the education of your photography students. The equipment we would like to donate is as follows:

- (4) Calumet Travelite 750R Monolights
- (2) Bowens Gemini GM500R Monolights
- (2) Bowens replacement flash tubes
- (7) Bowens Reflectors
- (1) Sekonic Light Meter
- (3) Flash Sync Cords
- (4) Bowens Speed Rings
- (2) Westcott Apollo Softboxes

We very much hope you can find a good home for this equipment and that the students will enjoy learning to use it.

Thank You –

Rachel Rednor: Photo Studio Manager.

Adam Clear: Equipment Manager / Studio Photographer.

Office of the Superintendent  
**FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
128 Washington Street  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Phone: 508-979-4000  
Fax: 508-979-4149  
Website: [www.fairhavenps.org](http://www.fairhavenps.org)



**Tara M. Kohler**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Mark L. Balestracci**  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

**Nicole V. Potter**  
School Business Manager

**Tanya L. Dawson**  
Director of Student Services

*Memo:*

*To: Fairhaven School Committee*  
*From: Tara Kohler, Superintendent of Schools*  
*Date: August 23, 2023*  
*Re: Proposed Food Service Prices*

*Fairhaven School Committee Members,*

*Below are the recommended breakfast and lunch prices for your approval.*

*As you know, Lunch prices must balance within the equity tool within a certain threshold. This year we need to be around an average of \$3.55. The increases below will put us at \$3.54. Since meals are free for students, this will only apply to second meals purchased by students.*

*Increase elementary student lunch from \$3.00 to \$3.25*  
*Increase secondary student lunch from \$3.50 to \$3.75*  
*Increase breakfast from \$1.50 to \$2.00*  
*Increase Adult meal price from \$4.00 to \$4.50*

*Sincerely,*

*Tara M. Kohler*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

*TMK/ss*