

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 13, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Veitch , Brian Monroe, Erik Andersen, Donna McKenna, Stephanie Pickup, Nicole Pacheco

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community, parents, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) members

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Veitch at 6:32 pm.

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

Delegations, Visitors, Etc.

Members from the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School (EHMS) PTO.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve regular session minutes from November 15, 2023 made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved (6-0).

Motion to approve executive session minutes from November 15, 2023 made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approved (6-0).

Report of the Student Advisory Committee:

Ms. DeCunha updated the committee on the Fairhaven High School (FHS) Athletics and Club Activities.

Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

Planning for Success Dates / Plans

Mrs. Kohler reiterated she was looking for one or two School Committee members to volunteer to sit on the Planning for Success team for improvement. The team will meet Wednesday mornings around 9:30 am. The commitment is three meetings between now and June. Mrs. Pacheco and Ms. McKenna volunteered, and Mrs. Pickup will be the alternate.

School Committee Retreat (Dates)

Mrs. Kohler would like to utilize the months that have two meetings, using the second date as the retreat dates. January 24th, March 27th, May 22nd, and June 26th are the second meetings within those months. We will go out for bids, and confirm three out of the four dates.

Fairhaven High School Superbowl Division Six Champions

This was the first time the Fairhaven Football team has won a true State Championship. They will come in front of the School Committee in January for an award presentation. The Select Board will be doing a proclamation for the team on Monday, December 18, 2023. Mrs. Potter has created an account with the Town for donations towards Superbowl rings, etc. Possibly having a ring ceremony in the future.

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School Athletics Funding

Mrs. Kohler explained that Athletics at EHMS is important to the District. Our hope is to be able to offer something, but through different means. Ms. Jen Paulino from the PTO addressed the Committee stating they are fundraising and looking into grants to help support this cause. Mrs. Kohler stated she intends to ask for a full budget again this year, even though they were told no last year because this is what is right for kids. Mrs. Kohler also mentioned she will be going to some PTO meetings to get a sense of where things are. Mr. Monroe encourages parents to become involved, becoming Town Meeting members to help vote on the budget allocation. Mrs. Kohler stated she will put the District's value statement forward when presenting the budget and \$12,000 to fund activities gives a bunch of kids a great experience. Mrs. Pickup stated the PTO can possibly engage small businesses. Her business sponsors Pop Warner and her business would be happy to donate, the PTO can reach out to her directly and can help get other businesses to jump on board as well.

Facilities

Fairhaven High School Storage Shed at Alumni Field

Mrs. Kohler shared photos (Attachment A) of the progress made on the storage shed at Alumni Field stating the footings are there and the slab will be down soon.

Leroy Wood Elementary School Playground

Mrs. Potter noted it has been two years in the making, trying to secure funding for this project. They just received approval at the end of the Summer. The project had to go out to bid twice due to the bids going over budget. We have now secured a bid and the contract should be signed at the end of the week with an anticipated start date of May. The swings have been ordered since August. It's a supply issue and she will continue to contact the vendor weekly for an update. Other items need to be replaced as well, the new surface has to be poured first. They are aware of all the issues and are working on them as fast as they can.

Community Preservation Committee And Capital Planning Requests

Mrs. Kohler stated she presented at both the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and the Capital Planning Committee meetings. The School Department asked for the roof above the boiler at FHS to be repaired. This was originally part of Phase II of the FHS repairs, but has failed sooner than expected. She also stated they asked for a replacement truck for plowing and sanding needs. Both scored very well in the Capital Planning meeting. They also requested a replacement elevator for FHS because the parts are no longer made for the existing elevator. We are trying to get ahead of that need. Mr. Monroe asked about the EHMS fencing, where there are portions of it that need repair. Mrs. Kohler agreed and noted that at

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the Capital Planning meeting, they need to get into a process of planning out five years of projects with the Town. Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison was trying to move in that direction, but this hasn't taken place yet. The committee agreed to meet in January and set a new criteria.

Draft Budget Timeline

Mrs. Kohler communicated that the Town has dates established for their process. The District's process will be the same as it has been. At the January meeting we will look at and discuss the drafted numbers. Then work and finalize it before going to the Finance Committee and the Select Board. To remind everyone of the process, first at the school level, the different departments put their requests into the principals, the principals put in the formal requests with the District. The District then puts it all together, to present to the School Committee.

Upcoming Events:

The next School Committee meeting will be held January 10, 2023.

Unfinished Business:

Acushnet School Committee Update:

Mr. Vietch stated he has not received a response back from Acushnet. Mrs. Kohler will be reaching out to the Acushnet Superintendent of Schools to see if they would still like to have a conversation. Mrs. Kohler also noted that FHS created a video for the eighth graders potentially coming into the school. It was well done, she will share with the committee.

New Business:

Motion to approve a donation of \$500.00 from the Fairhaven Rotary Club to the FHS Band made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved(6-0).

Motion to approve a donation of \$300.00 from the Fairhaven Rotary Club to the East Fairhaven Elementary School (EAST) Band of Brothers made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved (6-0).

Motion to approve a donation of \$300.00 from the Fairhaven Rotary Club to the EAST Sole Sisters made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved(6-0).

Motion to establish an activity account for the FHS Girl Up Club made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved(6-0).

Motion to approve a donation of \$3000.00 from the Fitzgerald Family Foundation to the FHS Girl Up Club made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved(6-0).

Motion to approve a t-shirt donation from the Robby Thatcher Memorial Fund for the FHS Football team made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, approved(6-0).

Questions from Individual Committee Members:

Mrs. Pickup stated she had a question on behalf of her company. They asked to get a copy of the plans regarding the roofing on the storage facility in order to donate. Mrs. Kohler acknowledged that Mr. Balestracci will get them to her as soon as the updated version is available.

Mr. Andersen congratulated the EHMS PTO on the fair that took place. It looked as though it was a great success.

Mrs. Pickup stated Brian Tillot painted a beautiful mural at the Roger's School. She thanked Mr. Tillet for his time and talent.

Mr. Monroe thanked the Administration for all the hard work.

Mrs. Pacheco stated her eighth grader was thrilled to attend the tour at FHS. FHS did a great job with the event.

Motion to adjourn and go into Executive Session, not returning to open session, to discuss non-union strategic negotiations made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Andersen, roll call vote, approved, (6-0).

Adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Sheri Souza
Secretary to the School Committee
Fairhaven Public Schools



