

**FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**February 7, 2024**

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Student Advisory Member Fin Reynolds

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Veitch at 6:31 pm.

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

***Delegations, Visitors, Etc.***

Mrs. Marlene Sabeh, College & Career Coordinator Fairhaven High School (FHS)

***Approval of Minutes***

Motion to approve regular session minutes from January 10, 2024 made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approved with one abstention. (5-0-1).

Motion to approve executive session minutes from January 10, 2024 made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approved with one abstention. (5-0-1).

***Report of the Student Advisory Committee:***

Mr. Reynolds spoke about recent FHS athletics, as well as club updates.

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

***Receive Update on FY25 Budget:***

Mrs. Potter told the committee that they are still working on the analysis of having a substantially separate room at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School (EHMS) versus sending kids out of district. Things are really in flux right now with the significant increases in special education costs. She hopes to have the update at the next meeting. Mrs. Potter also stated she received an email from Assistant Town Administrator of Finance/Town Accountant, Anne Carreiro stating the vehicle replacement on the Capital Plan has moved forward to being recommended. Mrs. Potter was also notified by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) that they are also recommending the boiler replacement. Mrs. Potter also stated they put together an article for Town Meeting to see if the Town will appropriate \$34,000 to the Special Education Stabilization Fund. By law we are allowed to have up to 2% net school spending in that account. \$34,000 is the difference between what is currently in the account and what the 2% net school spending number is.

***Receive Update on Innovation Pathway Grant:***

Mr. Balestracci stated we are in the final process of applying for our Innovation Career Pathway Designation. Innovation Career Pathways were created by DESC and are designed to give students coursework and real world experience in an area identified by the Regional Workforce Board. Mr. Balestracci introduced Mrs. Marlene Sabeh, College and Career Coordinator at FHS. Mrs. Sabeh shared a presentation on Innovation Pathways (Attachment A).

***Receive Update on Policy Subcommittee:***

Mr. Balestracci updated the committee regarding the Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee has narrowed focus on how to tackle the review. He will be using information from MASC to help guide. He will update the School Committee as they move forward.

***Receive Update Regarding the 2024-2025 School Calendar:***

Mr. Balestracci stated he is in the process of gathering feedback regarding the 2024-2025 school year calendar. He will present the School Committee with two options to vote on at the March meeting.

***Receive Update on School & District Report Card:***

Mr. Balestracci presented the School & District report card (Attachment B) to the Committee and explained how to navigate the data.

***Receive Update on FHS Storage Shed:***

Mr. Balestracci updated the Committee on the progress of the storage shed at FHS. The final pouring of the slab will happen tomorrow and the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School (GNBVT) Electrical department will visit the site next week and assess needs.

***Receive Update Regarding FPS Planning for Success:***

Mr. Balestracci updated the Committee on the first Planning for Success meeting that took place on January 31, 2024. We established a 34 member team composed of the Committee, administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and students. The facilitator is Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner who is Mrs. Kohler's superintendent coach. We will be surveying and gathering more data over the coming weeks. This is something that is very worthwhile and will help us chart our course for the next three years.

***Upcoming Events:***

The next School Committee meeting will be held March 13, 2024.  
Possible School Committee retreat scheduled for March 27, 2024

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***Unfinished Business:***

*Acushnet School Committee Update:*

Mr. Veitch informed the committee that there had been a meeting with the Acushnet School Superintendent, Acushnet School Business Manager, Acushnet School Committee representatives, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Balestracci, and himself. He will update the committee on the details of that meeting once he updated and discussed the requests with Mrs. Kohler.

***New Business:***

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to allow the Town of Fairhaven Recreation Center to rent the turf field for a soccer camp the week of July 15, 2024 seconded by Ms. Pickup, approved (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to allow the Old Rochester youth lacrosse group to rent the turf field for lacrosse practices and games from March 2024 - June 2024, seconded by Ms. Pickup, approved (6-0)

***Questions from Individual Committee Members:***

Mrs. Pickup stated she would like to push for the Donor's Choose policy to be reviewed again for teachers to pursue projects and things for their classrooms. She stated how great the community responded to the fundraising at EHMS and believes individuals would like to support academic programs in our schools as well. She believes it's a great way to supplement funding in our school's noting all the current budget issues. She mentioned it was talked about at the subcommittee meeting and would like to bring it to the School Committee. Mr. Monroe stated if it is something the District would like to take on, it should be standardized across the District. He went on to say there should be a policy, an approval process, etc.

Mr. Monroe stated he can no longer commit to being a liaison for the School Committee on the Finance Policy Review Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to nominate Mrs. Pickup to the Finance Policy Review Committee, Ms. McKenna seconded the motion, approved (6-0).

Mr. Veitch stated that at the meeting with the Acushnet School Committee, Acushnet has been talking to Old Rochester Regional (ORR) as a possible supplement to Fairhaven, citing more programs, AP classes, etc. He stated a lot of the issues revolving around budget, resources, programs, staff, and access to things they believe Fairhaven kids have. There is some frustration on their part, and he noted there is also frustration on our part, as we also want to offer more programs, etc. for all students. Mr. Veitch asked the Committee to note how important that relationship is while discussing the budget. We want to provide for all our kids, and their kids are also our kids.

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

Adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Sheri Souza  
Secretary to the School Committee  
Fairhaven Public Schools



# PROGRAM

## Fairhaven High School Innovation Pathways-Business & Finance -Program Guide-

2024-2025 Launching



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**ELIGIBILITY/APPLICATION  
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# INTRODUCTION

Fairhaven High School is proud to introduce the three-year Innovation Pathways Program in the sector of Business and Finance geared towards students interested in business and finance careers.

Students will acquire information, coursework (2 technical classes and 2 advanced classes), industry recognized credentials, and complete a comprehensive 100-hour internship at a local bank.

Students will also have the opportunity to acquire dual enrollment (transferable) credits.





# YEAR 1-OVERVIEW

**>Students typically enter the program in sophomore year\*. During this year, they enroll in Algebra II, Computer Applications/Microsoft Office 365-2019 (meeting the technical class requirement) on the Edgenuity online learning platform, and Programming I & II (optional).**

**>In addition, participants will complete in-class MyCAP lessons, job shadowing assignments (trips to local businesses), and sit for the Microsoft Office Specialist Certification exams (optional). The Microsoft Office Specialist exams entail getting certified in Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Excel.**

***\*The program will allow several entry points, to accommodate all interested students.***





# YEAR 2-OVERVIEW

**Students will be enrolled in one technical class\* and one advanced class\*\*, both integrated in their regular schedule.**

## **\*Technical Classes:**

**-Economics (Opportunity to obtain QuickBooks Certification)**

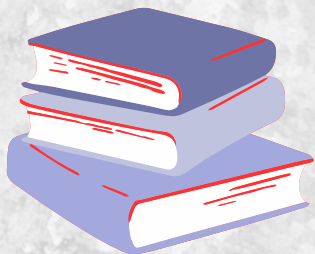
**Students are also encouraged to take *Data Science as an enriching course that offers the Bank Teller Certification***

## **\*\*Advanced Classes:**

**-Principles of Accounting (Bristol Community College)**

**-Principles of Management (Bristol Community College)**

**-Introduction to Business (Massachusetts Maritime Academy)**





# YEAR 3-OVERVIEW

**Students will be enrolled in one technical class\* and one advanced class\*\***

**\* List of Technical Classes:**

- Economics (Opportunity to obtain QuickBooks Certification)--If not completed in Year 1.**
- Financial Literacy & Consumerism (Opportunity to obtain Money Smart Certificate of completion)**
- Data Science(*Enriching class* offering the opportunity to obtain Bank Teller Certification)-if not completed in Year 1**

**\*\* List of Advanced Classes:**

- AP Statistics**
- Any of the dual enrollment classes from Year 2**

**In addition, students will complete one 100-hour internship at the Southcoast Federal Credit Union (at any of the six branches)**





# ENROLLMENT

**Fairhaven High School is committed to ensuring equitable access to all students: If you are a 9th grade aiming to explore careers in Business and Finance, submit an application in April 2024 to join the program in 2024-2025.**

**The application is available in the Guidance Suite and on the Innovation Pathways website in English and Spanish.**

**Please check with College and Career Coordinator for more information:**

**Ms. Marlene Sabeh**

**msabeh@fairhavenps.net**

**508-784 7442**







# Enhanced Support



**Support and assistance are available to ALL participants throughout the program.**

**Weekly Office Hours will be held**

**When: Every Monday, Period 1 and Every Friday, Period 6**

**Where: Office of College and Career Coordinator  
Ms. Sabeh (Guidance Suite)**

**The program is offered at NO COST to students and their families!**

**NO GPA Requirement! Apply today!**

## 2023 District Report Card



Families and communities are critical partners to a district's success. Just as a student's report card shows how they are performing, the district report card shows how a district is performing in multiple areas. It shows the district's strengths and the challenges that need to be addressed to ensure the district is meeting the needs of all students.

### Fairhaven

**Superintendent**

Tara M Kohler

**Grades Served**

PK,K,01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,10,11,12

**Website**

[www.fairhavenps.org/](http://www.fairhavenps.org/)

**Address**

126 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

**Phone**

508-979-4000

**Title I Status**

Title I District

- ▶ Who are our students and teachers?
- ▶ What academic opportunities are available to our students?
- ▶ What do student attendance and discipline look like in our district?
- ▶ How prepared are our students for success after high school?
- ▶ How do our students perform on state tests?
- ▶ How much does our district spend per student?
- ▶ How is our district doing in the state's accountability system?

[View our 2022 report card](#)

▶ How is our district doing in the state's accountability system?

**Accountability**

An accountability system brings together a set of measures in order to provide clear, actionable information about district and school performance. In Massachusetts, accountability results are calculated using information related to student performance on state tests, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion.

**Progress Toward Improvement Targets**

Massachusetts sets annual improvement targets for every district and school. Targets are set for achievement, growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion. Districts and schools with a target percentage of 75% or higher are considered to be meeting or exceeding targets.



**Overall Classification**

Massachusetts uses information related to progress toward improvement targets, accountability percentiles, graduation rates, and MCAS participation rates to determine each district and school's overall classification. Most districts and schools are placed into two categories: those that require assistance or intervention from the state, and those that do not require assistance or intervention. Districts and schools that are new or very small are classified as having "insufficient data."



**Student Achievement**

The percentage of students scoring at each achievement level on the English language arts, mathematics, and science MCAS tests.

All Students

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (GRADES 03-08)

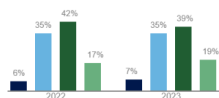
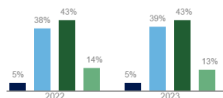
MATHEMATICS (GRADES 03-08)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (GRADE 10)

MATHEMATICS (GRADE 10)

SCIENCE (GRADES 05 AND 08)

SCIENCE (GRADE 10)



■ Exceeding Expectations ■ Meeting Expectations ■ Partially Meeting Expectations ■ Not Meeting Expectations

[View more detailed achievement data](#) | [View Massachusetts NAEP data](#) | [View ACCESS for ELLs data](#)

**Student Progress**

Student growth measures the amount of academic progress a student made over the year, based on MCAS. It compares a student's MCAS performance to other students with similar past MCAS scores. Growth is reported on a scale from 1 to 99, with lower numbers representing lower progress and higher numbers representing higher progress. An average growth score between 40 and 60 means that the district or school is making typical progress.

Note: In fall 2021, DESE began reporting information for the low-income students group and no longer reports data for the economically disadvantaged student group.

All Students

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (GRADES 03-08)

MATHEMATICS (GRADES 03-08)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (GRADE 10)

MATHEMATICS (GRADE 10)

