

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

Regular Meeting

DATE: April 9, 2007

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Foxborough High School Media Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mss. Kominsky, Lord, Adair and Slattery, Mr. Harrington

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Paul Jackson, Dr. Jan M. Norton and Dr. Ingrid Allardi

Ms. Slattery called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. Mr. Harrington requested that the School Committee go into executive session after open session to conduct strategy sessions for negotiations with non-union personnel, after which the Committee would not be returning to open session.

Visitors

Mr. Chuck Drayton, 109 Mill Street, addressed the Committee to thank them for allowing the Friends of Camp St. Augustine to use Foxborough High School for a fund raising event. The funds from this event were being used for renovations, development and maintenance of the Cocasset River Recreation area. He also stated that the chapel at the recreation area has been renovated as a “classroom without walls” and was available to the schools for any educational program. Mr. Drayton also stated that he was very pleased with Dr. Chris Martes as the new superintendent of schools, who is a man with a very good reputation.

Approval of Minutes

Harrington moved; Kominsky seconded:

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 19, 2007 as amended.

Vote: 5-0-0

Harrington moved; Kominsky seconded:

Approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 23, 2007 as amended.

Vote: 4-0-1 (Lord abstaining)

READ Poster Contest Winners

Dr. Norton stated that the winners of the recently held READ Poster Contest for MCAS were here tonight to accept an award. Ms. Susan Abrams introduced the four students from the Ahern Middle School; Ms. McCarthy introduced the two winners from Burrell; Ms. Saltzman introduced the two students from Igo. Dr. Norton presented all the students with a Foxboro pen and a Barnes and Noble gift certificate. The Committee congratulated all the students.

Rose Shatz Memorial Garden, Paul McCarthy Memorial Tree Planting

Dr. Norton read a request from the family of Mr. Paul McCarthy, who recently passed away. Mr. McCarthy was a custodian at the Burrell School for many years. His family

and friends would like to donate money to purchase a tree for planting at the Burrell School in his memory. Dr. Norton also stated that the Burrell PTO would like to create a garden in memory of Miss Rose Shatz, a fourth grader who was lost in a tragic accident this year. Dr. Norton asked the School Committee to accept these two items.

Harrington moved; Lord seconded:

Accept donations to purchase a memorial tree and plant a memorial garden at the Burrell Elementary School.

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Christine Smith – Student Council Advisor of the Year.

Dr. Norton introduced Ms. Smith, a Student Council Advisor for nine years, who recently received the Henry Sullivan Advisor of the Year Award. Dr. Norton and the Committee thanked Ms. Smith for all her hard work with the Student Council.

Mathematics Program Review Team Recommendation

Ms. Andrea Plate joined the Committee to present and recommend a new math program. Ms. Plate stated that the review committee was made up of a very broad representation of people who met every other week from October 10, 2006 through March 20, 2007. She then reviewed the steps followed by the review committee, which led to their choice of program. Mr. Harrington requested specific information gathered from the twelve schools who currently use the programs and were contacted by the review team. The School Committee supports new curriculum, but would need more information to support the cost of the program.

Ms. Sabitta Chopra, advisor from Harcourt joined the Committee. She reviewed the development of this Harcourt program. She noted that professional development would be provided from the very beginning throughout the program. Dr. Norton briefly reviewed the other three programs available, noting that the professional development piece with the Think Math program would be an asset. Materials from Think Math and Everyday Math were brought to each elementary school. It was noted that the review committee voted 14-4 in favor of purchasing the Think Math program. A number of administrators and teachers addressed the Committee and noted their reasons for recommending the Think Math program, including Ms. Brunelli who addressed issues of special education.

Committee discussion continued regarding the Think Math program. The cost of the Think Math program was discussed at approximately \$75,000-76,000 plus additional support materials, the exact figure was not yet set due to a final inventory.

Dr. Norton thanked the review committee for their commitment and hard work and asked the Committee for a vote to adopt the Think Math program so that materials may be ordered and professional development could be scheduled. The Committee requested more information and asked that questions brought up tonight be answered before the Committee could take a vote. Dr. Norton stated she would send out additional information to the Committee.

Maguire Group

Mr. O'Leary updated the Committee on work needed at Foxborough High School and a proposal being done by Maguire. Mr. O'Leary hopes to have a draft shortly. It was noted that a letter of intent to the State must be done by July 31st. Mr. O'Leary will get a copy of the report to the Committee as soon as possible.

Mr. O'Leary reviewed paving problems at the Taylor School. During plowing this year, the pavement in the upper parking lot gave way. The Town will remove the asphalt, haul it away, grade the area and plant grass. This represents a cost of \$5,175, which is still in the grounds budget. Mr. O'Leary also reviewed a problem at the Burrell. The old tennis courts were removed last year, but the area is a very wet area. Mr. O'Leary would like to have the area re-graded, bring in loam and seed the area. This would be at a cost of \$6,180, which would also be covered by the grounds budget. Mr. O'Leary stated that the football field at Ahern was in very good condition, only needing some routine maintenance. There will be \$3,030 left in the grounds budget. If the maintenance work on the field exceeds this balance, he may come back to the Committee to request additional funds. There was Committee consensus to proceed on these projects.

Other Matters

Ms. Slattery referenced an article in the *Sun Chronicle* in which the search committee was accused of violating the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Slattery stated that the search committee met with Mr. Glenn Koocher of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) who walked them through the search process. Mr. Koocher advised the search committee to go into executive session to protect the privacy of each candidate. Ms. Slattery also stated that a reporter wanted to talk with a School Committee member "off the record." Ms. Slattery stated that nothing should be "off the record" and she hopes it won't happen again. Ms. Adair stated that Mr. Koocher's recommendation was followed, in which he made it clear that the search committee could not release any information.

Dr. Norton received two checks from Invensys Systems, Inc. One check for \$1,800 will be used to cover the purchase of two more sets of Cut-Pro software for Mr. Jerry Roy's art class and another check for \$2,000 will cover the purchase of this year's subscription renewal for the SolidWorks Educational Edition software for the Advanced CAD course at the high school. Dr. Norton asked the Committee to accept these checks.

Harrington moved; Lord seconded:

Accept a check for \$1,800 to purchase two more sets of Cut-Pro Software.

Vote: 5-0-0

Adair moved; Lord seconded:

Accept a check for \$2,000 to purchase this year's subscription renewal for SolidWorks Educational Edition software.

Vote: 5-0-0

Dr. Norton also stated that Invensys would be providing an engineering math course.

Ms. Abrams announced that on April 30th the Ahern Middle School would host an Evening with Joani Geltman, *Adolescent Psychology: The Parent Version*. This will be held in the auditorium, 7-9 p.m. She also announced an Ahern PAC presentation of *Coping with Anxiety in Adolescents* with Dr. Kathleen Trainor, a licensed psychologist on staff at Mass General Hospital.

Dr. Norton announced that Ms. Sarah Behn had received an award for “Women’s Legend” because she was high scorer while at FHS.

Dr. Norton told the Committee that the 7-12 ELA final figures are in their packets and will be on the next agenda.

Ms. Kominsky stated that there was a group of parents who want to continue the work started with the Drug & Alcohol Forum. A group will be formed to work on this issue and will have the first meeting on April 24, 2007, 7:00 p.m. in room 111 at Foxborough High School.

Ms. Kominsky thanked Ms. Sheila Peterson and Ms. Ellen Pillsbury for all the work they did in making sure the recent Career Day was such a success.

Harrington moved; Lord seconded:

Go into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

Vote: Lord-aye; Kominsky-aye; Adair-aye; Harrington-aye; Slattery-aye.

Adjournment: 9:55 p.m.

Attachments:

Camp St. Augustine letter

Minutes of 3-19-07, 3-23-07

McCarthy letter

Rosie’s Memorial Garden form

New article on Christine Smith award

Invensys (2) letters, re: donations

Plate memo, re: new math program

Harcourt Think Math program

Ahern School announcements (2)

Suburban Coalition 2007 position paper

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Harrington

Approved: May 21, 2007