

**School Committee Meeting**  
**March 5, 2019**  
**Administration Building**  
**6:30 PM**  
**JOINT MEETING**  
**Board of Selectmen and School Committee**  
**FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS**



<b>Members Present School Committee:</b>	<b>Members Present Selectmen:</b>
Terri Medeiros, Chair (Absent)	Sue Moran, Chair
Kelly Welch, Vice-Chair	Julian Suso, Town Administrator
Melissa Keefe, Secretary	Jennifer Petit, Finance Director
Leah Palmer (Absent)	Doug Brown
Meghan Fleck	Sam Patterson
Bill Rider	Doug Jones
Natalie Kanellopoulos	Kathleen English-Braga
Andrea Thorrold	
John Furnari	
Lori Duerr, Superintendent	
Sonia Tellier, Assistant Superintendent	
Patrick Murphy, Director of Finance and Operations	
Joan Woodward, Director of Student Services	
Sharon Reid, Recording Secretary	Steve Withrow, The Enterprise (Press)

HEARD Kelly Welch call the meeting to order 6:30 PM.

HEARD Pledge of Allegiance.

HEARD Kelly Welch recite the *Recording Statement*. Steve Withrow from the Falmouth Enterprise stated he would be taping the whole meeting for the purposes of reporting.

HEARD Sue Moran, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, state that it is important for the people of Falmouth to see how closely these two Boards work together.

PUBLIC COMMENT  
 NONE

PRESENTATION from the Carousel of Light

HEARD Troy Clarkson, President of the *Carousel of Light*, discuss a permanent site for the Carousel. They recommend the best site to be the western edge of the existing location by Mullen-Hall School for the 2020 summer. Mr. Clarkson requested that the joint Board vote to approve concept. Ms. Welch stated the board was unable to vote on the topic because it was not on the agenda.

A question and answer session followed Mr. Clarkson's presentation.

## INFORMATION

### **a. Governor's Civic Initiative**

HEARD Sonia Tellier, Assistant Superintendent, refer to the Falmouth Public Schools "Civics Learning Plan" pamphlet, which highlights civics instruction at each grade. Sue Moran, Chair of the Selectmen, asked how the Board could support the schools in this initiative. Further discussion continued.

### **b. School Building Space**

HEARD Dr. Duerr, Superintendent of Schools, give an overview of programs around the district. Additionally, she explained that as the needs of students increase so will the need for more space. School Administrators are currently discussing the move of some district-wide programs to gain space.

### **c. Field Project Update**

HEARD Patrick Murphy report that the *Groundbreaking Ceremony* for the field is scheduled for March 7, 2019. Mr. Murphy anticipates the completion will be in mid-July. The contractor for the field is *Green Acres Landscaping*.

## DISCUSSION /JOINT STRATEGY

### **a. Health Related Concerns**

HEARD Dr. Joan Woodward, Interim Director of Student Services, talk about the vaping issues in the schools and what the district is doing to help educate the parents and the students. Community Forums are scheduled for Morse Pond School, Lawrence School, and the High School. Sue Moran spoke about the importance of these efforts. Dr. Woodward also talked about the Police Trailer – *In Plain Sight*. This trailer is set up like a child's bedroom for parents to tour with a police officer to help identify types of devices used for vaping and drugs. This trailer will be available at upcoming school events. Selectman Doug Brown suggested petitioning the legislation to help. Dr. Duerr stated that would be a very positive joint strategy. Further discussion followed.

### **b. Renewable Energy Strategy**

HEARD Sonia Tellier state that she would like to connect students with the town agencies about the topic of energy. Sue Moran offered that students could work with committee members, which would provide an enormous amount of information. Committees such as the Energy Committee and the Falmouth Economic and Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC) would be a good start. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Murphy if the school district was looking at solar panels for the schools. Mr. Murphy, Director of Finance and Operations, said he would like to work with the committees to find out what buildings would be a good fit. It was mentioned that the Cape Light Compact would also be a great resource for students. Mr. Suso, Town Manager, stated that Falmouth has a new water filtration facility recently completed. Some school classes have taken tours of this state-of-the-art facility, which has won two regional awards and one national award for innovation. Through his job, John Furnari is involved with a program called *Green PATH*. This organization has many tools available for conservation, and he would be happy to share them with the schools to perform an audit.

### **Walk/Bike to School**

HEARD Andrea Thorrold state that the district would like to encourage students to walk to school. Ms. Thorrold asked how the School Department could collaborate with the Town to make the roads safer. Kathleen English-Braga stated that the Bikeways Committee has focused a lot on this topic. Additionally, people from the state can come in from DOT to share their programs and ideas with the school department. Ms. Moran stated that the Route 28 Development Committee has made progress. Ms. Moran also informed the School Committee that the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is reaching out to schools to teach students about public transportation.

## BUDGET DISCUSSION

### a. **Anticipated Future Capital Needs**

HEARD Patrick Murphy state that the work around the capital plan is very impressive and gives high praise to Jennifer Petit. Mr. Murphy also stated that we are making great progress with the construction/repair work that has been done so far in the schools. Many maintenance projects are in the works. Mr. Patterson stated that it would be wise to focus on energy conservation in the school buildings. Mr. Murphy informed the group that by the end of the summer, all schools would have new boilers. Mr. Murphy went on to say that, one of the next needs for the schools would be new furniture to provide a more collaborative work/study environment for students. The purchase of safety and security equipment is also needed. Jen Petit, Finance Director, spoke about financial strategies for the capital plan. Further discussion followed.

### b. **Chapter 70 Funding Proposal**

HEARD Bill Rider read a quote from John Adams. Mr. Rider continued to talk about Chapter 70 and the amount of reimbursement from the state. He stated that he is impressed with the coordination between the town government and the school department to draft a reasonable budget on an annual basis. Members talked about the formula to calculate funds. A legislative breakfast, sponsored by the Cape and Island Selectmen Organization, will be held this Friday at the Sea Crest Hotel in North Falmouth. Falmouth Selectmen who will attend will get more information on the subject. It is time to use our legislatures/representatives to send a clear combined message to the State House about the need of an increase of Chapter 70 funding. Discussion continued.

### c. **New Revenue**

HEARD John Furnari state we should look at a revenue split. Discussion followed.

## TRENDS in EDUCATION

HEARD Superintendent Duerr, Assistant Superintendent Tellier, Interim Director of Student Services Joan Woodward, and Patrick Murphy, Director Finance and Operations, present a PowerPoint about the *Trends in Education*. The presentation included:

- Special Education Trends
- Entitlement Funding for Student Services
- English Learner Enrollment
- Technical Pathways
- Accelerated, Advanced Learning
- Entitlement Funding for Teaching and Learning
- Student Enrollment
- School Choice: Five Year Growth
- Average Class Size Comparison
- Regional Per Pupil Cost (Patrick Murphy - Information from MA DESE - RADAR System)
- Administrative Spending
- Cape & Island Trends

HEARD Sue Moran state we are all in this together and we all want to grow the community.

HEARD Meghan English-Braga ask how we are integrating the cultural diversity into the school services we provide.

HEARD Sue Moran close the meeting stating that this joint meeting was very productive.

HEARD John Furnari commend Town Meeting Members and Finance Committee Members for all their hard work during the year.

## FOLLOW-UP

- Develop letter to legislatures
- Community Engagement (Meghan English-Braga)
  - a. Possible listening session in the schools

HEARD Doug Brown ask how can we help the families. Ms. Woodward responded that in most instances the Adjustment Counselors in the schools are made aware of the issues and they are trained to guide the families to the appropriate resources.

MOTION by Melissa Keefe to adjourn. SECONDED by John Furnari. UNANIMOUS.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:51 PM

Recording Secretary: Sharon Reid

Minutes Approved: 3/26/2019

*The following documents were included in the School Committee packet of March 5, 2019. Hard copies can be found in the Superintendent's Office or electronic copies on-line at the Town's website:*

[www.falmouthmass.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.falmouthmass.us/AgendaCenter)

- *Cape and Islands - Trends and Implications*
- *Map of the Proposed Carousel of Light for the Summer of 2020*
- *History, Social Science and Civics Education (handout and pamphlet)*
- *FHS Groundbreaking Ceremony Flier*
- *Community Forum on Anti-Vaping (3)*
- *Power Point Presentation: TRENDS in EDUCATION*