

APPROVED



# Foxborough Regional Charter School

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

January 26, 2024

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#### **Date and Time**

Friday January 26, 2024 at 8:00 AM

#### **Location**

ZOOM

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#### **Meeting Format**

Whether in person or online, the public is welcome to attend Board/Committee Meetings and have access to meeting minutes. Meetings are held once a month and additionally, as determined by the Board/Committee Chair. All meeting Agendas are posted on the school website at least 48 hours in advance of each public meeting.

During the meeting, the Board and its committees follow the published agenda. Gallery members are not part of the formal discussion or deliberations. Those wishing to speak at a meeting are asked to follow our [Privilege of the Floor Policy](#). To request to speak at a meeting, please complete the following [google form](#) before the start of the meeting.

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#### **Trustees Present**

Badawi Dweik (remote), Kathleen Crawford (remote), Matthew Yezukevich (remote), Mia Ortiz (remote), Sergio Martin (remote)

#### **Trustees Absent**

Anissia Vixamar, Todd Tetreault

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## **Guests Present**

Christine Barraford (remote), Heidi Berkowitz, Karen Calvert, Kathleen Foley

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Kathleen Crawford called a meeting of the board of trustees of Foxborough Regional Charter School to order on Friday Jan 26, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

This agenda item was tabled to the next meeting.

## **II. Board Business**

### **A. Proposal to Restructure High School Staffing for Enhanced Effectiveness**

Mr. Yezukevich reported that the Board needs to address the FinCom's proposal for adding a new staffing position at the high school into the FY25 budget. Ms. Foley, acting as Interim High School Principal, has been able to assess the needs of the high school better in two distinct areas: a) the assistant principal's role in instructional support of teachers with coaching around instructional practices; and b) the behavioral interventionist's role in support of behavioral issues in the classroom. Her proposal is to create a second assistant principal position by combining the present two interventionist positions into one. In this way the assistant principal model would offer the more effective ability to service students and teachers with the level of authority that an assistant principal has that the behavioral interventionist position does not. From a budgetary standpoint, the combining the two positions comes with a savings of \$30K.

The replacement of two behavioral interventionist positions with one assistant principal position will have a positive impact on behavior insofar as the assistant principal comes with a stronger educational skillset. While the behavioral interventionist role is directive, the assistant principal has the education and schooling to go beyond discipline and consequences to investigation and addressing bullying, social media etc. to support educational programs around those topics. Having a more in-depth knowledge of the law and more experience and knowledge of child development and age appropriateness for high schoolers comes with the ability to develop and implement support systems at a higher level. This will enable the principal and assistant principal the vision and knowledge of logistical procedures to create effective processes and procedures.

The two candidates have been chosen for the positions, and administration needs to announce the filling of these positions at the same time.

Matthew Yezukevich made a motion to eliminate the two high school behavioral interventionist position and create an assistant principal position for the FY25 school year.

Sergio Martin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Sergio Martin	Aye
Matthew Yezukevich	Aye
Kathleen Crawford	Aye
Todd Tetreault	Absent
Badawi Dweik	Aye
Anissia Vixamar	Absent
Mia Ortiz	Aye

**III. Other Business**

**A. FY25 Operating Budget**

Mr. Yezukevich began the discussion on the FY25 budget process. He stated that, insofar as enrollment numbers are required to be submitted to the state in March, the Board needs to be prepared to vote on enrollment numbers in February. Considering a steady decrease in enrollment not only at FRCS but across the state, the Board and senior leadership need to plan in advance and decide “what to do before reality tells us what to do.” In light of onboarding the new executive director and setting a realistic plan, there will be a transition period to ensure that the hiring of the new executive director is brought into consideration within the overall plan going forward.

Mr. Yezukevich added that having fewer students will have an impact on staffing, and FRCS may be in the position where revenues are lower than expenses not up to bondholder requirements. Using cash reserves to fund operating costs in the short term will need to be considered as a substantial change to the FRCS operations that the new executive director will need to address.

Ms. Berkowitz stated that she is hoping to have by the February meeting printed enrollment data from sending districts and charter schools in Boston and other data to show the landscape of the problem beyond FRCS. Mr. Yezukevich noted that the Boston Globe wrote an article about Boston Public Schools in particular that has seen a demographic decrease in enrollment from 68K in 2008 to 48K in recent years. Ms. Foley noted that that there has been an impact on enrollment across the educational spectrum including first-time freshmen and transfer students.

Discussion ensued. In response to Ms. Crawford’s suggestion of having open houses and having road shows or other means to advertise the benefits of a FRCS education, Ms.

Berkowitz confirmed that she has been in conversation with the state about going back to the early days of the charter school movement to go out and solicit families to come, and going back to the ways the charter school differentiates itself and having outreach strategies that change and reflect the needs.

Mr. Martin expressed concern about the loss of staff every year and its impact on the classroom, and the need to look at enrollment in terms of head counts to manage and support education. Building trust with teachers is of critical importance.

Mr. Yezukevich noted that funding operations from reserve to limit a negative impact on staff. Ms. Crawford noted that regulatory aspects have to be followed in retaining the best educators. The message to teachers is that they are valued and they need to trust that administration is not undermining their foundations. At any rate when decisions are made, they need to be communicated in the right way.

Ms. Calvert reported that with a projected enrollment of 1,420 the tuition per student is \$19,371 for a total of \$27,507,336.

#### IV. Closing Items

##### A. Adjourn Meeting

Matthew Yezukevich made a motion to adjourn.

Sergio Martin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

##### Roll Call

Anissia Vixamar    Absent

Sergio Martin     Aye

Kathleen Crawford Aye

Badawi Dweik     Aye

Todd Tetreault    Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Barraford

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#### Documents used during the meeting

- Foxborough Regional Charter School - Second Assistant Principal Request - Copy (1).docx

The listed matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.