

APPROVED



Foxborough Regional Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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.

Trustees Present

Anissia Vixamar (remote), Badawi Dweik (remote), Katie Breault (remote), Matthew Yezukevich (remote), Sergio Martin, Todd Tetreault (remote)

Trustees Absent

Mia Ortiz, Ryan Higgins

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

Matthew Yezukevich

Ex Officio Members Present

Toby Romer

Non Voting Members Present

Toby Romer

Guests Present

Bridget Lemieux, Christine Barraford (remote), Heidi Berkowitz, Karen Calvert, Kathleen Foley, Lesly Michelot, Neal McDonald

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

Matthew Yezukevich arrived at 6:20 PM.

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Sergio Martin called a meeting of the board of trustees of Foxborough Regional Charter School to order on Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

C. Privilege of the Floor

No privilege of the floor.

II. Leadership Report

A. Leadership Report

Mr. Romer reviewed his Executive Director Board update including the following highlights:

- Recent school events.
- International travel success.
- FRCS strategic planning update.
- Academic goals for 2025-26 school year.
- Federal and local policies.
 - Ms. Berkowitz clarified the impact of the present issue before the Supreme Court, i.e. that if religious schools are recognized as charter schools, there is no separation of church and state and would be recognized as private schools. In this case funding as a public school would be lost and would undermine the eligibility of all charter schools for state funding. The matter will be closely followed and the Board updated.

III. Board Business

A.

Athletic Department Update

Bridget Lemeux and Neal McDonald gave the following update on FRCS Charter School Activities including the following highlights:

- The journey.
- Current teams.
- The impact.

Discussion ensued. School athletic directors network with phone calls and engage in an established website portal. Mr. McDonald attended a MISADO state conference with a good representation of charter schools and provided an opportunity to network, talk about needs both within athletics and in school culture and participate in trainings and be advised of rule changes. Participation in athletics provides the opportunity to build leadership qualities, teamwork and integrity values in athletes amongst themselves and other school teams.

Mr. Martin committed the support of the Board to build the athletic department to develop the demand for participation and increase engagement across the school.

B. Solar Panel Project

Mr. Michelot introduced Tom Philbin to present his proposal for the solar project, including the following highlights:

- Solar panels for both the elementary and high school; at 360Kw for elementary and 570Kw for high school represents 60% of present consumption.
- Two options for solar supply:
 - Power purchase contract by FRCS; own system and pay monthly fixed income for twenty years; own system outright with 30% federal rebate.
 - Purchase power agreement (PPA): no out-of-pocket cost - save \$2M over life of project; all costs for installation including upgrade of electrical equipment included.

In light of the present uncertainty of continuation of the IRA federal program, Mr. Philbin recommended the "far more flexible - no brainer" option of the purchase power agreement, which avoids the high risk of the purchase route and reserves capital for future use. Mr. Philbin added that of his ten clients, nine out of ten have taken the purchase power option.

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- PPA provider - Soltek is selected by the state (no bid required) based on its competency, reputation and quality of service; state agency has reviewed and approved contractual matters and has set the standard for contract.

- Backed by banks with no risk to client and no obligation beyond ownership (lose all rights to payment.)
- Buyout clause in five years; at end of twenty years the buyout will be minimal as the system has degraded as much as 10%, however with 90% of capacity of system left.
- Technology improving as cost of panels has decreased from 2006 from \$8.00/panel to \$1.75/panel.
- Net saving of present cost of \$.16/perKw vs. \$.11-12/perKw; wth cost of electricity escalating, approximate savings in first year \$40-50K with \$100K in final year.
- First phase of installation completed in September with final phase by May 2026.

Mr. Yezekuvich stated that following the FinCom's review, it was decided to present the options to the Board for explanation of the contract terms.

He explained the position of the FinCom in favor of the leasing option. In light of the present uncertainty of federal programs and recent increase in salaries in the amount of \$1M due to union negotiations, there was reluctance to invest \$2M in a purchase agreement, thereby depleting capital reserves for unknown future needs.

Mr. Romer added that the implementation of the strategic planning process would also result in putting forward other capital needs.

Following discussion, Mr. Philbin agreed to providing a twenty-year side-by-side cost analysis of leasing vs. purchase.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Executive Director to begin negotiations on the leasing option with detailed information from Mr. Philbin as requested with no obligations. After successful FinCom review, the final contract will be referred to the Board to vote to authorize the Executive Director to execute the final leasing contract.

C. FY26 Budget

Mr. Yezukevich began the FY26 budget overview PowerPoint presentation as follows:

- High level overview - FinCom report out.

Mr. Romer:

- Overview of budget and major components.

Ms. Calvert:

- Revenue summary - significant assumptions and changes.

Mr. Michelot:

- Fee proposal update.

Mr. Romer:

- Staffing and expense summary by department.
 - Overall compensation.
 - Administration and finance.
 - Teaching/Learning and student activities.
 - Operations.
 - Benefits.
 - Capital projects.
- Additional needs considered and not funded.

Discussion ensued on adequately funding the budget in light of federal policy uncertainties, including the defunding of the Department of Education. Based on tuition numbers, a conservative, but not overly conservative, approach was taken. Mr. Yezukevich added that, in light of the strong cash position of FRCS, there was confidence to "fill the gaps if necessary" during the few years of uncertainty. Also discussed was the ability to roll over grant funding from year to year.

Matthew Yezukevich made a motion to accept the FY26 budget as presented.

Badawi Dweik seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Badawi Dweik | Aye |
| Matthew Yezukevich | Aye |
| Mia Ortiz | Absent |
| Anissia Vixamar | Aye |
| Ishika Kumar | Absent |
| Ryan Higgins | Absent |
| Todd Tetreault | Aye |
| Saanvi Kumar | Absent |

Facilities

Mr. Michelot reported that the FinCom had voted to approve the replacement/ installation of the video projector for the high school gym in time for graduation in the FY25 operating budget, and delay the installation of the audio system until FY26. Projector: \$36K and audio \$38K.

Matthew Yezukevich made a motion to allow the school to move forward with \$36K for video equipment and installation services for the high school gym and to move funds from the FY26 budget to the FY25 budget capital items offset by the Board contribution.

Todd Tetreault seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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| Badawi Dweik | Aye |
|--------------|-----|

Roll Call

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Saanvi Kumar | Absent |
| Ryan Higgins | Absent |
| Katie Breault | Aye |
| Matthew Yezukevich | Aye |
| Todd Tetreault | Aye |
| Mia Ortiz | Absent |
| Anissia Vixamar | Aye |
| Ishika Kumar | Absent |
| Sergio Martin | Aye |

D. Policy Review

Second readings

Background Checks

Mr. Martin asked that the introduction be edited into one or two sentences summarizing what the policy addresses. Ms. Berkowitz will re-edit and present at the June meeting for a second reading.

Discussion ensued including the following highlights

- HR tracks renewal of staff background checks of CORI's for state and fingerprinting for federal and maintains protection of sensitive information.
- Third parties providing services in the school are CORI checked.
- Employee files are technologically secured and physically locked.
- Charter renewal cycle assesses governance overall and looks at Board functions, OML compliance and maintenance of policies and contributes to positive overall rating.

The Board reviewed the remaining policies as second readings. Discussion ensued on School Building Administration. Mr. Martin suggested moving the second paragraph to the first paragraph. With regard to the Student Handbook, Mr. Romer noted that a more specific AI policy will be developed to guide students on the use thereof

Sergio Martin made a motion to approve six of the seven following policies removing Background Checks: Reporting Abuse and Neglect, Open Meetings Act, Conflict of Interest, Annual Reporting Policy, School Building Administration and Student and Family Handbook.

Todd Tetreault seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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| Todd Tetreault | Aye |
|----------------|-----|

Roll Call

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Mia Ortiz | Absent |
| Ryan Higgins | Absent |
| Ishika Kumar | Absent |
| Matthew Yezukevich | Aye |
| Badawi Dweik | Aye |
| Saanvi Kumar | Absent |

E. Policy Review

First readings

The Board approved the following policies as first readings and advanced them to second readings at the June meeting.

- Directors and Officers Liability
- Board of Trustees Member Resignation
- Charter Amendments and Renewal
- District Curriculum Accommodation Plan

F. Executive Director Report on Annual Goals

Mr. Romer reviewed his PowerPoint presentation on his annual strategic action goals and the status thereof.

IV. Updates and Reports

A. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Yezukevich reported that there was no additional information to share with the Board.

B. Community Groups (FEA, Foundation, ELPAC, SEPAC)

Ms. Foley reported that the FEA showed its appreciation for staff and teachers with a lovely breakfast buffet.

No further updates for the Foundation, ELPAC and SEPAC.

V. Consent Agenda

A. International Trip Approval

Two international field trips are proposed for April next year for high schoolers to Spain and middle schoolers to Belize. Ms. Espiritusanto expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to accompany students on these field trips. Support from EF coverage is provided at all times including immediate response to emergencies and travel protection services at a cost of \$190/student.

Badawi Dweik made a motion to approve the field trips as presented.

Matthew Yezukevich seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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|--------------------|--------|
| Sergio Martin | Aye |
| Ishika Kumar | Absent |
| Katie Breault | Aye |
| Badawi Dweik | Aye |
| Matthew Yezukevich | Aye |
| Saanvi Kumar | Absent |
| Ryan Higgins | Absent |
| Mia Ortiz | Absent |
| Anissia Vixamar | Aye |

B. Meeting Minutes

Tabled to next meeting.

VI. Executive Session

A. Adjourn to Executive Session

No executive session.

B. Administrative Action Items for Discussion

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Matthew Yezukevich made a motion to adjourn.

Badawi Dweik seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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|--------------------|--------|
| Badawi Dweik | Aye |
| Ryan Higgins | Absent |
| Anissia Vixamar | Aye |
| Sergio Martin | Aye |
| Todd Tetreault | Aye |
| Ishika Kumar | Absent |
| Matthew Yezukevich | Aye |
| Saanvi Kumar | Absent |
| Mia Ortiz | Absent |
| Katie Breault | Aye |

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Barraford

Documents used during the meeting

- Executive Director Report 5-13-25.pdf
- MIAA Presentation.pdf
- FY26 Budget Presentation - Board of Trustees May 2025.pdf
- Revised Rev 3 5_7 2025 FY2026_Budget_Rolled_up.xlsx
- FY26 Transportation Fee Proposal.docx
- Athletics_Fee_Structure__1_.docx
- Background Checks 22425.docx (2).pdf
- Reporting Abuse and Neglect Policy.docx (1).pdf
- Open Meetings Act Policy 31825.docx (2).pdf
- Board of Trustee Member Conflict of Interest Policy.docx (1).pdf
- Annual Reporting Policy.docx (1).pdf
- School_Building_Administration - TNR Edits 4-1-25.docx (1).pdf
- Student & Family Handbook 25-26 District Section for Board Approval.pdf
- Directors and Officers Liability Policy (2).pdf
- Board of Trustee Member Resignation Policy (1).pdf
- Foundations and Supporting Organizations Policy (R0928804x7ADD1).docx (1).pdf
- Charter Amendments and Renewal Policy.docx (2).pdf
- District Curriculum Accommodation Plan.docx (1).pdf
- ED Goals Report for 24-25 - May 2025.pdf
- April 30 2025 - Budget to Actual (Comparative Summary).pdf
- April 30 2025 - Financial Report - Balance Sheet (Summary).pdf
- April 30 2025 - Financial Report - Budget to Actual (Summary).pdf
- International Field Trip Approval Memo.pdf

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.