



FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 5, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2025 MAR 13 AM 10:54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Via Zoom Colin Veitch, Brian Monroe, Stephanie Pickup, Nicole Pacheco, Brendalee Smith,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erik Andersen due to technical issues.

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Tara Kohler

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Veitch at 5:00 pm

There were some technical difficulties that delayed discussion. Due to the technical difficulties Mr. Andersen joined the meeting late. The meeting was able to reconvene at 5:20pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Fairhaven Educators' Association, Unit A & Unit B) and litigation (G.L. c 40A judicial review) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining/litigating position of the Fairhaven School Committee and the Chair so declares, and to reconvene in Open Session, seconded by Mrs. Smith, approved, roll call vote (5-0).

Meeting reconvened at 5:40 pm, Mr. Andersen joined them.

Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

Possible Rental of Fairhaven High School- Film Production Company:

Superintendent Kohler informed the Committee that the Connecticut State Lottery is looking to rent Room 7 at Fairhaven High School (FHS). We will review the script and they will not be stating anywhere that the location is FHS, as well as offering a fee that is fair for two days of production. The District is recommending this as something the Committee can support. Mr. Veitch asked for questions or concerns. Mrs. Pickup asked if the filming will be outside of school hours. Superintendent Kohler stated it will be during February vacation. Alyssa Botelho, Community Development Coordinator for the Town of Fairhaven, told the Committee she is certified by the Association of Film Commissioners International as a film liaison for the Town of Fairhaven, and she can be a resource in the production and logistics to ensure the filming goes smoothly for both parties if the Committee would like. Mr. Veitch thanked Ms. Botelho, and stated that it is a great idea. Mr. Veitch then asked for any other questions or concerns, there were none.

Upcoming Events:

Next School Committee meeting will be held February 12, 2025.

New Business:

A nomination was made by Mrs. Pacheco to appoint Mr. Veitch to the Town Administrator Search Committee, seconded by Mr. Monroe, roll call vote, approved (6-0).

Mr. Veitch told the Committee that he has watched the ZBA hearings related to the storage shed matter and as a public official have had some concerns as to whether the ZBA Chair has complied with the State Ethics Law as it relates to the Fairhaven Public Schools storage shed and any impacts this has had or could continue to have on this permitting issue. He went on to say, the ZBA also posted a concerning agenda relating to the storage shed permitting matter. He noted he also understands from the administration that there has been some conduct by the ZBA Chair toward District employees that also raises ethical law concerns. Mr. Veitch stated he hopes there have been no violations of law and there has been no conduct impacting the permitting issue, but it seems appropriate to have these issues reviewed by the appropriate state agencies in an effort to ensure that the process has been and will continue to be fair to the Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Monroe to authorize the Chair and Superintendent to file complaints with the Attorney General's Office, Division of Opening Government and State Ethics Commission on behalf of the School Committee and in consultation with legal counsel as needed, seconded by Mrs. Pickup, roll call vote, approved, with one vote against from Mrs. Smith (5-1).

A motion to adjourn made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mrs. Pacheco, roll call vote, approved (6-0).

Adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Sheri Souza
Secretary to the School Committee
Approved - March 12, 2025