



FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
ACUSHNET SUB COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 31, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCVD 2026 AUG 18 AM 8:19

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Monroe, Nicole Pacheco

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Tara Kohler, Executive Assistant Sheri Souza

OTHERS PRESENT: Acushnet Superintendent Paula Bailey, Acushnet Business Manager Aldo Petronio, Acushnet School Committee members Ronald Houde and Melissa Cordeira

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

Superintendent Kohler asked the members from Acushnet to set the expectations regarding a new tuition agreement. Mr. Houde stated Acushnet is looking for equality as they now have agreements with two other Districts. Superintendent Kohler stated Fairhaven is hoping to come to an agreement with Acushnet again as well. Mr. Monroe and Mrs. Pacheco agreed.

Mr. Houde stated the terms of equality they are looking for are a five year deal, with option to extend to ten years, one year at a time. They would like the tuition to be \$10,000 for the first three years, then \$10,500 in years four and five. He stated that New Bedford waived the \$10,000 in years one and two. He also stated they would opt out of the counselor.

Options such as transportation, charging for athletics, etc. were discussed. The discussion ensued on how to save money for the community while making it more manageable.

Superintendent Bailey also asked that Fairhaven drop the cost of tuition that is set under the current agreement for the 26-27 incoming freshman to \$10,000 due to the fact that Acushnet has less students going to Old Colony, which means that Fairhaven will be getting more students next year than they actually have this year which puts a burden on their budget.

Mr. Monroe along with Superintendent Kohler stated they will bring all the offered terms to the rest of the School Committee. Everyone agreed to meet again once Town Meeting and budgets seasons come to a close in order to discuss the new tuition agreement further.

Adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Sheri Souza
Secretary to the School Committee
Fairhaven Public Schools

Approved May 20, 2026