



CLASS OF 1976 ALUMNI

FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS '76 SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

CANCELLED 45th Reunion.

Reunion scheduled for June 26th, 2021 is cancelled due the COVID-19 pandemic. Check back on Class 76 Web Site and Class 76 Facebook page for updates.

It is not only our class reunion falling to this pandemic. D'Cunha's Dispatch, 4/1/21 Fairhaven Neighborhood News weekly newspaper.

MARCH 31, 2021 BY STAFF WRITER *By Elizabeth D'Cunha Senior @ FHS*

It is not unusual to feel like the pandemic has gotten to you. Most of us are sick of all these restrictions and doing everything virtually, but how are our FHS seniors feeling as all the traditional senior events are either not happening or will have to be modified. It is important to note that not only has this year been difficult for our Class of 2021 seniors, but also the remainder of their junior year was affected when COVID first hit. Ian Stackpole brought back the memories of last year's abrupt stop to the school year and how it took away much of his junior year experiences. "This pandemic started at the worst possible time for our class. It cut off junior day, junior prom, and the spring sports season," he said. This really puts it into perspective for those who are not aware of how much this pandemic has taken away from students. Not only was the end of last year ruined, but COVID has continued to take a toll on the present school year as well. Stackpole continued to share how upset he was, stating, "This year wasn't really a 'senior year' for us. It was just a chopped up final year to get us out of here." It truly is unfair how much our seniors are missing out on, especially during their last year at the high school. Will Benoit listed just some of the many events that have been canceled or modified that he and the rest of the senior class were looking forward to. "There's definitely the obvious things like prom, homecoming, sports, regular graduation, but also I really hoped that by the time this year started I could have one more normal year with all of my friends before we all go off to college

next year," said Mr. Benoit. Students are not just sad about the fact that they are missing out on dances and pep rallies. They are most upset that they are missing out on a normal school year where the classroom has a more upbeat energy where they can work together and getting hyped for sports games with big crowds. Twelfth-grader Matt Cadieux shared what this pandemic has taught him as it has made this year feel like a pill that's hard to swallow: "The pandemic has laid a toll on me and my peers by casting a blanket of isolation and a lack of inspiration for the future. COVID has made me realize that in a blink of an eye all the little things I take for granted could be taken away from me." Similarly, Meghan Oliver made a statement on the effects of COVID on her senior year: "The pandemic has made the idea of senioritis so much more extreme because at this point, we're already committed to colleges and have absolutely nothing to look forward to at the end of this year."

With, Sophia Medeiros is hopeful despite all that has been happening. "I'm hoping things can all go back to normal before the school year is over!" she said. I know I speak for all the Fairhaven High School community when I say that I truly do hope our seniors get everything they deserve. It is unfair, and it is upsetting that they are not able to experience those memories that fulfill your high school years. It has been a pleasure to share my short time at the high school with our seniors who have served as impeccable role models during such difficult times. We can only hope that things will improve from here, and hopefully a somewhat normal graduation is within reach for our seniors. The high school is trying to improvise and make this year as enjoyable as possible for our 12th graders. They are currently holding an "Adopt-A-Senior" event that involves the community rewarding the seniors with personalized gift baskets. Please feel free to be a part of this and call Fairhaven High School to learn more, 508-979-4052.

Update on Adopt a Senior: All participating FHS Seniors (Class '21) are adopted.



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FHS '04 Alumni Rapper Featured in

Eminem's 'Higher' Video

As someone like myself who has been a big Eminem fan, I was pretty stoked when I found out he had dropped a new music video over the weekend. On Saturday, January 23, Mr. Mathers released the music video for his latest song "Higher" on YouTube and since then it's already reached about six million views. I will say that as much as I enjoy a classic track from the 8 Mile star, I've been on board with his latest music, making my envy that much more for New Bedford resident Tom Sinko. Born and raised in Fairhaven, Sinko has been an aspiring rap artist since he was 18 years old. Through the power of social media, he was able to land a little bit of limelight in the music video. News of his latest achievement has been traveling fast and his emotions are sky-high. "Man, it's out of this world," Sinko told Fun 107. "I'm still on cloud nine and it's been a couple of days since and I've probably watched the video countless times, to be honest." Sinko looks up to Eminem and said the legend's work motivates him when he is writing his own lyrics.



"He's number one on my list for sure. I've been making my own hip-hop music since I was 18 years old, so just over 16 years," Sinko said. "To be part of something (with) somebody you idolize or look up to, it's a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity." Recently, there was a worldwide social media contest that landed Sinko a spot in what looks like a Zoom-like meeting that appears throughout the video when the hook comes in. "It was an Instagram post where they

were just asking fans to send videos of themselves performing the hook to the song "Higher," Sinko explained. "So, what we did is we sent the video in and a few days later we got the paperwork back. There was no contact with Eminem, it was just a video release we had to sign to allow him to use the rights." Talk about adding to the resumé. Sinko's worldwide premiere just landed him some street cred that could potentially spark a fire under his local rap group Risky Biz. Better known as "Mister 5," Sinko has done what most only dream of, so here's to new chapters and dope riffs in his near future. Read More: New Bedford Rapper Featured in Eminem's 'Higher' Video | <https://fun107.com/new-bedford-rapper-featured-in-eminems-higher-video/>

Fairhaven's School Department's Dr. Robert Baldwin named Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year.



January 14, 2021 | Erica Hedrick

FAIRHAVEN, MA – The American Association of School Administrators annually recognizes one superintendent in each of the 50 states who have displayed exceptional leadership in the

areas of education, professional development, and community involvement.

Fairhaven Public Schools was recently notified and is proud to announce that Superintendent Dr. Robert N. Baldwin has been named the Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year for 2020-21 by the American Association of School



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Administrators (AASA). Baldwin has served as the Fairhaven Public Schools superintendent since 2005. He also currently serves as president of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.)

Before assuming the role of Superintendent, Baldwin served as the Principal at Middleborough High School from 2001-2005, and before that was the Assistant Principal at the Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven from 1998-2001. "Dr. Baldwin established credibility for the district while continually working to establish a productive working relationship with other town departments and boards. He's led by example with professionalism and ethics, with the recruitment of excellent administrative staff – building a team, which has resulted in an ALL means ALL attitude when it comes to education," says long-time School Committee member and parent of Fairhaven graduates, Colin Veitch.

Baldwin's focus when he entered in 2005 was to immediately create an organizational structure that would bring Fairhaven Public Schools from a good school district to its current state now – a place where the best and brightest faculty and staff choose to teach, and where parents of school-aged children and future school-aged children choose to live in order to send their children to. Dr. Baldwin has established strategic partnerships that promote collaborative opportunities for cooperation between town departments, neighboring municipalities, and community organizations to improve district effectiveness. These partnerships have served to enhance the district, the town, and the region. In the Southcoast region, he is a contributing member of the Southcoast Development Partnership (SCDP). He continues to be a

leader of leaders throughout the region and the Commonwealth. From 2010 – 2016 he served as the President Old Colony Superintendents Association. At the state level, Dr. Baldwin was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) in 2016. He was elected as a MASS officer in 2018, where he has testified and provided written support for several state and local initiatives. This role allowed him to actively be involved with the passage of the Student Opportunity Act. This landmark piece of legislation was the first significant revision in twenty-five years, the most recent being the Commonwealth's Education Reform Act of 1993. As the current President of MASS, Dr. Baldwin offers support, guidance, and leadership to all superintendents and navigate the complexity that the COVID -19 and the school reopening process have on all stakeholders. He does all this while still serving as the superintendent of Fairhaven. He previously served as an Adjunct Professor in the Educational Leadership Licensure Program at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth in the Leading for Learning K-12 principal and assistant principal licensure program. The newest member of the Fairhaven Public Schools administrative team, Dr. Yolanda Burnett, Principal of Leroy L. Wood Elementary School, says, "Dr. Baldwin has been a supportive mentor, innovative and a visionary leader. He empowers his leadership team to be dynamic and reflective leaders."

He is active at the regional and national level with his association with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). In 2015, his work with the Commission led him to receive the Jacob Ludes III Leadership Award. He has matriculated to a role as the Chair of the Commission on Public Schools and



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the Board of Trustees. Currently, he is serving as the chair of the Task Force of the Center for Educational Excellence and Innovation. Dr. Baldwin was recently awarded the 2020 NEASC Service Award, an award that honors individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to promoting high-quality education for all students through consistent and generous involvement as a volunteer with NEASC.

"Dr. Baldwin has been a steadfast leader for the Fairhaven Public Schools and has made the district one of the best in the Southcoast. Having great integrity and mental fortitude, he has never shrunk from difficult decisions and has successfully led the school community through building projects, budget crises, and now a pandemic. He has done this by surrounding himself with quality leaders and creating an environment of collaboration that genuinely puts the students' needs first. I can think of no one more deserving of this award, and I am proud that Dr. Baldwin is our school district's leader," current chairman of the Fairhaven Public Schools School Committee, Brian Monroe.

Dr. Baldwin received his Bachelor of Science from Springfield College in 1984. He received a Master of Arts from the University of Maryland in 1986 and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2003. Dr. Baldwin remains grounded and balanced in his



Dr. Baldwin is a 1980 graduate of FHS, his Senior Yearbook Pic.

role as a father of five children, grandfather of six, and is happily married to his wife Jane of over 36 years. The Baldwin family lives in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

FHS Class 1976's Angels '76 Memorial Brick project 2021. Fund raising attempts by the Angels sounding success during these strange times. The drive has taken in \$2,110.00 so far,



with some donations received this week. Our Classmate Leroy was the last brick to be installed into Class 76 FHS MBP

real estate section. Thanking our classmates for their generous contributions towards this class endeavor. Numerous classmates making donations requested to rename "anonymous" so to be fair to all, not publishing contributor names. However our sincere THANK YOU! If your donation was \$50 or greater and you have not received your Angels 76 pin, please email us at chevy01947@aol.com or fhsclass76@fshc76.com

Ok, we mentioned the reunion is cancelled for June 26th, the Annual Fairhaven Homecoming Fair-Festival also canceled for the same day. Activities surrounding the Homecoming Fair are also cancelled, the breakfast at FHS cafeteria, Hall of Fame inductees' banquet usually held at Century House for the following Sunday.

If any classmates changed email address or U.S. Postal (Snail Mail) address, please let us know as to send you updates on the FHS CLASS 1976. Email information to fhsclass76@fshc76.com or davidf13@localnet.com. This information remains private, don't sell it or allow this to escape out. Remains on offline drive.

Take care of yourselves and family, be well and stay safe. Practice social distancing and take precautions, wash hands, make wearing, etc.