

**Franklin School Committee**  
**April 11, 2023**  
**Municipal Building – Council Chambers**  
**7:00 P.M.**

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*Any individual who also wishes to record this meeting must notify the Chair*

☐ Vision Statement ☐

The Franklin Public Schools will foster within its students the knowledge and skills to find and achieve satisfaction in life as productive global citizens.

*Members of the public are now welcome to attend committee meetings in person. Additionally, in an effort to ensure citizen engagement, citizens will be able to continue to view the public meeting using Zoom. We will use the Zoom Webinar feature. You may view the meeting with the link or phone numbers below. Participants wishing to speak during the Citizen's Comments portion of the agenda will be able to raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair. The webinar host will invite the attendee to unmute for comment.*

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87431152603?pwd=UEExRa3RxN1dRYjhJbTAxNDVGaUYzdz09>

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## **MINUTES**

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

**Ms. Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Ms. Spencer said at the end of the meeting they would be adjourning to executive session and returning to open meeting.**

In attendance was: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes

Also in attendance were: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Tina Rogers

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Tonight we welcome three fifth-graders from Jefferson Elementary to lead us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. These students were nominated by their teachers to represent Jefferson based on their character and embodiment of our Core Values.

**Brendan Dixon** is in Mrs. Ngo's (NO's) class. Brendan is kind and inclusive. He is a hard worker and demonstrates this in his classroom and learning. Outside of school, Brendan likes baseball and enjoys going to the beach with his grandparents in New York.

**Calvin Gallop** is in Mrs. Sharples' class. Calvin consistently models kind and respectful behavior towards classmates and adults. One of his teachers described him as "one of the kindest, most respectful, and most inclusive students [she] has ever worked with." In his free time, Calvin loves spending time with his family, including visiting his cousins and grandmother on the weekends.

**Reese Owens** is also in Mrs. Sharples' class. Reese is incredibly invested in her learning and classroom and embodies every one of Jefferson's Core Values daily. Outside of school hours, Reese is a lacrosse player and also enjoys playing the guitar. Jefferson is proud to have these students representing Jefferson Elementary School tonight.

## **Moment of Silence**

### **I. Routine Business**

**A. Review of Agenda** - reviewed and in order

**B. Payment of Bills** - reviewed and in order

**C. Payroll** - reviewed and in order

**D. FHS Student Representative Comments** - there were none

### **E. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Giguere introduced the FHS Swim Medley Team - Harikalal Birali, Christine Tang, Emma Ferreira, and Hope Xavayeth and noted their accomplishments and awards this year. Coach Pridham also spoke about the girls and their achievements.

Mr. Giguere said the Legislative Forum was on 4/10/23. It included State Senator Becca Rausch and State Representative Jeff Roy. Also in attendance were Ms. Spencer who provided opening remarks, Mr. Giguere, and Ms. Bernstein who facilitated a Q&A. He added that the recording will soon be on Franklin TV's website.

He said that the Senior Project is underway and there are close to 100 Seniors.

He said it is a 70 hour internship demonstrating their knowledge, skills, and maturity achieved throughout their high school career. He said the Seniors get to choose an area they are interested in. He said the presentation will be on 5/24/23 at FHS.

Mr. Giguere said 4/14/23 is a PDD. It is a half-day for students. He said educators will work on topics connected to their professional practice.

Finally, he spoke about the many offerings Lifelong Learning has for the summer.

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Mr. Charles asked if the community is invited to the Senior Project night?

Mr. Giguere replied that the School Committee is invited but also to note that it falls on the same night as the Town Council Budget Hearings

Ms. Stokes added that she has been a Senior Project judge and they are impressive presentations.

**II. Guests/Presentations**

**A. Jefferson Highlights - Ms. Stefani Wasik and Ms. Beth Murray**

***\*See presentation slides for detailed information***

Ms. Murray spoke about the Jefferson Mission Statement and Jefferson's Core Values.

Ms. Wasik spoke about Strategic Objective #1 Social-Emotional Well-being of Students and Staff and the importance of the social emotional well being of not just students but also the hardworking staff.

Ms. Murray spoke about Wellness Wednesdays. Staff are invited to wear athletic and comfortable clothing and are encouraged to dedicate time during the day to their own physical and mental health and well-being.

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Ms. Bernstein asked what the school committee can do to support the Jefferson staff?

Ms. Wasik replied that the level of student need has increased dramatically and an area of increased needs is in special education. She said they have the IDEAS and GOALS programs and 26% of the students are on IEPs. She said there is a need to support those students.

Mr. Callaghan noted that it was a fantastic presentation and appreciated how the staff models healthy living for students.

Mr. Charles said thank you for the emphasis on health and wellness.

Mr. McNeill said its clear what a nurturing, inclusive environment Jefferson is providing to its students.

Ms. Stokes noted the importance of taking care of staff in order for staff to take care of their students.

Ms. Whitmore said that team building is very important.

Ms. Spencer said thank you to the Jefferson staff.

**B. MS Grand Canyon Field Trip - Mr. Nick Goldman (HMMS) and Greg Rakovic (ASMS)**

***\*See presentation slides for detailed information***

This trip is tentatively planned for April 15-19, 2024. They shared the following important points:

- The trip will be available for 8th graders at all 3 middle schools
- The purpose of the trip and benefits of student travel
- A sample itinerary
- A highlight of the tour company, Grand Classroom
- Student safety
- Equity and Accessibility. Students must be in good academic and behavioral standing
- Trip Pricing and Package Inclusions
- Process of registering for this trip

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Mr. Callaghan said he is looking forward to hearing back from this and trips that have been approved to hear about experiences.

Mr. Charles said middle school seems young for a trip like this one.

Mr. Giguere said in the past they had trips for middle school students to travel to Washington D.C. but it has been awhile since they have had those trips.

Mr. Goldman replied they believe this is something the 8th graders could handle and is such a unique experience.

Mr. Charles asked if there is a minimum number of students needed?

Mr. Goldman replied that there is not a minimum of students needed.

Mr. McNeill said this is a great trip and experience for the students.

Ms. Stokes asked if the chaperone amount is based on the amount of students?

Mr. Rakovic replied yes and also the guide from Grand Classroom is there too.

Ms. Stokes said this company seems more feasible than the EF tour who FHS is using for their trips.

Mr. Giguere replied that the cost to travel international is more which is why they are seeing the difference in pricing.

Ms. Stokes asked if this company does just this trip?

Mr. Goldman replied that they do trips within the United States as well as international trips.

Ms. Whitmore asked if there is a cost to the school or if there is a cost for the chaperones?

Mr. Goldman replied that the cost to the student includes the chaperones.

Ms. Spencer asked if there is a maximum allowed on the trip?

Mr. Goldman replied they do not cap the trip and they would just need to figure how many buses they would need.

Mr. Charles asked if the chaperones have to pay their own way?

Mr. Goldman replied that the cost for chaperones is worked into the cost for students and chaperones do not have to pay.

**C. DIP Outcomes - Dr. Tina Rogers and Dr. Timothy Frazier**

***\*See presentation slides for detailed information***

Dr. Tina Rogers reviewed the plan presentation schedule, and vision and core values.

Dr. Rogers spoke about the outcomes of Strategic Objective 2: Provide Engaging and Rigorous Curriculum. She shared the strategic objective, the outcome, and the action steps taken. She spoke about 2.A. All students have access to guaranteed and viable curriculum and high-quality materials and 2.C. Evaluate Standards-based Grading.

Dr. Frazier spoke about 2.B Engage in a PreK-12 Literacy Review and develop a multi-year District literacy plan.

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Ms. Bernstein asked what year two course partner alignment means?

Dr. Rogers replied that for example there is the Math department at the high school and then they break into partnerships like Geometry, Algebra I, etc. and work to develop units of study.

Ms. Bernstein said that loves the teacher feedback that drove this strategic objective.

Mr. Callaghan said he liked the plan presentation schedule. He asked if the multi year programs are visually mapped out as well?

Dr. Rogers replied that they have recently had more meetings regarding this and with having a new Director of STEM, they are looking to make a professional development plan public and added that it is a work in progress.

Mr. Charles said he appreciates the deeper dive into 2.B.

Mr. Charles asked what is on the top of their list for 2.C.?

Dr. Rogers said they are looking to streamline the language on report cards to make them a better communication tool to families.

Mr. McNeill asked what the shortfalls of the current curriculum are? What are the recommendations they will be addressing?

Dr. Frazier replied that there were some inconsistencies at the K-5 level when it came to instruction and assessment. He also said that a core program will help to ensure that all teachers have access to all library books and materials that are up to date.

Ms. Stokes highlighted the comments and points made by the other school committee members.

Ms. Spencer said she appreciates making decisions on the literacy action plan based on what students need.

Dr. Rogers noted how thoughtful Dr. Frazier has been in regards to feedback in meetings and driven by teacher data.

### III. Discussion/Action Items

#### A. **FY24 Budget Vote**

I recommend approval of the FY24 Budget in the amount of \$73,103,500.00 as discussed.

Ms. Spencer asked if there was a motion and a second.

**Ms. Stokes made a motion and was seconded by Mr. McNeill.**

Ms. Spencer read a statement regarding how to handle the budget moving forward. She said this proposed budget does not meet the needs of the FPS students.

Ms. Spencer asked to amend the motion by adding in the \$487,500 in positions that were not included originally in the FY24 Proposed Budget. Therefore bringing the FY24 Proposed Budget to \$73,591,000.00. She asked if there was a second.

**Ms. Bernstein seconded the motion.**

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Ms. Bernstein said she supports this motion. She spoke about all of the items put aside that the schools are not able to obtain each year due to budget constraints and cuts. She also read a letter the school committee received from a parent in the community that encouraged the school committee to ask for everything they need.

Mr. Callaghan read the list of the positions that make up the \$487,500 and asked for confirmation this is what Ms. Spencer is asking for?

Ms. Spencer confirmed that this is correct and it is what she wants to amend.

Mr. McNeill said they do not know what the allocation is from the Town Council so he is hesitant to ask for more until they know the amount.

Ms. Stokes said that these positions are necessary to have in the schools and was surprised they were not included in the Superintendent's proposed budget in the first place.

Ms. Whitmore said that she hopes the Town Council will give the schools what has been asked of them.

Mr. Callaghan said he can understand Ms. Spencer's and Mr. McNeill's thoughts. He said next year's budget season will not be any better than this one.

Mr. Callaghan asked Mr. Giguere for confirmation that these items were not asked for in the budget.

Mr. Giguere confirmed and added that they were still listed in the presentation to show transparency of what was requested from building leaders.

Mr. McNeill noted that he supports the added positions but he can't support adding them if they aren't sure if they can keep them.

Ms. Bernstein added that this is a town problem and that the town needs to step up their contribution to the children.

Mr. Charles said if they do not ask for the additional funds then they will not get them at all.

Ms. Stokes confirmed with Ms. Spencer the difference between neighboring school communities and how they handle their budgets.

Ms. Bernstein said adults need to be the voice for children. She then noted a bill being set forth from Senator Becca Rausch to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote.

Mr. Callaghan asked where the items go that are not brought forth in the recommended budget and if they were tracked over the years?

Mrs. Goodman replied that sometimes the page never made it that far. She said in the past there was documentation of reduced items.

Mr. Callaghan asked if it recording differently if positions need to be cut?

Mrs. Goodman said they would bring recommendations as to what needs to be cut. She said the school committee needs to meet the budget allotted by the town council or they will be in deficit spending.

Mr. Giguere said they will continue to advocate for the schools. He said they do keep track of what is reduced over time.

***There was a vote to amend the motion by adding in the \$487,500 in positions that were not included originally in the FY24 Proposed Budget. Therefore bringing the FY24 Proposed Budget to \$73,591,000.00.***



**Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Bernstein**  
**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-No; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**  
**Motion Carries 6-1**

**Ms. Spencer asked if there was a motion to approve the FY24 Budget in the amount of \$73,591,000.00**

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**  
**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**  
**Motion Carries 7-0**

**B. School Choice Vote**

I recommend that the School Committee not accept new School Choice students for the 2023-2024 School year as discussed.

Mr. Giguere noted reasons why such as being in the process of a redistricting analysis and he would like to have a firm grasp of enrollment. He added that this is an annual vote.

Mr. Callaghan asked what kind of revenue does this typically bring in?

Mr. Giguere replied typically it is \$5,000 per student.

Mr. Callaghan asked if they can tailor who they accept based on different school enrollment needs?

Mr. Giguere replied yes.

Mr. Callaghan asked once a student is accepted, is that student part of FPS through graduation?

Mr. Giguere said yes, but the student can opt to leave the district.

Mr. Callaghan asked how it is decided who is chosen?

Mr. Giguere said it is lottery based.

Mr. McNeill asked if they think this will be recommended in years to come?

Mr. Giguere replied there is a benefit to examining this annually and making the recommendation.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**  
**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**  
**Motion Carries 7-0**

**C. Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Adoption**

I recommend adoption of the following policies as discussed:

JCAC - Assignment of Students from other Districts or Homeschooling

JEB - Entrance Age (formerly JEA)

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**IV. Discussion Only Items - there were none**

**V. Information Matters**

**A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports**

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - Ms. Stokes said she will connect with Mr. Giguere and the sub-committee. She said she anticipates that 6/13/23 will be where they present their findings.
2. **Budget** - met on 4/4/23
3. **Policy** - next meeting 4/12/23
4. **Community Relations** - Legislative Forum was 4/10/23. Strawberry Stroll planning.
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - has not met. Presentation of findings will be on 4/25/23. Ms. Stokes noted that the committee voted to send a recommendation forward to the full committee and it was not unanimous as she voted against it.

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - spoke about what is allowed/not allowed at events, upcoming field trips, and the need for RN coverage on field trips.
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - planning for a table at the Farmer's Market and upcoming Strawberry Stroll.
3. **SEPAC** - upcoming workshops 4/12/23 and 4/26/23
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - met on 4/11/23 to finalize the next Critical Conversations on 4/26/23. Will be at the upcoming Health Fair at the library on 5/24/23.
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting 4/12/23

**VI. Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your March 28, 2023 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Recurring Keller Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Wendy Greenstein to take Keller 5<sup>th</sup> graders to Roger Williams Park Zoo on June 2, 2023 as detailed.

C. FHS Scholarship

I recommend acceptance of several checks totaling \$1,000.00 from various Van Drivers for a FHS scholarship.

D. JFK Gift

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling: \$2,150.00 from the JFK PCC for field trips as detailed.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**VII. Citizen's Comments**

Ms. Donna Grady, President of FEA and Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Grady spoke on the budget and said the school committee should ask for what they need to ask for. She said there needs to be more people facing and supporting students. She said they need to stop spending money where they don't need it.

Ms. Brittany Lechter, 120 School Street

Ms. Lechter spoke about redistricting and said her family is part of the 19% of FPS students who will be affected by the current proposed changes. She said if she is not confident of this plan, it is hard for her to justify it to her child. She encouraged the committee to think in the long term.

Ms. Andrea MacKechnie, 80 Skyline Drive

Ms. MacKechnie said she does not have a child who would be impacted by the proposed redistricting. She stated there was no strategy with the DT to Keller move. She is asking that the school committee thinks about how this is impacting the individual children.

Meghan Medeiros, 97 Mill Street

Ms. Medeiros said if the proposed redistricting passes then her son will switch schools. She said they have worked hard to find a community at Keller. She feels this process as of late has been unnecessarily rushed. She asked the committee to consider the long term ramifications.

Kyle Thompson, Mercer Lane

Mr. Thompson said Franklin schools do not provide a rigorous education. He suggested to eliminate the role of DEI Director and all Professional Development and positions in the area of social emotional learning and DEI. He said he would like Becca Rausch's name and politics out of school committee meetings.

Ms. Gretchen Donahue, 7 Padden Road

Ms. Donahue urged the school committee to slow down any redistricting decisions until there is a clearer picture of new census and enrollment data, the equity impact of redistricting as well as the social and emotional health of the students. She also asked for special consideration to be made to DT families who have already moved schools.

Ms. Meaghan Benson, 19 Winthrop Drive

Ms. Benson spoke about the school committee code of ethics and discussing politics at school committee meetings.

Ms. Sarah Mabardy, 16 Norumbega Circle

Ms. Mabardy commended the administration, school committee, and teachers/staff for all of the work they do to support students. She urged the community to come together and think of how they can support the children.

Ms. Lindsay Bisson, 39 Miller Street

Ms. Bisson said she is excited Ms. Wasik is back in Franklin. She said her family will be impacted by a redistricting but said children and her son will have to deal with it and that they are resilient.

#### **VIII. New Business**

##### **To discuss any future agenda items**

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 4/25/23 meeting:

- Redistricting analysis
- Remington highlights
- 8th Grade trip vote

#### **IX. At 9:55pm, Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session. She said they would be returning to open meeting.**

a. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the ESP/LPN, unit as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

b. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA, Unit A, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**  
**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**  
**Motion Carries 7-0**

**X. At 10:07pm, The School Committee returned from Executive Session and Ms. Spencer called the meeting back to order.**

a. Ratification of Stipend Memorandum of Understanding with FEA Unit A.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**  
**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**  
**Motion Carries 7-0**

**XI. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**  
**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**  
**Motion Carries 7-0**

**XII. Adjournment at 10:09pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 4-11-23  
Payroll Warrant #2320 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2320.pdf  
FPS Summary & Sign Off 041123.pdf  
SC Warrant 032323 (2).pdf  
SC Warrant 033023.pdf  
Grand Canyon SW Adventure 2024.pdf  
HoraceMannMS-SampleGrand Canyon 5 day.pdf  
SC 4\_11\_23 Strategic Objective 2.pdf  
SC Meeting 4\_11 Jefferson Highlights.pdf  
Discussion Action A - FY24 Budget vote.pdf  
Discussion Action B - School Choice Vote.pdf  
Discussion Action C - Policy 2nd REad-Adoption.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - Keller Field Trip.pdf  
Consent Action C - FHS Scholarship.pdf  
Consent Action D - JFK Gift.pdf  
Executive Session Minutes-3-28-23-DRAFT.pdf  
Budget2Actual.pdf  
Jefferson Pledge Students.pdf