

Franklin School Committee
April 12, 2022
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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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/88254729551?pwd=SHI2NXNmMmJpSWdtRkNwU3dnMCtFUT09>

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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.

Roll Call Attendance were: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-absent*; Mr. David McNeill; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes

*Mr. Charles was absent for roll call but joined on zoom at 7:29pm.

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

Annie Sullivan Middle School

Kyle Fogarty, Grade 6

Kyle is a sixth grader and is active within the Franklin community. Kyle is a proud member of the Boy Scouts and he is working on earning his Eagle Scout rank. Kyle was the only one in his troop to earn the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) award last year. The Boy Scouts has taught him a lot about himself and so many other things. He likes to camp, be outdoors, participate in ninja warrior classes, and play video games. At school, Kyle is kind to his peers and goes out of his way to help people feel included. We are proud of Kyle and look forward to supporting his leadership skills grow over the next few years.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine

B. Payment of Bills

Ms. Spencer

C. Payroll

Ms. Stokes

D. FHS Student Representative Comments

Ms. Mackenzie Atwood

Ms. Atwood said that the band and chorus went to MICCA on April 1-3. She said that chorus won silver, and band won silver and gold in various ensembles. She said the FHS theater company hosted and won the METG Drama Festival Regionals Competition and is now recognized as one of the top 14 theater programs in the state. She added that there were various other individual awards as well.

She shared some news from the class of 2022. The senior banquet was held two weeks ago and was a success and fun for all. She added that senior t-shirts are on sale now. There is a link on twitter or in the Instagram account: FHS_2022_. She said students are committing to colleges and announcing post graduation plans on the Instagram page as well.

She said the Peer Leadership Club hosted the Peace Takes Practice Conference at the old Charter School. There were various speakers who were invited and students were invited based on their leadership and clubs.

She shared some news from the class of 2023. Prom tickets are on sale until 4/14/22 and those attending need to sign their prom contract. The theme is Ancient Greece and will be held on 5/6/22 at Lombardos.

She said spring sports are underway and all teams went undefeated on the first day. She added that Family Science Night at FHS will be on 4/13/22.

She said that the Empty Bowls Fundraiser will be held on 5/19/22. Admission is \$20 and all proceeds will go to the Franklin Food Pantry.

The National Honor Society will be hosting a Night at the Arts on 4/29/22, admission is free.

She said that middle school drama club rehearsals have begun and performances will be on May 13 and 14.

She added that spirit week is this week consisting of decade day, college day, Carolina blue day for Nick Gaspar, a pep rally and a student vs. teacher basketball game

E. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern shared her congratulations to Paula Marano, Ellen White and Jennifer Graveline for their contributions to the Tiered Focus monitoring review in the area of Special Education. This was completed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education the week of March 28th. Also, congratulations to Michelle Kingsland-Smith who serves as Franklin's ELL Director in the ESL Department. There will be a report to the School Committee within 60 days of the visit. Dr. Ahern said she was able to sit down at the end of an exit interview and there were many accolades and commendations.

Dr. Ahern said that the Covid testing through the Department of Education will be extended past 4/22/22. There is anticipation that funding will end at the end of this school year. While they have enough masks in storage, they may need to purchase tests next year for the district.

She said Dr. Tina Rogers has secured a grant for the district. There are three grants, one for each middle school, from Boston College, totaling \$122,800. The funding is from the One8 Foundation. The grant supports all three middle schools as they implement a high quality research based middle school science curriculum called OpenSciEd. She noted that Assistant Principal, Mike Procacini was very instrumental as a committee member.

She spoke about Mood Check Franklin. She said this is a comprehensive depression screening initiative happening for grades 8 and 10 directed by Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Tracy Gladstone. She said Dr. Gladstone presented to middle and high school faculty and staff last week.

She added that screening began yesterday at HMMS. She said screening is optional and there is an opt out for both parents and students. This compliments the grade 7 and 9 screening that happens through the wellness curriculum.

She added that Science Night is 4/13/22 from 6-8pm at FHS. She also wished everyone a happy spring break.

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

Mr. Callaghan said congratulations and thanks to Dr. Rogers for securing the grant.

Mr. MacNeill said Mood Check Franklin sounds like it will be a great program.

Ms. Spencer offered her congratulations to Mrs. Marano, Ms. White, and Ms. Graveline.

Ms. Bernstein said Natick has used Dr. Tracey Gladstone as well and she praised her work.

II. Guests/Presentations

F. FY23 Revised Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Dr. Ahern shared the following points and revisions:

- At Keller Elementary School, an Assistant Principal will be added. Dr. Ahern noted the additions at Keller for the 2022/2023 school year. This does not change the bottom line for FY23. The funds (\$100,000) for this are being reallocated from the healthcare line.
- Ms. Goodman spoke about the different healthcare rates and shifting the plan. She said the rate would be about a 5% increase now instead of the 8% they budgeted for.

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

Mr. Callaghan asked if the transportation costs have been determined yet?

Mrs. Goodman said that it is pretty set with contracts being finalized. They are still waiting on a final number but she does not anticipate a large increase.

Ms. Stokes asked what the dollar difference is between the 5% and the 8%?

Mrs. Goodman replied that it is about \$137,000 with \$37,000 still sitting in the healthcare account.

Dr. Ahern added that the Town Administrator has indicated support for an increased allocation for the school department. She anticipates this will be included when he does his formal budget presentation.

III. Discussion/Action Items

G. FY23 Budget Vote

I recommend approval of the FY23 Budget in the amount of \$70,216,996.00 as discussed.

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

Mr. MacNeill said thank you for all of the hard work.

Ms. Stokes echoed Mr. McNeill. She noted the vote will come on the bottom line number but budget transfers can happen throughout the coming year if need be.

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

H. School Choice Vote

I recommend to not accept school choice students for the 2022-23 school year as discussed.

Dr. Ahern said the last school choice student graduated in 2020. She said there are students who choose school choice out of Franklin and that number is small. She said once a commitment is made to a school choice student, the commitment is there through high school.

She said due to declining enrollment, the school committee may want to consider school choice at another point. She suggested to keep studying this and possibly as part of the space needs sub-committee.

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

Mr. Callaghan asked if the commitment to the students is a moral or legal commitment.

Dr. Ahern replied that it is a legal commitment.

Mr. Charles asked if it is known where the students had come from and if they were Franklin students who moved out of town?

Dr. Ahern replied that she does not know for certain. She said there are people who move out of Franklin who want to keep their children in the schools and the enrollment policy does not allow that.

Mr. Giguere added in terms of transportation, school choice needs to make sense for families as well.

Mr. Charles asked what the drivers are for students residing in Franklin opting for school choice in other towns?

Dr. Ahern replied there could be many different reasons and there has not been a survey done.

Mr. McNeill asked about future revenue projections based on past enrollment.

Mrs. Goodman replied that she doesn't have future projections but based on past amounts, she used an example of having 70 kids at \$5,000 each.

Dr. Ahern added the money would go into a revolving fund and it is pretty broad how it can be spent.

Ms. Stokes asked if there is a certain number of seats available at each school level determined by the school committee?

Dr. Ahern said yes and Mr. Giguere added that you will have a clearer picture once it is available how many students from Franklin are enrolled in each section.

Dr. Ahern said that it can be very specific as to how many students at each school and each grade level based on enrollment.

Ms. Stokes asked how it works with students with disabilities.

Dr. Ahern replied that students with disabilities can apply and would be expected to be accepted in the district.

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

I. Revised 2022-23 School Calendar

I recommend adoption of the Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar as discussed.

- Dr. Ahern said this calendar includes 14 early release days. This is an increase from previous years for professional development and educator collaboration.
- Spring conferences included for March, including middle schools as well as elementary.

- Most early releases are Fridays, some Wednesdays backing up to faculty meetings.
- Time on learning is maintained at 900 for the lower level and 990 secondary.

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

Ms. Bernstein proposed a change on the school calendar to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day.

Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to amend the school calendar and change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. Ms. Bernstein made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Whitmore.

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

Ms. Bernstein said there are two bills in the state legislature regarding this change and she read from a report the support Italian Americans have towards the change to Indigenous People's Day.

Mr. Charles asked if the first day of kindergarten has been decided?
Dr. Ahern replied that it has not been decided and would come after a conversation with FEA Leadership.

Mr. McNeill supports the change but wondered if there would be a more appropriate day instead of Columbus Day?

Ms. Stokes said as a professional in education she understands the value of half days but as a working mother they can be difficult regarding child care.
Ms. Stokes asked for dismissal times for half days to be included on the calendar?

Ms. Spencer told Mr. McNeill that Indigenous people in Massachusetts have asked for this change and this is important as part of Franklin's anti racism work.

Motion: Ms. Bernstein; Second: Ms. Whitmore

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

IV. Discussion Only Items - there were none

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V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation** - met 4/12/22 to review the process.
- 2. Budget** - met on 3/29/22.
- 3. Policy** - April policy meeting was postponed. Next meeting 5/3/22.
- 4. Community Relations** - Legislative Forum was canceled and will be rescheduled.
- 5. Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - next meeting 4/28/22.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - next meeting 5/3/22.
- 2. School Wellness Advisory Council** - met last week, Ms. Stokes said they are waiting to hear about a possible SWAC booth at the Farmer's Market. Mr. Giguere confirmed they secured a booth. Next meeting is 5/4/22.
- 3. SEPAC** - workshop and meeting 4/13/22 on zoom, board meeting just after.
- 4. Substance Abuse Task Force** - met 4/12/22. Mr. Giguere said they met to debrief on Critical Conversations. Will be surveying families and planning for fall.
- 5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting 4/13/22.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2022 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. Executive Session Minutes

I recommend approval of the Executive Session minutes of the March 22, 2022 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

C. DECA International Competition (recurring) Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Miguel Carmo to take DECA students to Atlanta, GA for the International competition from April 23-27, 2022 as detailed.

D. JFK Recurring Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Ms. Trottier to take JFK 2nd graders to Roger Williams Park Zoo, in Providence RI on May 20, 2022 as detailed.

E. Cooperstown Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Zach Brown to take the FHS Baseball players to Cooperstown, NY from April 18 - 19, 2022 as detailed.

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

VII. Citizen's Comments

Ms. Carol O'Neil, 11 Colt Road
Ms. O'Neil spoke about doing things for the common good and praised the school committee and administration for all they do.

VIII. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items for the 4/26/22 meeting:

- Science fair winners
- Routine business

IX. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn.

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. Adjournment at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 4-12-22
FPS Summary & Sign off 041222.pdf
SC Warrant 031722.pdf
SC Warrant 032422.pdf
SC Warrant 033122.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2220 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2220.pdf
FY23 Budget for SC Vote Presentation.pdf
Central Office Revised.pdf
FY23 Executive Summary-Revised.pdf
Keller revised FY23 budget.pdf
Overview revised.pdf
Discussion Action A - FY23 Budget Vote
Discussion Action B - School Choice vote.pdf
Discussion Action C - 22-23 Revised School Calendar.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

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Consent Action B - ES Minutes.pdf
Consent Action C - DECA Trip.pdf
Consent Action D - JFK Trip.pdf
Consent Action E - FHS Baseball Field Trip.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf