

Franklin School Committee

April 13, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29

□ 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.

Per Governor Baker's Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public can access the meeting via remote conference. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable.

LOCATION: School Committee members will meet in Town Council Chambers or via Zoom.
Members of the public may access the meeting via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/92251099436?pwd=SjhmdGhCVHhMeVFoUWY2Uk80REJldz09>

Meeting ID: 922 5109 9436

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,92251099436#,,,,*832449# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 922 5109 9436

Passcode: 832449

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.”

Dr. Bergen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call Attendance were: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - absent; Mr. Timothy Keenan - absent; Atty. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes.

*Mr. Keenan and Ms. D'Angelo were both absent for roll call but in attendance after the meeting was called to order.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Shannon Barca; Mrs. Tanya Lamoureux

Pledge of Allegiance

Ellie Graham

Ellie Graham is a hardworking 5th grade student at Parmenter Elementary School. Ellie loves to dance ballet and dreams of becoming a professional dancer. Ellie shows Parmenter's core values of courage and effort every day. She is always ready to share her thoughts with the class, take on a challenge, or to try out something new. Ellie has faced this year head on, ready for anything this unusual year could throw her way. She does so with great enthusiasm and care and demonstrated this in both hybrid and in-person learning. We are proud to have Ellie as part of the Parmenter family!

Jocey Buchanio

Jocey Buchanio is a studious 5th grader at Parmenter. Outside of school, she enjoys soccer, basketball, volleyball, and spending time with her family and friends. Jocey comes to school every day with a smile on her face ready to work hard. She demonstrates Parmenter's core values of effort and respect in all aspects of her day as she interacts with teachers and peers. Jocey should be proud of her accomplishments over this very unusual school year. She did not let hybrid learning stop her from learning the fifth grade curriculum and preparing herself for middle school next year. We are thrilled to have Jocey represent the Parmenter family tonight!

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine

B. Citizen's Comments - Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments. There were none.

In the spirit of open communication, "the Committee will hold a public participation segment (also called Citizen's Comments) about matters not related to an agenda item at the beginning of each regular School Committee meeting. The Committee will listen to, but not respond to any comment made.... A Committee member may add an agenda item to a future meeting as a result of a citizen comment.... The Committee will hear public comments related to an agenda item when the Chair deems appropriate during the Committee meeting. Topics for discussion during the meeting must be limited to those items listed on the Committee meeting agenda for that evening...." - from Policy BEDH

C. FHS Student Representative Comments

Katie Garrigan spoke about the transition back to full in-person learning, it's a much different environment and everyone seems happier. Two issues the school is working on are seating issues at lunch and hallway concerns. Model Senate is competing in the Hockomock senate competition. Day one was 4/13/21 and Day 2 is 4/14/21. The National Honor Society is hosting a food drive for The Franklin Food Pantry. Current needs are coffee, pudding packs, toothpaste, goldfish and tuna. There is a form online and public drop offs throughout town. The National Arts Honor Society is holding an auction, taking bids until 4/30/21, the auction link is on Twitter.

Mackenzie Atwood shared the same lunch concerns as Katie but is happy to be back too. Track has the Hockomock tournament this week. The theater company is looking to start another project soon.

Dr. Bergen said thank you for the update and for your leadership.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern said that there is also a drop box for the food pantry food drive at the town municipal building.

Dr. Ahern extended appreciation to the entire Franklin community, staff, families, students who made the return to in-person school possible. Also, the same appreciation to the remote only families and staff. She is looking forward to the next few weeks to help shape plans for fall.

Dr. Ahern said there was a Professional Development Day (half day) on 3/31/21. This was dedicated time for the staff to prepare for in-person learning.

She also extended her congratulations to the Food Services Director Colin Boisvert, in securing a grant to be used in purchasing a tilt skillet for FHS.

Dr. Ahern stated that this is a transition period with athletics. In addition to track, there is a big volleyball match tomorrow. Spring sports sign ups are underway and the season begins on 4/26/21 - including baseball, lacrosse, softball, tennis, outdoor track and unified track.

Dr. Ahern said April vacation is next week and wished a relaxing and refreshing safe break to everyone.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Parmenter Elementary School Highlights Mrs. Shannon Barca, Principal; Mrs. Tanya Lamoureux, Asst. Principal

Mrs. Barca extended thanks to teachers, students, families, parents, PCC, Community Partners.

Mrs. Barca spoke about social emotional learning and well-being and SEL tiered level supports that students receive. She stated that 123 high needs students were in-person five days a week prior to April 5th.

She spoke on social-emotional well being of the staff and teachers, providing a safe work environment.

Mrs. Lamoureux spoke about the social-emotional well being of the students and families. She spoke about student SEL surveys and SEL self-assessments. She talked about keeping important traditions even during the school closure. She highlighted some visuals showing the work they have done with SEL skills. She spoke about the rigorous and engaging curriculum through MAP assessments this year, SeeSaw, immediate feedback in google classroom, flipgrid, and intervention programs based on assessment results.

Ms. Gail Trotin, 4th grade teacher spoke about Parmenter Units of Study. She spoke about her unit on Poetry and the African American Experience. They created digital journals, answering difficult questions regarding topics like discrimination.

Mrs. Barca spoke about cultural proficiency and revising school and classroom libraries to include more diverse characters and themes, a new club Exploring Diversity through Art and the student mentorship program for black females in grades 3-5. This is facilitated by two high school mentors and meet weekly to engage in critical conversation. They are looking to start a mentor program for black males and are looking for a mentor for this. Also, they are looking to expand next year to include a more diverse group of students.

Mrs. Oona Harrington, a School Council member and Parmenter parent spoke about parent perspectives about inclusiveness and culture of the school.

Mrs. Barca spoke about lessons learned and finding silver linings. She presented a video showing student and teacher perspectives from the past year and a slideshow of pictures.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any comments/questions?

Ms D'Angelo said she has two nieces at Parmenter and was a mystery reader recently. She asked about Tier 2 and 3 being higher, is it worth going back to look at Tier 1 support?

Mrs. Barca replied this is something they did three years ago and revamped the structures they had in place, making sure the students in these tiers have the support they need.

Atty. Pond-Pfefer said she has a soft spot for Parmenter since her mother taught there.

Ms. Stokes echoed Ms. D'Angelo on the tiers question.

Ms. Stokes asked if student SEL self assessment and SSST/IST are only Parmenter or are across district.

Mrs. Barca replied that all the schools have assessments however may be called something different.

Dr. Bergen said much of the year probably felt impossible but the incredible staff and parent support showed through in the presentation.

All the committee members thanked them for their presentation.

B. District Improvement Plan Update #2 and #3 Curriculum and Instruction

*See District Improvement Plan Presentation for detailed information.

Dr. Edwards shared a presentation on the District Improvement Plan Update #2 and #3 Curriculum and Instruction.

She first spoke on #2: Engaging and Rigorous Curriculum and said the Portrait of a Graduate is the north star and guiding piece for this plan. It is a real anchor for everything the district does.

She spoke about more specific updates and next steps moving into next year. She noted that the Illustrative Math pilot program will continue in the fall for all K-5 classes and other programs will be considered as well. This can serve as a heads up for a capital needs expense for materials.

She also noted the middle school grading committee working on a revised report card that will go to teachers first for review, feedback and revisions/edits. From there it will go out for parent feedback. The report card grade will be broken out into two grades per subject with one grade for Portrait of a Graduate skills and one for academic mastery.

Mrs. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments on #2?

Ms. Stokes asked what the plan is to roll the Portrait of a Graduate out to the staff. Dr. Edwards referred the question to Dr. Ahern.

Dr. Ahern said many of the staff were part of the process at faculty meetings so the foundation is laid there. Going to work with the new curriculum directors on how to embed it in units of study. The process will take multiple years.

Ms. Spencer asked if there is a way to have the children present their civics action projects at a future meeting?

Dr. Edwards replied yes, it's a good idea.

Ms. Scofield agreed with Ms. Spencer about civics action projects. She asked if students are able to pick their own topic?

Dr. Edwards students had a voice to select their projects based on their passion.

Ms. Scofield asked about Illustrative Math and how many times has the math curriculum changed for K-5?

Dr. Edwards said when she began ten years ago, we were using Everyday Math. Then switched to enVision about 6-7 years ago but always had to supplement. She said every program needs to be supplemented as there are no programs that can meet every need of all the students.

Mr. Keenan asked for quantitative measurements for how well implementation is going and the impact on the success of the students.

Dr. Edwards replied they are using the same three math benchmarks in K-5. Also, MCAS results and MAP testing will assist.

Ms. D'Angelo asked if there is a curriculum review cycle happening?

Dr. Edwards replied not formally.

Dr. Ahern added in recent years that reviews have been in response to new frameworks.

Ms. D'Angelo also asked about training with Dr. Kalise Wornum and how it will be facilitated across the district?

Dr. Edwards replied this PD was done with the entire staff this year including a keynote with Dr. Wornum and administrative staff last year.

Mr. Giguere replied that during one of the half PD days, they used the curriculum from the Learning For Justice website and used a curriculum framework called Speak Up at School.

Dr. Edwards then spoke on #3: High Quality Instruction to Meet the Academic and SEL Needs of Each Learner and next steps.

Dr. Edwards will be meeting with the principals in K-8 on 4/14/21 to discuss MAP assessments.

Mrs. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments on #3?

Ms. Spencer asked about an audit timeline?

Dr. Ahern replied that it would be next year.

Dr. Bergen said thank you to Dr. Edwards for all the work she put into this.

III. **Discussion/Action Items**

A. FY22 Budget Vote

I recommend approval of the FY22 Budget in the amount of \$67,914,184 as discussed.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Dr. Ahern spoke about a projected increase over FY21 of 3.44% from the Town Administrator.

Mrs. Goodman spoke about the budget adjustments.

She recommends reducing the Superintendent's proposed budget by \$770,400 by reducing the out-of-district tuition line item by \$600,000. She anticipates being able to prepay tuition this year and reduce the line item for next year. Also, adjusting the healthcare benefits line down to \$170,000 with claims trending downward.

Dr. Ahern said that the proposed allocation comes from the Governors number's at the joint budget subcommittee meeting the night before. With an increase to Chapter 70 aid. They are looking to implement the Student Opportunities Act. Also of note, a proposed account to assist districts with enrollment

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions/comments from the committee?

Atty. Pond Pfeffer asked with 2.5 months left of school, how there is \$600,000 still available?

Mrs. Goodman replied that there are savings due to the struggle to find substitutes or a need for them. Also, in transportation's contracts.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer also asked if the proposed budget is the full amount that was asked for?

Dr. Ahern replied it is less than initially put out and has been reduced on budget adjustments.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked if there will be any reduction in force slips coming in June?

Dr. Ahern replied eyes are kept on enrollment and class size. There are two reductions that are listed in budget. Also, a number of temporary positions were brought in this year because of the pandemic. The anticipation is that they aren't needed after this year.

Dr. Bergen gave a brief reflection of her views on the budget and what Franklin stands to lose with restricted funds. She talked about misconceptions about the budget and how money is budgeted and spent. There is a small reprieve this year due to COVID funds. She also stated that we have the privilege and responsibility of educating all children.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-No; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-1

B. Policy 2nd Reading / Adoption

I recommend adoption of Policy GBEA – Conflict of Interest as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Scofield; Second: Ms. Spencer

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 7-0

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. Reopening Schools Status Update (April 9, 2021)

Dr. Ahern spoke about the school's reopening. There are 738 students currently in remote only learning grades K-12.

She said pool testing happens on Tuesday and Thursday and is going well. There may be increases in participation with Grades 6-12 back.

She noted that some districts have had to pivot to remote learning because of clusters and quarantining and that Franklin needs to continue to follow health and safety practices.

She said we are keeping an eye on end of year events happening in a healthy and safe way being mindful of transition year grades - 5, 8, and Seniors.

A key question is how do we keep an eye on learning these weeks and moving into the fall? What additional COVID funds will be needed?

She also said that pool testing will remain until the end of the year.

She stated they are keeping in touch with VLA colleagues and administrators.

She said they continue to try and recruit personnel and additional staff. Additional nursing staff like LPNs. Also, having enough substitutes as well as counseling support.

She appreciates the staff and community flexibility. Staff is not 100% fully vaccinated yet so as second shots come, symptoms are happening and staff are covering for each other.

Finally, she stated there should be a third round of federal stimulus money in May. About 1.1 million for the schools with the town looking at about 3.3 million.

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions/comments from the committee?

Ms. Stokes spoke about a recent tour in one of the schools. There was some storage of extra air purifiers. Are they accounted for or are they extra?

Dr. Ahern replied she would need to speak to Mike D'Angelo at the Facilities Department.

Ms. Stokes asked about the nursing and substitute positions that need to be filled, how are they being filled currently?

Dr. Ahern replied that for substitutes the principals are on text chains with each other and are sharing subs. ESPs are filling in where needed.

Dr. Bergen asked if there are specific school concerns, who should be contacted?

Dr. Ahern replied to start with contacting the school and the classroom teacher.

Dr. Bergen asked for any public comments? There were none.

V. **Information Matters**

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

1. **Budget** - met on 4/6/21 and again on 4/12/21 with the joint budget subcommittee with Town Council.
2. **Community Relations** - next meeting 4/28/21 at 3:30. The MASC Day on the Hill is this Friday from 9:00-12:00. School Committee members across the state will join legislators and policy makers.
3. **Policy** - next meeting 4/29/21.

B. **School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - Next meeting 4/27/21.
2. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - next meeting 4/27/21.
3. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - met on 4/13/21. Nutrition, physical well-being, and mental health groups continue to explore opportunities

for staff and student well-being. Final meeting for the school year will be 5/18/21.

4. **Ad-hoc Superintendent evaluation** - Dr. Bergen will be contacting the sub-committee to set up a brief meeting.
5. **School Committee Summer Workshop** - Dr. Bergen let the committee know to contact her with interest in joining.

VI. **New Business**

A. **To discuss any future agenda items**

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- Calendar PD Days
- HS Diversity Awareness Club
- Remington School Highlight
- Board appts. for BI-County Collaborative
- Draft school committee meeting calendar for 2021/22

VII. **Consent Agenda**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from your March 23, 2021 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. **Declare Surplus**

I recommend approval of the request of Horace Mann Middle School to declare the following items as surplus:

- a. RISO Machine
- b. Books

C. **RMS Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$923.60 from Lifetouch for in-house enrichment as detailed.

D. **Music Gift**

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$293.00 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

E. **FHS Gifts**

I recommend acceptance of the following donations totaling \$1,096.86 for FHS as detailed:

- a. \$76.86 Campus Box Media for supplemental supplies
- b. \$600.00 Franklin Cultural Council for in-house enrichment
- c. \$330.00 Sager Sports Corp. for in-house enrichment
- d. \$90.00 Franklin Music Parents for in-house enrichment

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 7-0

VIII. **Payment of Bills**

Dr. Bergen

IX. **Payroll**

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer

X. **Executive Session**

Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn, to enter into executive session.

A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA and Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct collective bargaining sessions with the FEA 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)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 7-0

XI. **Adjournment at 9:13pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 4-13-21

Parmenter 20-21 School Committee Update Presentation.pdf

SC DIP #2 and #3 Updates 4_13_21.pdf

Budget changes.pdf

Discussion Action A - Budget Vote.pdf

Discussion Action B - Policy.pdf

Reopening Schools Status Update April 9, 2020-2021.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Surplus.pdf

Consent Action C - RMS Gift.pdf

Consent Action D - Music Gift.pdf

Consent Action E - FHS Gifts.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2119M.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2120 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2120.pdf

SC Warrant 031821.xlsx

SC Warrant 032521.xlsx

April 13, 2021 School Committee Minutes - FINAL

SC Warrant 040121.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off 041321.pdf
SC Warrant 031821.pdf
SC Warrant 032521.pdf
SC Warrant 040121.pdf
Executive Session Minutes 3-23-2021 DRAFT.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf