

**Franklin School Committee**  
**April 25, 2023**  
**Municipal Building – Council Chambers**  
**7:00 P.M.**

*Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29  
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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/82181316723?pwd=ankwejhMTEtnRkRza2F2NDhSajgrQT09>

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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 not 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 was: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Tina Rogers

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Yashitha Pravin Manoj is an exemplary 7th grade student at Remington Middle School. She is a member of our ADL World of Difference Peer Leadership Program. Yashitha set out to become a Peer Leader in order to ensure that people are nice to everyone and treat all with respect. She attended the ADL Conference in Boston as a representative for Remington and is eager to share her experiences with the RMS Community. Besides being a part of Peer Leaders, she is a member of the Choir, enjoys coding, participates in STEM competitions, and competes in tracking and running. She is an artist and loves to travel. Remington is very proud of Yashitha.

### **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**

Mr. Ahan Shetty shared some updates from FHS. He said FHS is hosting Critical Conversations on Wednesday 4/26/23 in the auditorium. He noted that Family Science Night on Thursday night. He said Best Buddies Prom is Friday night at the Elks. He said the music department returned from their trip to Disney. He noted that this Saturday will be the Junior District Music Festival which is for students in grades 6–9. The students auditioned and put a performance together. He added that senior pitcher Alfred Mucciarone was recently named Player of the Week. He said congratulations to Sean O’Leary for being named Hockomock Player of the Year for basketball. He said the Junior Prom is 5/5/23. He noted that the contract, food and allergy forms and seating arrangements need to be filled out by students. He said graduation is 6/2/23 followed by the All Night Party.

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

Mr. Charles said he is looking forward to Science Night.

#### **E. Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Giguere spoke about the recent trip to Spain through EF Tours. He also said the music program performed when they were at Disney. He said Mr. Hanna shared positive feedback from families of students who were recently traveling. Mr. Giguere also spoke about the upcoming Family Science Night. He added that May 3rd is National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day. He said more information will be sent home to families. He added that 5/5/23 is a half-day and PD Day. He said staff will be focusing on curriculum related and building based initiatives. Finally, he said that the Office of Teaching and Learning has received 4 grants in the humanities content area.

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

Mr. Callaghan asked about filling the open AP position at HMMS? Mr. Giguere said they had a resignation for the AP position and are in the process of posting the position for the interim and a search will occur for the following school year. He said Dr. Frazier is also helping out at HMMS.

Mr. Callaghan asked about cost savings of having specialized programs in house. He asked if there is a dollar amount figured of cost savings? Mrs. Goodman said in-district programs are saving the district money. She said they are roughly spending \$32,000 annually on average for in-district programs and roughly \$82,000 annually on average for out-of-district programs.

**II. Guests/Presentations**

**A. Remington Middle School Highlights - Mr. Craig Williams; Ms. Danielle Champagne**

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

Mr. Williams cited the book *The Power of Moments* and how Remington uses the power of moments to achieve their goals.

Ms. Champagne spoke about Advisory and the Student Advisory Board. She also spoke about supporting student behavior and students earning REMMY cards for achieving core values.

Mr. Williams spoke about maintaining a positive staff culture and spoke about community events such as spirit weeks, Unified Basketball and a visiting author. He also added that Remington is holding a Mental Health Awareness Day on

5/5/23. He added that they recently had a Remdawg Rally to celebrate the March Food Drive.

Ms. Champagne spoke about Open Sci Ed and spoke about student-led conferences.

Mr. Williams spoke about events still to come this year such as field trips and end of year events.

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

Ms. Bernstein asked about the After School Behavior Support, if it is only at Remington and if it is working/how is it staffed?

Mr. Williams said he believes so and they had a couple of teachers who wanted to take on that role.

Ms. Bernstein asked what challenges does Remington face that the school committee should be aware of?

Ms. Champagne replied that supporting student needs and mental health.

Ms. Bernstein asked if students are more troubled or students are more aware of their social and emotional needs?

Mr. Giguere replied that mental health is more visible when there are negative behaviors attached to it. He said there are just as many kids struggling who do not exhibit negative behaviors.

Ms. Bernstein said it is important to imbed coping strategies in the curriculum and how important it is to educate the whole child.

Mr. Callaghan said it is great that student-led conferences are back.

Mr. Charles noted that he liked hearing about the Student Advisory Board and asked about some highlights from that.

Mr. Williams replied the REMMY card and the big rules.

Ms. Champagne said it is helpful to have the board provide feedback before presenting something to the entire school.

Mr. Charles asked if there is a larger percentage of new teachers at Remington?

Mr. Williams replied there was a significant amount of new staff and some new staff just changing roles.

Ms. Stokes asked about the big rules if they are trying to take the big messages from the handbook?

Mr. Williams said they tried to go through the handbook and have staff identify

the most common behaviors they were seeing and proceed from there to narrow it down with different stakeholders.

**B. Redistricting Analysis Report - Mr. Lucas Giguere, Ms. Priya Sankalia, Mr. Al Charles**

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

Mr. Giguere, Ms. Sankalia, and Mr. Charles gave an overview of the redistricting analysis and details about the redistricting. Mr. Giguere said the vote would be on 5/9/23. The group noted the following:

- The last redistricting effort was in 2002.
- They shared a timeline of this process.
- About 50 members served on the redistricting analysis committee.
- Three options came out of the committee's work

Ms. Sankalia spoke about the three options.

1 - Keep Current Districts

2 - Redistricting Scenario - 561 students affected

3 - Current Districts with Buffer Zones

Mr. Charles shared survey data that was collected. He said the survey was open from March 7-17, 2023 and they received 114 responses. He said 50% chose option 1, 38% chose option 3, and 12% choose option 2. He spoke about the reasons families cited for their decision on the survey. He said the option they decided to proceed with is implementing option 3 in the fall of 2023 and transitioning to option 2 in the fall of 2024.

He said they would not extend across the board consideration to families who attended DT in 2020-2021 due to Policy JCA - Assignment of Students to Schools which allows families to make individual requests to the Superintendent to a school out of their designated district.

Mr. Giguere clarified the policy mentioned by Mr. Charles. He said they have used that Policy around hardships as the policy states. He said the policy is applied in situations that are very specific.

Mrs. Goodman spoke about the buffer zone opportunity. She said two surveys went out, one to incoming Kindergarten families who live in the expanded buffer zones and the second to the families who were previously at DT and are scheduled to move again if option 2 is chosen. She spoke about the results of those surveys and the projections if those moves were to be implemented.

Mr. Giguere spoke about a Facilities Master Plan. He referenced the Kaestle Boos assessment report and recommendations from 2020. He said that he and Mrs. Goodman met with Facilities Director Mike D'Angelo and the author of the report who provided the recommendations.

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

Ms. Whitmore asked for confirmation that option 3 would stay the same.

Mr. Giguere replied that option 3 has the buffer zone and those are by request.

She also asked for clarification that the recommendation is to begin with option 3 and then the following year would be option 2.

Mr. Charles said that is correct.

Ms. Stokes said she was a member of the subcommittee and that she voted against bringing the recommendation to the full committee. She added that she thinks this recommendation is short sighted and more time is needed to gather information. She said they need to do a School Master Facilities Plan. She added that she feels this decision is being rushed. She said the subcommittee received about 34 emails from the community and the full committee received about two dozen. She said a petition was also sent with 223 families signatures urging the committee to vote no.

Mr. McNeill asked if option 3 is implemented what are any complications that may occur?

Mrs. Goodman spoke about the lack of transportation for those students since they would be choosing a different school not on their bus route.

Mr. Giguere said they would need to ensure that it was a fair and clear process of how it works.

Mr. McNeill asked for clarification on a Master Facilities Plan.

Mr. Giguere said they have done some valuable work around enrollment. He said the work they have done this year has looked into specialized program space. He suggested to look at the life expectancy of the schools and access the current conditions.

Mr. McNeill asked what is the immediate need that will be addressed by implementing this recommendation now without first doing a Master Facilities Plan?

Mr. Giguere said they can use Keller and ASMS flexibly and he said they have an opportunity to create more balance.

Mr. Callaghan said he listened to a recording from January, 2021 where Dr. Ahern stated that the Keller/ASMS complex could house all the DT students. He added that she did say it would result in over utilizations but they would get creative with spaces and result in an 80% utilization. He asked what has happened to make that not the case and need to shuffle 19% of the students?

Mr. Giguere said that ASMS is housing some Keller space and they have been able to do what Dr. Ahern said. He added that those who are in favor of redistricting is viewing Keller as over capacity.

Mr. Charles replied that he does not think it was ok in 2021 either. He said the due diligence was not done in doing an analysis.

Mr. Callaghan said in 10/2012 Keller had 9 more students than it did in 10/2022 and asked what is different now than then?

Mr. Giguere said the space is utilized differently now and some rooms are not utilized as classrooms now.

Mr. Callaghan referenced the BICO lease at ASMS/Keller.

Mr. Giguere said they have been leasing the space for 15-20 years and have an annual lease agreement.

Mr. Callaghan asked about not renewing the lease and opening up two classrooms?

Mr. Giguere said that they have not had to do this and in speaking with Keller staff, they would like to stay together on the Keller side.

Mr. Callaghan said they visited Oak earlier in the day and the principal said he can absorb more students. There was a discussion about moving a specialized program over to Oak from Keller.

Mr. Giguere replied that they looked at this just like how they looked into moving BICO.

Mrs. Marano said they discussed not making a big impact on specialized students because it is a big transition and it is a disruption when you uproot a program. She noted that playground equipment for these students has newly been purchased as well.

Mr. Callaghan noted the Portrait of a Graduate and said the redistricting would impact 19% of students. He said it is difficult to make a decision like this when they aren't sure where they will be in 2030.

Ms. Bernstein noted that in retrospect the DT closure happened too fast and as it states in the report, a redistricting should have been done then. She said the DT closure was predicated on the flexible use of Annie Sullivan space.

She referenced the last page of the report with a chart showing a capital building plan. She is concerned that Franklin's budget difficulties would be an issue in trying to secure the community to support the building of a new school.

Ms. Bernstein asked why the ASMS wasn't utilized as planned in the last two years?

Mr. Giguere said it was decided to do an analysis and have a long range plan.

Ms. Bernstein asked if option 2 was voted down and no changes were made, can ASMS/Keller be used even more creatively so it alleviates the problem?

Mr. Giguere said yes and both schools would agree to use space flexibly as appropriate. He said there was talk about preservations of classrooms and students in 4th and 5th grade classrooms for example being on the Keller side and not ASMS.

Mr. Charles said by making a move now they can be getting ahead of a worst case scenario once enrollment is up.

Ms. Bernstein said the decisions they have made in the past like the DT closure etc., could impact any vote considerations from the community.

Ms. Bernstein had some questions on wording throughout the presentation and Mr. Giguere was able to answer her questions.

Ms. Bernstein asked if the discarded options are housed somewhere?

Ms. Sankalia said some are in this presentation but not all.

Ms. Bernstein asked on page 10, what is the special consideration?

Mr. Giguere replied that the special considerations are the buffer zones since a child would be attending a school they weren't assigned to. She also asked for clarification that the buses would not be provided for just the first year?

Mr. Charles said yes, if you choose to attend the buffer zone school you would not receive a bus for that year only.

She said in terms of requests, she has concerns about more affluent families being able to access the information and be first come first served.

Mr. Giguere said they would be up front with people and communicating with families. He elaborated about the JCA Policy.

Ms. Bernstein confirmed with Mr. Giguere that a child would stay in their specialized program in a certain school even if they were due to be redistricted based on where they live. She also confirmed that the wording on page 11 between the two charts means that it is the respondents and not the school committee making perceptions of the space.

Ms. Bernstein asked why the decision was made to not allow DT students who already moved once to stay at Keller.

Mr. Charles said it comes down to busing.

Ms. Bernstein said the report states those impacted from the move could be

more than 19%?

Mr. Charles said they are anticipating an increase in enrollment in 2027.

Ms. Bernstein asked about the chart for bus eligibility and if the bus fee in Franklin covers the entire cost?

Mrs. Goodman said the bus fee does not cover the entire cost, probably around 40%.

Ms. Bernstein asked what the percentages represent on page 19?

Mr. Giguere said the graphic is from the Kaestle Boos report in 2020 but he needs to go back to the report to look at those percentages again.

Ms. Stokes said she was the chair of the DT subcommittee and she is happy to answer any questions about that. She addressed Mr. Charles comment about the committee not doing their due diligence at the time and she said that redistricting was never on the table at that time. She said they were assured there was enough room at the complex.

Ms. Stokes said that she has been asked by the community why the subcommittee wants to redistrict now and she cannot answer the question. She is wondering why they would uproot so many families without a long term vision. She also added if this is a Keller problem, then looking at Keller for a solution.

Mr. Callaghan asked what is the average percentage of students who are moved during a redistricting?

Ms. Sankalia said she is not sure that can be answered and it all depends on the school and the comfort level of moving a certain number of students.

Mr. Callaghan said he would like to see the benefit of redistricting outweigh the cost and he is not seeing it quite yet.

Ms. Whitmore asked if a survey has been conducted for option 3?

Mr. Giguere replied that on page 14 it discusses a survey sent to families in the buffer zone.

### **III. Discussion/Action Items**

#### **A. MS Grand Canyon Trip**

I recommend approval of the request of Greg Rakovik and Nick Goldman to take 8th graders to the Grand Canyon from 4/15-20/2024 as presented at the last meeting.

Mr. Charles asked what is the date for the presentation to the families?

Mr. Giguere said it has not been communicated to families yet as they were waiting for approval. It will communicate it out.

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

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

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

**V. Information Matters**

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

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - Mr. Giguere will present evidence towards his goals at the 5/23/23 meeting. The committee will each complete an individual evaluation by 5/30/23. The subcommittee will meet on 6/1/23. Will be discussed and a vote at the 6/13/23 meeting.
2. **Budget** - will be presented on 5/10/23 at the FinCom meeting
3. **Policy** - next meeting 5/16/23
4. **Community Relations** - N/A
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - N/A

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - next meeting 5/15/23
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - 6/16/23 at Farmers Market. Next meeting 5/2/23.
3. **SEPAC** - Upcoming workshops on 4/26/23 and 5/11/23.
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - next meeting 5/9/23. Critical Conversations is 4/26/23.
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting 5/17/23

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from your April 11, 2023 School Committee meeting as detailed.

**B. Transfers**

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

**C. Oak Street Recurring Field Trip**

I recommend approval of the request of Brad Hendrixson for 2nd graders to travel to Providence, RI to Roger Williams Zoo on May 26, 2023 as detailed.

**D. Music Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$4,154.00 from music parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

E. Jefferson Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$14,609.95 from the Jefferson PCC for field trips as detailed.

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

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**VII. Citizen's Comments**

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive

Mr. Sherlock said that on 4/29/23 from 12-3 there is a poetry event at the library. He also said that on 5/6/23 he and Cobi Frongillo will be hosting a 3 mile walk around Franklin starting and ending at the common.

***At 10:00pm, it was at the 3 hour mark of the meeting. Per the Norms and Protocols of the Franklin School Committee, Ms. Spencer banged her gavel to stop the meeting and asked for a motion to extend the meeting.***

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

***Approve: 7      Oppose: 0***

***Motion Carries 7-0***

Ms. Stokes asked what time the walk is at?

Mr. Sherlock replied 10:30am.

**VIII. New Business**

**To discuss any future agenda items**

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 5/9/23 meeting:

- Redistricting analysis and vote
- District Improvement Presentations - 1 and 2
- Board appointments

**IX. At 10:02pm, Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn and 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 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.

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

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**  
**Motion Carries 7-0**

**X.      Adjournment at 10:03pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 4-25-23  
Payroll Warrant #2321 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2321.pdf  
FPS Summary & Sign Off 042523.pdf  
SC Warrant 040623.pdf  
SC Warrant 041323.pdf  
Remington School Committee Update.pdf  
*-- spot for redist. report --*  
Discussion Action A - MS Grand Canyon Trip.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf  
Consent Action C - Oak St. Recurring Field Trip.pdf  
Consent Action D - Music Gift.pdf  
Consent Action E - Jefferson Gift.pdf  
Executive Session Minutes-4-11-23-DRAFT.pdf  
Pledge Student