

**Franklin School Committee**  
**April 26, 2022**  
**Municipal Building – Council Chambers**  
**7:00 P.M.**

*Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29  
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/84698885928?pwd=V0NiUDE1Sks5ZGd2c0VhaWp6ZmVoUT09>

Passcode: 979729

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248  
7799 or +1 720 707 2699

Webinar ID: 846 9888 5928

Passcode: 979729

**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.**

**She said at the conclusion of the meeting they would be adjourning to executive session and not returning to open meeting.**

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

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Gavin Warnakulasooriya**

**Remington Middle School, Grade 8**

Gavin is responsible, kind, thoughtful, and mature beyond middle school. He is diligent, understanding of his peers, and very patient. He brings high level analysis skills to the classroom and encourages his peers to interact with content on a deeper level. His teachers routinely refer to him as a leader in the classroom and school community. Gavin has many interests, including mountain biking, soccer, and playing the acoustic guitar. Academically, he is most interested in computer science and math. His passion for math and science led to him competing in the Sharon Math and Science Tournament where the team from Franklin earned fifth place in the team competition. He also then humbly admitted he earned first place in the science competition. Remington is proud to have Gavin as its representative.

## **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** - there are none

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

Dr. Ahern gave an update to where the state stands for the FY23 Budget. She said the House Ways and Means released a proposal that is going to be debated by the House of Representatives. The proposal increases Chapter 70 by \$495 million or 9%. This works out to \$60 per pupil instead of \$30 per pupil that was in the governor's budget. The impact to Franklin would be an additional \$155,000 in Chapter 70 aid to the town for a total of \$310,000. The proposal sets aside another \$67 million for Circuit Breaker reimbursement. She added that Charter reimbursement rose significantly (58%) and that homeless transportation has also increased (59%). She added that there is a proposal for \$110 million for free lunch programs replacing the Covid funding which is going away.

The House will debate the Ways and Means proposal resulting in a final House budget and the Senate will follow with their process.

Dr. Ahern gave an update on the Davis Thayer school. In January, she said that the principals had walked the building last fall for items they could repurpose. Currently DT is being used for storage and housing of all the PPE. She said they have sought input from the Massachusetts School Building Authority and established communication with them. She said taking DT out of the district's authority could have implications on future building projects. She added that the Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment sub-committee has been established.

Dr. Ahern extended her congratulations to members of the Science National Honor Society for hosting Science Night on 4/13/22.

Dr. Ahern noted that the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion finalist Heidi Harris will be in the district on 5/3/22 from 6:30-7:30 in Chambers to engage with the community. She recently toured some schools and met with administrators and the DEI committee.

Dr. Ahern shared that Night of the Arts will be on Friday night, 4/29/22 at 5:30pm.

Dr. Ahern extended her congratulations to two Kindergarten classes. Congratulations to Mrs Rogers' class from Jefferson and Mrs. Ford's class from Parmenter. Along with a few other winners, they each won the comfort dog naming contest. The winning name was Eddie and he will be visiting those classrooms at a later date. Eddie also has an Instagram account.

Ms. Lily Rivera, Director of Marketing and Communications in conjunction with the DEI committee is heading Project Raincheck. Project Raincheck spread messages of unity, positivity, and inclusivity.

Lastly, Dr. Ahern spoke about some approaching recognition dates:

- Administrative Assistant Day is 4/27/22
- Principal Appreciation Day is 5/1/22
- School Lunch Hero Day is 5/6/22
- Teacher Appreciation Week is 5/2/22-5/6/22
- Nurses Day is 5/11/22

She said the PCC's have been actively planning for Teacher Appreciation Week.

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

Ms. Bernstein said for those watching to contact their representatives and senators and ask them to pass that budget.

Mr. Charles commented on how great Science night was.

Mr. Charles asked about the DEI director and if SC could attend that session in Chambers?

Dr. Ahern said yes, SC can attend that.

Mr. McNeill asked about Eddie coming to a school committee meeting.

Dr. Ahern said she would be happy to invite him.

Ms. Stokes asked about next steps for Davis Thayer?

Dr. Ahern said her recommendation is for a conversation with the Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment sub-committee.

Ms. Whitmore said she attended science night with her daughter and she enjoyed it.

## **II. Guests/Presentations**

### **A. MA Region III Science Fair Winners**

*\*See presentation slides for detailed information.*

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Antonio Marzoratti & Arav Tyagi - Wheelchair Project
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Anna David - The Effects of Cipher Choice on Entropy Encryption Decoded

Mr. Marzoratti and Ms. David gave an overview of what the Science and Engineering Fair is. Ms. David said that FHS doesn't have a Science Fair so they started at the Regional Fair.

Mr. Marzoratti said his project PAWE stands for Portable Affordable Wheelchair Enhancer and he showed the committee how it works.

Ms. David gave an overview of her project and her process.

Mr. Marzoratti and Ms. David gave an overview of their future plans for their projects.

Mr. Callaghan asked if he did any modifications to the wheelchair?

Mr. Marzoratti replied the wheelchair wasn't changed in any way and all the PAWE parts can be removed.

Ms. Bernstein asked if there are standard widths of wheelchairs?

Mr. Marzoratti replied there are three or four standard widths.

Ms. Bernstein asked what was the inspiration for their project?

Mr. Marzoratti said they came up with a bunch of ideas and got more interested in the wheelchair project after obtaining a wheelchair and seeing how hard it was to push uphill.

Mr. Callaghan noted the research Anna must have done for the historical context.

Mr. Charles asked how long the batteries last?

Mr. Marzoratti replied they have not done a full length test but they are estimating a long life span.

Mr. Charles noted the cost savings of this.

Mr. Charles noted the Native American Code Breakers in regards to Ms. David's project and how today we may be overcomplicating things and newer doesn't always mean better.

Mr. McNeill said thank you for sharing the projects.

Ms. Stokes said kudos to all who were involved in these projects. She noted how the students are encompassing Franklin's Portrait of a Graduate.

Ms. Whitmore said both projects were impressive.

Ms. Spencer asked how long 990 tests took?

Ms. David said it was a long time. She said she ran the same test 5 times to get averages and did variations of each cypher.

Ms. Spencer asked how fast the wheelchair goes?

Mr. Marzoratti said it went too fast and they slowed it down.

Ms. Spencer asked if the next steps will be to get a patent?

Mr. Marzoratti replied they want to finalize it more, get a patent and lease to a company.

Ms. Spencer asked Ms. David what her next steps are?

Ms. David replied she wants to do more research, test security and test in many different ways.

Ms. Spencer asked how she got interested in this?

Ms. David said she likes computer science and noticed there are a lot of data breaches each year.

Mr. Charles asked why FHS doesn't have a science fair?

Dr. Ahern said there hasn't been one at FHS to her knowledge but there is an opportunity for growth here and should be considered.

**III. Discussion/Action Items - there were none**

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

**V. Information Matters**

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

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - review the evidence in May, complete final evaluation in June
2. **Budget** - has not met
3. **Policy** - next meeting 5/3/22 at 5:30pm
4. **Community Relations** - working on Legislative Forum
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - next meeting 5/10/22

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - next meeting 5/16/22
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting 5/4/22
3. **SEPA** - workshop 2 weeks ago. Next meeting is in June
4. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - next meeting 5/10/22
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting 5/25/22

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2022 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

**B. Transfers**

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

**C. Jefferson Gifts**

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$5,050.00 as follows:

\$50.00	Minted	Supplemental Supplies
\$5,000.00	Jefferson PCC	Field Trips

**D. Scholarships**

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$10,850.00 for FHS Scholarships as follows:

\$10,000.00	Digital Federal Credit Union
\$ 850.00	Carol Maher Memorial Scholarship

**E. Districtwide Gifts**

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$1,000.00 from Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools for supplemental supplies and in-house enrichment as detailed.

**F. Music Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,312.00 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

**Motion: Mr. Callaghan; 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** - there were none

**VIII. New Business**

**To discuss any future agenda items:**

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items for the 5/10/22 meeting:

- Presentation on discipline and anti-bullying
- Policy from May 3rd meeting
- Unified Basketball highlight
- Possible election of Board Rep to BICO/ACCEPT Collaboratives

**IX. 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 FEA/RN 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 discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

**Motion: Ms. Bernstein; 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 7:43pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 4-26-22  
FPS Summary & Sign Off 042622.pdf  
SC Warrant 040722.pdf  
SC Warrant 041422.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2221 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2221.pdf  
Consent Action A - minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf  
Consent Action C - Jefferson Gifts.pdf  
Consent Action D - Scholarships.pdf  
Consent Action E - Districtwide Gifts.pdf  
Consent Action F - Music.pdf