

## Franklin School Committee

**April 27, 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 via Zoom. Members of the public may access the meeting via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99714450390?pwd= SXFETzJLRDM4WnQrRXR6enpmQkJKWdz09>

Meeting ID: 997 1445 0390

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,99714450390#,,, \*816804# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Passcode: 816804

## 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 - Yes; Atty. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes.

\*Ms. D’Angelo was present after the roll call attendance.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mr. Paul Duprey; Ms. Danielle Champagne; Mr. Josh Hanna; Mr. John Perkins; Ms. Ndoumbe Ndoeye; Ms. Kimberly Jean-Pierre.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Elle Bonacci, Grade 8

Elle is in the eighth grade at Remington Middle School. She is an excellent student which is reflected in her grades and the effort and focus she has in class. She exemplifies the REMDAWG Way. Elle is the type of student that makes us proud. Always kind, courteous and supportive of her peers. Remington appreciates the respect, hardwork and acceptance of others she brings to our school. Elle is also a member of the Remington Student Council.

Outside of school Elle plays AAU Basketball, Franklin Lacrosse and works at The Learning Express. She has two older sisters Grace who is a Senior and Audrey who is a Sophomore. She enjoys spending time with them, hanging out with friends and being outdoors. Elle really enjoys school and being a part of the Remington community. We are so proud to have Elle represent our school.

### **Moment of Silence**

#### **I. Routine Business**

**A. Review of Agenda** - all is fine

**B. Citizen's Comments** - Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments

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

Dave MacNeill, Franklin Education Foundation

Mr. MacNeill said that the group's fundraiser this year is A Day of Giving on May 4th 2021 also Horace Mann's Birthday. Anyone interested in donating can do so online at [Franklined.org](http://Franklined.org) or mail a check to Franklin Education Foundation at P.O. Box 531, Franklin, MA 02038.

**C. FHS Student Representative Comments**

Akash Shetty said that spring sports have started. Students are preparing for their AP exams and IT is troubleshooting any chromebooks to be all set for any online exams. Students have been back in-person for a second week, there is positive and good energy with everyone is happy to be back. He said the FHS staff and Mr. Hanna has done a great job. The issues at lunch have been adjusted and student's have adapted. The NHS food drive is still happening. Student drivers will also come to you for supply pick-ups. On 4/28/21, students will be trying to stay as silent as possible to represent the silencing and erasure of the LGBTQ+ community.

Nipun Goel agreed it's so great to be back in person. He spoke about DECA and that two groups qualified for top 20 internationally in their event.

Congratulations to the cheerleading team who won the Hockomock league competition. Finally, the music department is having an in-person concert on 5/4/21 in the gym.

Dr. Bergen thanked both students for their leadership and representation.

#### **D. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ahern gave a budget update. The Massachusetts House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee increased Chapter 70 overall state-wide, putting the state on track to fund the Student Opportunity Act over 6 years. Most districts including Franklin remain at minimum aid. Like the Governor's budget, the house bases our Chapter 70 school aid at a \$30 minimum increase per pupil, which is no change. The House Ways and Means Charter School reimbursement is a decrease from the Governor's budget, however largely offset by a lowered Charter tuition assessment. Also, \$40 million has been set aside for grants for pandemic related enrollment fluctuation. Franklin experienced an enrollment decrease of 2%, with some districts seeing a decrease of up to 10%. Dr. Ahern said we continue to watch enrollment carefully but does not think we will be eligible for any additional state funding if enrollment goes up this fall.

The Ways and Means Committee's budget includes \$367 million for a special ed circuit breaker, which is a \$22.5 million increase over FY21 and includes out of district transportation. The House is entertaining amendments at this time and a Senate version will be released in the next few months.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the DT to Keller transition, noting it is at the point of implementing the transition plan. The steering committee continues to meet monthly with the last meeting held in person at Keller. Mr. Stark and Mr. Craddock hosted committee members in a comprehensive tour of the school.

Input from that tour will help to shape a video/in-person tours to come. In the coming weeks, staff will be engaging in discussions for placement and curriculum planning.

Dr. Ahern also added that spring is a time for appreciation and the PCC is planning events with Teacher Appreciation Week 5/3 - 5/7. Also, Principal Appreciation Day is 5/1, School Lunch Hero Day is 5/7, and Administrative Professional Appreciation Day was 4/21.

Dr. Ahern spoke about DECA's Anish Gundimeda who has served as a Massachusetts DECA state officer this year. This is the first time in 20 years that Franklin has had an elected officer to the group.

Dr. Ahern also spoke about the Governor's press conference today. She said the information and news are still being digested. She added that Franklin continues to stay consistent with DESE and the DPH recommendations. Some questions have come about athletics and Franklin will continue to follow MIAA/EEA guidelines. There will be more information. She said to continue to stay safe and vigilant.

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

Ms. Spencer asked if the end of year celebrations also include something for VLA students?

Dr. Ahern replied that VLA student's will be involved in end of year celebrations.

## **II. Guests/Presentations**

### **A. Remington Middle School Highlights – Paul Duprey, Principal; Danielle Champagne, Assistant Principal**

Mr. Duprey and Ms. Champagne spoke about this year being like no other and the three different models this year - remote, hybrid, and mostly in-person.

Mr. Duprey spoke about the Living the REMDAWG way: Respect, Empathy, Mindfulness, Determination, Acceptance, Worthiness, and Gratitude. These words are practiced and incorporated daily at school by students and teachers. Ms. Champagne spoke about the GSA club which took over the landing page at all three middle schools creating different topics each day related to the LGBTQIA+ group. An ally board was created at each school. This was a positive experience for students and staff.

Mr. Duprey spoke about students finding balance. Focusing on academics but decompressing off the screens. He also noted the bouquet of flowers a week from one of the Remington families that has a big impact on the staff.

Ms. Champagne spoke about being safe through the school's relationship with the FPD and the school resource officer and welcomed visits with Ben Franklin. Also, different cohorts have bonded through the hybrid model.

Mr. Duprey spoke about classes at Remington and resuming projects like the annual egg drop project.

Ms. Champagne talked about the music department challenges and how teachers have gone above and beyond. There have been some adjustments like the band utilizing the gym.

Mr. Duprey spoke about Science Teacher, Ms. Travers and her Meet the Elements Project where students dress up as an element from the Periodic Table and do a presentation on their element.

Ms. Champagne spoke about high tech and low tech lessons from google meets to get to know you Jam Boards to snowshoeing in PE.

Mr. Duprey spoke about visiting author Jordan Sonneblich to all three middle schools. There were additional grants for two other visiting authors - Carl Deuker and Eliot Schrefer. He also spoke on connections, reconnecting and normalcy. He recognizes the school nurses above and beyond with covid protocols and pool testing and taking care of the kids, Officer Gove from the FPD, Ms. Durand the school secretary, as well as a group called the Wednesday warriors - teachers and staff who were in the building on Wednesdays, the counseling staff and finally, the permanent building substitute.

Ms. Champagne spoke about making the best of it and having fun and newly created mascot Little Remy. Students had fun finding Remy on masks breaks. She also said it was important to keep kids connected through events and thanks to the student council for planning spirit days.

Mr. Duprey spoke about Winter Fest which was live streamed this year which included trivia and a dance competition.

Ms. Champagne talked about a landing page to stay connected including the Feel Good Space, a place to place lunch orders, hold library books, and submit tech problem work orders, announcements, kindness Challenges, and would you rather questions.

Mr. Duprey showed t-shirts printed up for this year. Teachers send messages everyday to students that they are cared about. Finally, he said they are very proud of the Remington students and community.

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

All members thanked them for the presentation and got a feel for the community.

Dr. Bergen said it is very powerful how you presented going from remote to hybrid to in-person.

Dr. Ahern thanked them both for their presentation.

**B. FHS Diversity Awareness Club**

**Ndoumbe Ndoeye, President Diversity Awareness Club; Kimberly Jean-Pierre, VP Diversity Awareness Club; Mr. Hanna, FHS Principal; John Perkins; FHS teacher and club advisor**

Mr. Hanna spoke about a PDD Dr. Ahern had centered around diversity and inclusion. He said luckily there is a group of students at FHS who keep this work and progress moving.

Mr. Perkins said that about four years ago a group of students wanted to form a group to promote diversity. While he is an advisor, he is also an advocate and a listener.

Ndoumbe Ndoeye spoke about the club being created a few years ago, she wanted a space and environment where conversations can take place. She noted the group has spoken to the Jefferson and Annie Sullivan staffs regarding microaggressions and implicit biases. Recently they sent out communications on anti-Asian hate crimes as well at the Capital riots.

Ndoumbe also added there are non-persons of color in the group who want to support and learn.

Kim Jean-Pierre said the group is in the process of building a website for the community and also outside of the community. The goal is to have this done within a couple of months.

Ndoumbe said the website will be a resource for both kids and adults. She stressed the need for an education of different cultures. She noted there will be movies, books, and literature recommendations on the website. She hopes the website will be up and running this year and will be used in the future.

Mr. Perkins added there are fifteen students right now in the club but circumstances in the news tend to draw more students in. He noted they have been able to have a couple of guest speakers this year. He said thank you to Principal Hanna and Dr. Ahern for their time with this club.

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

Ms. D'Angelo said she would love to see the club active in curriculum planning at the high school.

Ms. Spencer asked what they spoke about at the middle schools?

Ms. Ndoye replied they have spoken with staff about incidents at the schools but they would like to do presentations with students.

Ms. Spencer said that at the Women in Leadership luncheon with Becca Rausch she mentioned a fashion show, will it still be happening?

Ms. Ndoye replied that it probably will not before she graduates in June. It was supposed to be April 2020 but canceled due to COVID. Hopefully it will be next year.

Ms. Stokes would like this club to present every year.

Dr. Bergen said thank you for your leadership and courage and being a role model. All members and Dr. Ahern thanked them for the presentation.

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

#### **A. BICO Board Appointment for 2021-22**

I recommend appointing Dr. Sara Ahern to the BICO Board for the 2021-22 School year.

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

#### **B. ACCEPT Board Appointment for 2021-22**

I recommend appointing Dr. Sara Ahern to the ACCEPT Board for the 2021-22 School year.

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-abstain; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 abstention

#### **C. 2021 - 22 Revised School Calendar**

I recommend approval of the revised 2021-22 Calendar as discussed.

- Dr. Ahern noted that there has already been approval from the committee for a 2021-22 start date of Aug 30 and an end date of June 17.
- Dr. Ahern said that she consulted with the FEA and principals and she is presenting a revision to include half-days for PDD and conferences. There would be seven half days, roughly one per month on Fridays for PD. There are two proposed in November for conferences.

- The elementary principals are asking for a spring conference time. The proposed adding of two half-days would be on March 9 and 10. Time on learning requirements would still be met with the addition of the half-days.

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

#### IV. Discussion Only Items

##### A. 2021-22 School Committee Meeting Calendar

Dr. Ahern spoke to Dr. Bergen and Ms. Spencer regarding the 2021-22 schedule of school committee meetings starting in July 2021.

- Meetings would be the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.
- It is noted that December has one meeting due to the 4th Tuesday falling over winter break.
- It is noted that February has one meeting due to the 4th Tuesday falling over February vacation.
- It is noted that sometimes July only has one meeting and sometimes a retreat or workshop is held in the summer.
- It is noted that these are not the official dates as official postings go on the website with agendas.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments? There were none.

#### V. Information Matters

##### A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Budget** - no meetings scheduled.
2. **Community Relations** - meeting scheduled for 4/28/21 is canceled and needs to be rescheduled. Dr. Bergen asked about having a table at the Farmers Market and Harvest Festival? Ms. Spencer replied she will reach out and get information.
3. **Policy** - next meeting 4/29/21.
4. **Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation** - Dr. Bergen asked Dr. Ahern to let them know of a good time to meet.

##### B. School Committee Liaison Reports



1. **Joint PCC** - met on 4/27/21. Atty. Pond-Pffefer said the joint PCC discussed their feelings on reopening, the budget, the budget brochure and video that will be put on the website, there's no anticipation of jobs decreasing, and end of school PCC events. Also, Davis Thayer has designed a farewell t-shirt, the cost is \$14 and comes in gray. Next meeting 5/24/21.
2. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - met on 4/27/21. Mr. Giguere spoke about the partnership with The SAFE Coalition. This would include a pilot treatment model including bringing the families in and putting information in the hands of parents. Mr. Giguere spoke that you can't punish addiction out of people. He and Mrs. Marano are hosting a 90 minute parent panel this spring. It will include community resource groups around mental health including You, Inc. Tanya Snyder of William James College will discuss mental health referrals, coordinate insurance and schedule follow ups. There will be a larger panel discussion this fall.
3. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting 5/18/21.

**\*Dr. Bergen noted that she unintentionally skipped over Dr. Ahern's Reopening of Schools Status Update. Dr. Ahern then presented on this:**

B. **\*Reopening of Schools Status Update (April 23, 2021)**

Dr. Ahern spoke of some new information released during the April break.

Current Juniors will not need to take MCAS to earn their diploma. They can take a qualifying course and get credits.

The reopening team is also sharing the joy of being mostly reopened.

The US Department of Agriculture will continue to serve free lunch through next school year.

Pool testing will continue through the end of this school year.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the change to quarantine requirements for close contacts. The new guidelines for individuals who are less than 3 feet in classrooms/busses will need to be quarantined, however 3-6 feet do not need to be quarantined.

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions or comments?

Ms. Stokes asked about the health metrics and the blank data box under trend?

Dr. Ahern replied that DPH changed how they report the data and is a different report. Dr. Ahern is reluctant to label the trend without the statistics behind it. She will remove this column once the April 1st numbers fall off.

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

**VI. New Business**

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

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- The school department's budget will go to finance committee on June 4
- High school update and graduation/senior week information
- Update on district improvement goals
- Annual school choice vote

**VII. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from your April 13, 2021 School Committee meeting as detailed.

**B. Transfers**

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

**C. RMS Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$600.00 from the Franklin Cultural Council for in-house enrichment and supplemental supplies for Remington Middle School as detailed.

**D. Athletics Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from the Special Olympics for supplemental supplied for the Athletics Department as detailed.

**E. Parmenter Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$309.89 from the Parmenter PCC for supplemental supplies as detailed.

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. Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session and return to open 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.  
C. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

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. **School Committee adjourns to Executive Session at 8:37pm.**

XII. **School Committee returns from Executive Session at 8:54pm.**

XIII. **Dr. Ahern recommends the approval of the 4th Memorandum of Understanding between the Franklin School Committee and the Franklin Education Association relating to the reopening of schools.**

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

XIV. **Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

XV. **Adjournment at 8:56pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 4-27-21  
Remington - School Committee Presentation.pdf  
Discussion Action A - BICO Board Appointment.pdf  
Discussion Action B - ACCEPT Board Appointment.pdf

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Discussion Action C - 2021-22 Calendar.pdf  
21-22 SCSchedule-DRAFT.pdf  
Reopening Schools Status Update April 23, 2020-2021.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf  
Consent Action C - RMS Gift.pdf  
Consent Action D - Athletics Gift.pdf  
Consent Action E - Parmenter Gift.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2121 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2121.pdf  
SC Warrant 040821.xlsx  
FPS Summary & Sign Off 042721.pdf  
SC Warrant 040821.pdf  
Executive Session Minutes 4-13-2021-DRAFT.pdf  
Pledge Student.pdf