

Franklin School Committee
August 10, 2021
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
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.

Members of the public are now welcome to attend committee meetings in person. Additionally, in an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to continue to access the public meeting using the Zoom link or phone numbers below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89621520327?pwd=SnlsMk5XNzdzK3lVUEInc012Zkw0dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 2152 0327

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89621520327#,,,,*898651# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 896 2152 0327

Passcode: 898651

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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 - there were none.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern shared two personnel announcements.

1. Lily Rivera, Marketing and Communications Specialist. Ms. Rivera is a recent graduate of La Salle University with experience in content creation and integrated marketing, education, community outreach, and graphic design. She also brings experience in public relations and copywriting. She recently worked for the city of Framingham and interned with the city of Worcester.
2. Jennifer Graveline, Assistant Director for Special Education. Ms. Graveline most recently served as the Special Education Administrator at Sharon High School since 2015. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Worcester State College and a Master's degree in Special Education from Bridgewater State.

Dr. Ahern added that there will be an opportunity early in the fall semester to introduce new administrators to the district.

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

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Summer Curriculum Projects and Summer Learning Programs

*See presentation slides for detailed information.

Mrs. Marano and Dr. Ahern presented on the Summer Learning Programs and Curriculum Development Work.

- Summer Learning Academy
- Summer Vacation Math Fun Camp
- FHS Summer School
- Extended School Year Program
- Lifelong Learning Summer Program
- FHS Athletics Strength and Conditioning Program

Mrs. Marano spoke about the Summer Learning Academy which was by invitation only. Mrs. Marano said that students had a fun time.

Mrs. Marano also spoke about Summer Vacation Math Fun Camp and how due to the pandemic there has been a decrease in math skills.

Mrs. Marano spoke about FHS Summer School for Math and ELA for credit recovery.

Mrs. Marano said these three programs were all first year programs and there is a hope to do them again next year because they were beneficial to students. She also talked about the Extended School Year Program for students with special needs and who are on an IEP. She said the need for services stayed the same between this year and last year.

Dr. Ahern spoke about Summer Curriculum Work Projects. She said a call goes out in the spring to teachers for proposals for summer curriculum work projects they'd like to work on. These projects tend to align with school and district goals. This is often a time to launch new courses at the high school. She said it is a really important application of development funds and said innovative curriculum changes come from this work.

Dr. Ahern noted some project highlights at the elementary level and middle school. She also noted that at the high school there is a curriculum update with an elective course in Group Exercise and an update to the grades 9 and 10 scope and sequence to the wellness program. Dr. Ahern added a couple more highlights not on the slides including ways in which Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are being incorporated into the curriculum. An elective course Dr. Ahern made note of the English Department's course, Diverse Voices in the Sporting World.

Mrs. Marano spoke about Special Education and noted in the GOALS program a third classroom was added this year.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the Digital Learning Integrationists and professional development opportunities for them hosted by FPS.

She also noted additional Summer Programs within Lifelong Learning - Summer Solutions Program which was a smaller program this year; Summer Music Academy was held for two weeks; the High School Experience will begin later this week with about 175 students signed up. This will be modified this year. There was also an opportunity for a rising 10th graders program for the students who missed out on the High School Experience last year. She said that three weeks of Ready, Set, Kindergarten just wrapped up. Dr. Ahern said she received a note from Debbi Winterroth saying how proud she was of the students. Ms. Winterroth is concluding her last year as leader of RSK.

Lastly, Dr. Ahern noted the Strength and Conditioning program which was very well attended with 470 students.

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

Ms. Scofield said it is great so many programs were offered.

Ms. Spencer asked why Math Fun Camp only has 21 students out of 79 invited?

Mrs. Marano noted it was most likely due to prior commitments.

Ms. Spencer asked what are the reasons they wouldn't be held next summer?

Mrs. Marano replied it would depend on funding. Dr. Ahern added they were funded by a variety of sources this year and they would need to also look at the sustainability of funding such as ESSER.

Ms. Spencer asked about scope and sequence in regards to OT.

Mrs. Marano replied it is how students develop skills and how the skills continue to develop.

Ms. Stokes said thanks for the information. She compared SWAC to the Strength and Conditioning Program and how physical activity is a good outlet for mental health.

Dr. Bergen noted how important it is for early screening in math and literacy. She also noted teachers playing a role in helping create curriculum.

Dr. Ahern also gave a shout out to all district teachers attending to their own professional learning this summer and added they are taking some well deserved rest time and prepping for fall.

III. Discussion/Action Items - there were none

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. FY 21 Annual Report - DRAFT

Dr. Ahern said this report is put together in collaboration with Mrs. Goodman who provides some financial information. This report includes a perspective from herself and Dr. Bergen, the School Committee co-chair. Dr. Ahern said this an opportunity to note any changes.

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

Ms. Scofield said she thought the report was well done.

Ms. Spencer said she feels the same as Ms. Scofield.

Ms. Stokes said she feels the same as Ms. Scofield as well. She also noted she had an issue reading the report in the two column format.

Dr. Ahern will be looking into that format.

B. Back to School Status Update

Dr. Ahern shared a back to school update. Included in her update is health metrics for the past four weeks, CDC transmission status, Franklin vaccination rate for students and population overall. She noted that all of this information is in the meeting agenda packet. She said the vaccination rate for children twelve and up is growing, as well as for total Franklin residents.

She noted the biggest question is of masks and face coverings. She said it is complex and complicated and vaccines are not available to children until twelve right now.

She stated that guidance has changed over the past several weeks and there is an opportunity and need to have conversation about mask coverings.

Dr. Ahern outlined that the plan is full time, in person learning and there will not be a remote learning option. Per the Department of Education, they are not permitted to have a remote learning option. She noted grades 1-12 start on Aug 31st and Kindergarten the following week.

She noted that DESE and the Department of Public Health have not issued a mandate but made suggestions according to vaccine status. There have been calls and legislation for universal masking for grades K-12.

Dr. Ahern noted some key dates relating to the updates:

- Policy Sub-Committee meetings on 8/12/21 and 8/19/21
- School Committee meeting on 8/24/21

Dr. Ahern noted other health and safety measures will still be practiced such as good hand hygiene, upgraded ventilation (UVGI), portable HEPA filters.

She also noted DESE prohibits districts from using distancing as a reason not to have all students in school. She said they would like to see less distancing if it means learning looks normal and kids can be social and collaborative.

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

Mr. Keenan asked/commented for the consideration of the Policy committee - what is the criteria to not wear masks at high school levels where the vaccination rate is high and kids are eligible?

Atty. Pond-Pfefer stated that DESE keeps changing their minds and it's too early for a decision. This could come down to the day before school starts.

Ms. Scofield said that there needs to be specific criteria but so many unknowns.

Ms. Spencer said they will be talking about this at the meeting on 8/24/21 and as the upcoming Policy meetings.

Ms. Stokes asked what masks looked like in summer programs?

Mrs. Marano replied that masks were optional and about 1/3 of students wore a mask and less teachers than that if they were vaccinated. She said no known students tested positive they are aware of.

Ms. Stokes followed up with a question about a recent email about a mandate coming up for an upcoming program?

Dr. Ahern replied that the community transmission rate ticked up and Norfolk county also moved into the substantial range. Guidance from the CDC suggested face coverings indoors for all individuals regardless of vaccination status.

Dr. Ahern made note that when the mask policy was reviewed at the last subcommittee meeting, there was an error in the masking policy. The optional mask summer approach is inconsistent with the policy still in place that required mandatory masking. She added as superintendent she has the ability to make some adjustments. The Delta variant has changed things and the mask policy is in effect until the school committee rescinds it.

Ms. Stokes asked about the reopening update page and if some graphs and numbers could be reorganized. Dr. Ahern agreed and will be looking into this. Dr. Bergen said this is a community issue and it's important to have key people there to answer questions at the meeting such as the Board of Health and school physicians.

Dr. Ahern replied that they have reached out to them.

Public Comments:

Mark Bisson, 39 Miller Street

Mr. Bisson spoke that masks in school should be an individual choice.

C. School Committee Meeting Tentative Presentation Schedule 2021-2022

Dr. Ahern spoke about the tentative meeting presentation schedule for 2021/2022. She stated that there will be an election in November with an opportunity for review again.

She noted the importance of students attending the meetings and student presentations.

She highlighted the following:

- Digital Learning Plan/Integrationists
- School safety presentation
- MCAS and other assessment data.
- Charter financial impact
- New member orientation
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Wellness and Discipline
- District Improvement Plan
- Community group presentations

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

Atty. Pond-Pffefer said this is a lame duck School Committee and doesn't think this current School Committee should state what a future School Committee has on the agenda from Sept - June.

Ms. Scofield stated that agendas can be changed or added to.

Dr. Bergen added that the presentations are centered around Portrait of a Graduate and district goals. She said committee members can always suggest topics and Dr. Ahern can readjust.

Ms. Stokes said thank you for including so much information, it's very helpful.

Dr. Ahern added that this is not set in stone and new committee members can make suggestions on presentations and information.

Dr. Bergen noted that the School Committee meeting two weeks ago officially was for 18 minutes, there was a workshop held prior for three hours.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Budget** - Dr. Bergen noted some goals for future work such as: facilities needs, long term technology needs, and continuing to find ways to be fiscally efficient.
2. **Community Relations** - Ms. Spencer said she is dropping off budget flyers this week to local businesses. They are working to have a booth at the Harvest Festival. MASC is holding their annual conference in person the day after the election.
3. **Ad-Hoc Superintendent review** - Dr. Bergen reminded everyone to send their evaluations to Denise Miller and they will be meeting this week.
4. **Policy** - next meeting 8/12/21, 6pm-7:30pm in the Training Room and on Zoom. Ms. Scofield urged the community to run for School Committee. She said that nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's office and to call ahead for an appointment. She said it's important for people to run for School Committee and if not enough people run then the Town Council can appoint the members.

Ms. Spencer asked about a transportation subcommittee listed?

Dr. Bergen said this is on an as needed basis.

VI. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- District Improvement Plan
- Policy; School Handbooks

- Back to school status updates
- New hire report
- New teacher orientation
- Review of Dr. Ahern's evaluation

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the July 27, 2021 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Declare Surplus

I recommend declaring the attached lists of materials as surplus.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked how many books there are?

Dr. Ahern replied that these materials are taking up space and the Follett reseller is not willing to take them. She said they will try and repurpose but need to be declared as surplus first.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer offered to deliver the books to another entity in need.

C. Athletics Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$325.50 from Campus Box Media for Supplemental supplies for the athletics department as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

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

Motion Carries 6-0

VIII. Payment of Bills

Dr. Bergen

IX. Payroll

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer

X. Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

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

Motion Carries 6-0

Adjournment at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 8-10-21.docx
Summer Programs and Teacher Summer Curriculum Work 2021.pdf
Back to School Status Update August 5, 2021.pdf
FY21 Annual Report.pdf
SC Presentation Schedules - 2021-2022.pdf
Consent Action A - minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Surplus.pdf
Consent Action C - Athletic's Gift.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2202M Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2202M.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2203 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2203.pdf
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