

Franklin School Committee

August 25, 2020

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 on Zoom.

Members of the public may access the meeting via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96779401906?pwd=OU5jRHhjVkhzaUsyek9DVnVXd1l1QT09>

Meeting ID: 967 7940 1906

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,96779401906#,,,,,0#,,685180# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 967 7940 1906

Passcode: 685180

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."

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call for attendance:

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Franklin School Committee
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FINAL

Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Absent; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

Also present were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards. Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is accepted

B. 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

C. FHS Student Representative Comments - none

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern addressed information about school surplus and materials that was brought up at the last School Committee meeting on August 11.

Dr. Ahern shared the reopening update and FPS is actively getting the schools ready. She thanked all the staff who are helping with this challenge to get the schools up and running. The official date for staff to return is Monday, August 31 and they will be experiencing professional development.

Dr. Ahern shared that the new teacher orientation is currently happening.

She also stated that the request for busing has expired but that is a fluid situation and will be continuing to collect busing requests. She asked that people wait to pay for busing..

She shared that they might be changing some of the dates for the high school reopening. She stated that they are considering revising the target dates for the hybrid model.

Lastly, Dr. Ahern stated that the flu vaccine will be required for all students whether remote or in-school learning.

Ms. Scofield asked about the high school's new dates. She also asked about considering having the high school start later. She also asked if there will be enough slots for teachers who need daycare.

Dr. Edwards responded that they are getting inquiries.

Ms. Spencer asked about when parents can see more information for families.

Dr. Ahern stated more specifics will follow up in the coming weeks.

Ms. Spencer asked about teacher assignments.

Dr. Ahern said we are working on those.

Ms. Spencer expressed a safety concern about special education and masks.

Mrs. Marano addressed the mask issue for meetings with special services and that face shields with masks will be required.

Mr. Keenan asked about DESE guidance about teachers being in classrooms during remote times that those benefits did not seem substantial. He stated a concern about child care for teachers and how remote learning could be affected.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer wanted to share that she would like to see the teachers in the classroom and teachers could ask for a leave of absence and what could happen.

Ms. Stokes also asked about the child care issue for staff and that it is expensive.

Dr. Ahern stated they will take that under consideration.

Ms. Stokes asked if the school based implementation teams were still meeting. Dr. Ahern indicated that they are.

Dr. Bergen stated that the YMCA is also providing daycare services at a reasonable rate.

Ms. Spencer wanted clarification on a communication that went out was it for remote only.

II. Guests/Presentations

- A. Tom Angelo, FHS Athletic Director
Josh Hanna, FHS Principal

Mr. Angelo provided information about the MIAA and DESE and their guidelines and categorized them into low, medium and high risk. They then divided the year into four different seasons. He spoke about how the athletic directors meet regularly and spoke about how the decisions are being made throughout the Hockomock League.

Mr. Hanna also spoke about the proposals for athletics and how we can have live athletics at this time and that all the adjustments will be made to the sports to protect the student athletes.

Ms. Scofield inquired about soccer and that it is a medium risk as it was considered a high risk previously.

Mr. Angelo stated that there would be modifications put into place.

Ms. Scofield asked about the cost of transportation for athletics and if parents will be transporting students, has it been run through the legal department?

Dr. Ahern clarified the transportation portion.

Ms. Spencer also echoed concerns about the modified practices for field hockey and soccer.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the athletic fees.

Mr. Keenan commented that he would advocate for athletics to continue. He stated that remote learning might allow athletics to be safer at this time.

Dr. Bergen spoke about how the recreation department was able to hold sports over the summer and that she supports this.

Will Tracey is a member of the football and basketball teams. He thanked everyone for their support. He stated he was extremely disappointed that school and some sports were postponed.

Gigi Zub thanked everyone. She spoke about soccer and how students have been practicing and playing soccer.

Declan Walmsley is a student athlete and would like to have sports continue as well clubs and activities.

Sydney Hawkins runs cross country and supports having athletics continue.

Denise Lewandowski, a parent, stated that the students have said it well. This will give students a glimmer of hope.

Virna O'Brien spoke about the well being for the class of 2021 and how they are the lost class.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Athletics at Franklin High School

I recommend the approval of Franklin High School sports teams participating in MIAA seasons although school is opening in a predominantly remote environment as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 5

Second: Ms. Stokes
Oppose: 1

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - No; Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

B. Policy - First Readings

I recommend moving the following policies to a second reading as discussed:

- EBC (SUPPLEMENTAL) - Creation Of A General (Interim) Policy On Covid-related Issues
- EBCFA - Masks/Face Coverings (New)
- COVID Policy Addendums

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

C. 2020-21 Revised Calendar

I recommend approval of the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

D. Digital Learning Integrationist

I recommend the approval of three Digital Learning Integrationist positions in Franklin Public Schools as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 4

Second: Mr. Keenan
Oppose: 2

The school committee members asked some questions about the position and how important these positions will be for the staff and students.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - No; Ms. Scofield - No; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. School Committee Presentation Schedule

Dr. Ahern provided information about the workshop and the dates for these workshops to occur.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Ad Hoc Supt. Evaluation, Ad Hoc Facilities Analysis, Budget, Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy, Policy, Transportation)

- B. School Committee Liaison Reports (e.g. Joint PCC, Substance Abuse Task Force, School Wellness Advisory Council)

BUDGET Dr. Bergen, Mr. Keenan and Ms. D'Angelo - Met last Friday, August 21

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen - No updates to report.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen - No updates report

POLICY Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes- No meeting scheduled at this time

JOINT PCC - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - Done for the year.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Giguere - Done for the year

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - Done for the year.

AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield- The process is on hold and will resume in September.

TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Keenan, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Scofield - No report

AD HOC SUPERINTENDENT - Dr. Bergen - No report as of yet

VI. New Business

- A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared that the School Committee will review the draft that goes into the town report, new hires and presentation of handbooks.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your August 11, 2020 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

I recommend approval of the Executive Session minutes from your August 11, 2020 School Committee meeting to be released as detailed.

Motion for all:

First: Ms. Scofield

Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer

Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

VIII. Payment of Bills are in order

Dr. Bergen

IX. Payroll Ms. D'Angelo not present at this meeting

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Keenan

Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Scofield

Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote to adjourn and not return: Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

X. Executive Session

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3), move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and the chair so declares, and not to reconvene in an Open Session.

XI. Adjournment at 9:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 8-25-2020

Discussion Action A - FHS Athletics.pdf

Discussion Action B - Policy 1st Reads.pdf

Discussion Action C - Revised 20-21 Calendar.pdf

Discussion Action D - Digital Learning Integrationist.pdf

SC Presentation Schedule 2019-Present - 2020-2021.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - ES Minutes.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2104 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2104.pdf

SC Warrant 080620.xlsx

SC Warrant 081320.xlsx

FPS Summary & Sign Off 082520 (1).pdf

SC Warrant 080620.pdf

SC Warrant 081320.pdf