

**Franklin School Committee
Minutes
December 11, 2018
Municipal Building – Council Chambers**

Meeting are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29

Chris Sterns of Franklin TV was present
A reporter was not present from the Milford Daily News

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Dr. Bergen

Attendance: Present were - Mrs. Dianne Feeley; Mrs. Cindy Douglas, Mrs. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Dr. Monica Linden; Mrs. Denise Schultz; Ms. Virginia Zub; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards. There were no student representatives present.

Pledge of Allegiance -

Sadie Bond from Kennedy School

A fifth grade student in Mrs. Kroeber's class described by her teacher as kind and hard working. She loves soccer and reading. She will be starting volleyball this winter. She finished reading the book, Wonder, and she especially likes the message "to choose kind." Sadie has 4 sister ages 7, 12, 14, and 23 Sadie loves her teachers at Kennedy. Sadie's pet peeve is when the desks in classrooms are not lined up neatly.

A very special memory of Sadie this year is when she sang the Star Spangled Banner

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

- a. Review of Agenda - Looks fine
- b. Citizen's Comments - None

i. In the spirit of open communication, "the School Committee will hear public comment 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

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Franklin School Committee
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Final

made. A Committee member may add an agenda item to a future meeting as a result of a citizen comment” – from Policy BEDH

c. FHS Student Representative Comments - none were present

d. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern – I can fill in about the high school that the winter sports are starting and some games are starting tonight. We wish them all the best. During December and January it is a busy for all the students with performances and the play Miracle on 34th Street.

I have some exciting news to share; the Commissioner of Education Jeff Reilly will visit FPS school on Tuesday, March 12. He will be here for a couple of hours in which we will showcase the district.

Lastly I have a reminder that we have winter break coming up Monday, December 24 through January 2.

I want to wish everyone happy and wonderful holidays to all the families.

2. Guests/Presentations

a. Report Cards - Dr. Ahern and Dr. Edwards

Dr. Ahern- The timing is appropriate as the report cards are going out this week for elementary and middle school students. We want to share with you about the report cards. Dr. Edwards and I will be presenting. She does incredible work across the district. Reporting on student progress is a long-standing tradition. We have a book of the Franklin High school ranks back from 1896. The reports are wonderful to see and how long we have kept records.

As far as Franklin School Committee policy on progress reports there are changes in the reporting system and it shall be preceded by a cooperative study and evaluation.

We will look at what is going home to families this week. We want to report on student progress as the year progresses. We want to show student

achievement within a course of study. We want to convey final course instruction and progress.

We have progress reports from ECDC. They are done on a trimester. This allows parents to see how their children are progressing.

Dr. Linden - Does that include gross motor skills?

Dr. Ahern - I think it does. But let me find out and let me get back to you on that.

Dr. Edwards - Elementary are done by trimester and those just went home. They are standard-based report cards. We last revised our standards based in 2013. We have been using this for over 10 years. There were some revisions in 2016 but not a lot changed. We do report out science in addition to the other subjects. This communicates how students are learning via a rating scale.

N – standard not addressed

I - standard just introduced

B - beginning to develop mastery

P - progressing towards mastery

M - mastery on the standard or on tract

E - exceeding the standard this was eliminated as it was perceived as an “A”

There is a comment section only if there is a substantive change in a student’s score. We do use Aspen format.

The parents in elementary do not have access to aspen until they enter the middle school and high school.

Mrs. Feeley - Parents wanted the comments, saying that they needed them, they were frustrated that these are not on this?

Dr. Edwards - Parent/teacher conferences explained this and gave the teachers time to convey information about this. Teachers during open house talked about this and what to expect. If the comment section is confusing, we can get clarity on that for them.

Dr. Linden - On that question, it does say that in the comments. Should it say that there are no comments?

Dr. Edwards - Right. We may look at that wording. It was initially vague.

Dr. Linden - It goes to parent frustrations, the N and I grades are more of an assessment of the teacher than the student. I wonder if there are pretests of these competencies or use end of year competencies? It would be more informative to hear where their child actually stands. The M is confusing to me and what does that mean? Doesn't the P mean that too?

Dr. Edwards - Let me go back to the first question. One-way is that they just begun that study and we can't base any grade on that standard because we haven't done this program of study. Progression of learning would be best done between the parent and teacher to understand. It shows what is going on in the classroom. A "P" is progressing towards mastery and doing what they should be doing at that time. The "M" also speaks to students who can reach mastery earlier than the other students.

Dr. Linden - In terms of the "E" that people want that, are they progressing towards the next one. Could the E come back with parental education?

Dr. Edwards -One of the things we did was to have a committee that did a lot of work because we would like to have all the staff have some say. We worked on how to get this grading done and the teachers drove that they did not want to have the "E". It was over 90% of the teachers who did not want to use the "E". There was a lot of pressure to get kids to the "E" and it was too hard to get to that level. It was to take the pressure off the students to get the "E".

Dr. Linden - At the conferences, what should the parents expect on competency standard?

Dr. Edwards -Something out of the range, then there should be a conversation between the parents and teacher. If there are any questions or concerns?

Mrs. Schultz - The parents come in for conferences and the parents learn about this, do the parents who do not come into the conference get something to help them understand so they understand the comments?

Dr. Edwards -The teachers reach out to those families and explain this to them.

Dr. Bergen - When a student is struggling is there general consistency when they will be notified?

Dr. Edwards - Yes, they will contact them about this and reach out to the family.

Dr. Linden - Do you translate report cards?

Dr. Edwards - Yes, we do. Some other things that the elementary report cards show is attendance, literacy, math, science history, social science, art, music, PE and health.

We spend time making sure there is calibration and consistency across all the elementary schools. There are assessments for literacy, progress over time and multiple data points used to determine progress.

The teachers meet with parents all year long to ensure that students are making progress in their learning.

Are there any other questions?

Dr. Ahern - Middle school report cards are issued at the trimester. They don't align them to go out on the same day as the elementary schools. We have traditional letter grades for 6 – 8. They can use Aspen to check on grades. The parent portal is open during the term and is updated every two weeks by the teachers. The comments do vary from the middle schools. If any student is in danger of failing, the parents are notified. The reported categories are attendance, ELA, math, science, social studies, art, STEM, computer, music, PE and health.

Grade calculations include assessments homework classwork, work habits/participation.

Grading practices zeroes are often calculated as 50s and retakes and corrections are common.

Ms. Scofield - On the grading practices, zeros are 50s? Why?

Dr. Ahern - If you were to average an A and a zero, it would be an F. We are trying to make sure each assignment carries the same weight, but they failed the assignment.

Dr. Edwards - What we heard that a 0 makes it mathematical impossible to make the grade come back. The 50 is a failing grade they have a C which is representative of what they have done. We have banned the 0.

Dr. Linden - Why are we using the letter grades in middle school?

Dr. Ahern - That may come up when we talk about the high school. We are looking into that and the high school is leading the way on this. For the high school, it needs to be translatable for colleges. We can address it during the high school part.

Ms. Scofield - Why aren't the middle school report cards on Aspen?

Dr. Ahern - They are.

Dr. Bergen - Parents are notified if the student is failing, what about from an A to a C?

Dr. Ahern - If there are any major changes, the teachers will reach out.

Dr. Edwards - The team approach helps with this so there are more people looking out for the students.

Dr. Edwards - The high school has the quarterly report cards. We use letter grades at each quarter. Final grades are counted as 10% of their grade. They can view this on Aspen. It is open during the term. The teachers update every two weeks but most do it daily.

Dr. Ahern - May I jump in? We want to make sure students are not worried about their grades and they become hyper focused. So we want to keep an eye on that.

Dr. Linden - Can you fix the bad habits so the students don't get stuck on the grade?

Dr. Edwards - We want the focus to be on learning and teachers may withhold grades so they can give feedback and have students learn what they need to know before getting a grade.

We report on attendance, academics by enrolled course.

In calibration/consistency we look at standard grad calculations by course area lead by department heads.

The grade calculations vary by assessment, homework, classwork and effort/participation. We complete a school profile report to assist colleges in interpreting our grade point average. Some colleges do their own calculations as well.

One of the things we needed to look at is grading practices that are really not in keeping with current research and trends. We wanted to look at homework and some of the grading. We have received articles that we are looking at to see what we may need to change. We are teaching differently. We want to make sure that we have a leveled playing field for all the students. We want to look at the 0 and how they affect their grades.

One of the trends is to eliminate class rank and that works against our students. The students who don't have a class rank have a better chance that one that does. Is ranking our students the best way to select students? This also plays in the *Portrait of a Graduate*. How do you assess soft skills? We want to show other ways that students can receive a grade through other means, for example, trying hard and putting in the work. Look at civic and social expectations as well.

Mrs. Zub - Could we stop using soft skills?

Dr. Edwards - Yes, we can. We call them academic expectations.

Mrs. Zub -We are talking about the same thing but how do you get there?

Dr. Ahern - Getting back to middle school, the grading is preparing the students for high school, we want to help support them to get to that next level.

Dr. Edwards - We are involved in student-based education for middle school and we want to be more focused on learning.

Ms. Scofield - On retakes, which grade is reported on the grades?

Dr. Edwards - Good question, teachers use averaging or only using the recent one. My opinion, once they mastered it, they should get the grade that reflects it.

Ms. Scofield - Does the retake require a certain grade to be allowed to do it?

Dr. Edwards - Yes. They need a specific grade to allow a retake.

Ms. Scofield – How does that affect the final grade?

Dr. Edwards - We are finding that perhaps they are not getting a grade that is representing that. Some students need extra time.

It has been fascinating conversations to have and really hard to unthink your practices.

Mrs. Zub – And the parents too.

Mrs. Feeley - If you allow the retakes, what happens if they decide to go to college, how do professors deal with this?

Dr. Edwards - The folks are looking at that with Heather McVay and they are talking about that. It helps students to identify their own learning needs.

Dr. Linden - Elaborate schemes for retakes, colleges are slowly moving towards this same idea. What do you need from the School Committee, what can we do communication wise, budget wise to help out?

Dr. Edwards - Thank you. We have the homework committee and there have been some parent nights. There is a parent education piece that we will need help with.

Mrs. Zub - It has come up in our coffees and there are some ways that we can do this.

Dr. Edwards – We have some great resources at the high school.

Dr. Linden - It is up to us to provide some communication.

Dr. Ahern - I want to reinforce the amount of work our educators do. They take great care in making sure students get what they need and give them personalized view of what they do. I want to give kudos to the educators. We talked about personalized learning and not all fit into the standardized system and we are working on this. This is one of most difficult transitions to work on.

Dr. Bergen – Over the last few years, we had so much on high school math and consistency. The schools have responded.

3. Discussion/Action Items - none

4. Discussion Only Items

a. BICO FY18 Annual Report

Dr. Ahern - The annual report is in your packet it was approved by the Board. We have 13 students in the BICO program. They have professional development offerings. The report shares data the number of students, the number of districts, and programs. The students served with emotional disabilities have doubled. There is an increase of the needs in this area.

Any questions?

Dr. Bergen - I would like to get what each program does and the percentage of how many students go back to their regular programs? Get a profile of why these kids are having these emotional issues. Sometime down the line and get more information on this.

Dr. Ahern - I would be happy to pull that together.

5. Information Matters

a. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Budget; Community Relations; Policy; Transportation; Public Schools Advocacy; Ad Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation) Proposed Timeframe 7:00 PM b. School Committee Liaison Reports (e.g. Joint PCC; Substance Abuse Task Force; School Wellness Advisory Council [SWAC]; School Start Times Advisory Committee [SSTAC], MASC)

BUDGET Dr Bergen - Next meeting is Monday, December 17 at 7:00 pm

COMMUNITY RELATIONS Mrs. Zub - Met on December 11, we are focusing on two way communication, newsletter, public forums, working with FEF and FPAC. We are looking at other avenues. At the last coffee we had a parent come and speak about SEL and recess and do they have enough activity during the day.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Mrs. Schultz - Next meeting is Tuesday, February 5. Not much to report. Karen Spilka and Jeff Roy will meet with us on February 5.

AD HOC Dr. Bergen - no meeting

POLICY Mrs. Scofield - Next meeting is January 3. We met with Steve Sherlock to discuss some of our social media policies. Dr. Ahern sent the policy to the staff.

JOINT PCC - Dr. Bergen and Mrs. Douglas - Meeting on January 7 at 9:30 am

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Mrs. Douglas - Next meeting is January 8.

SWAC Mrs. Douglas - Next meeting will be January 8.

SCHOOL START TIMES Dr. Linden - Next meeting is December 18. A survey is being sent out.

TRANSPORTATION Mrs. Douglas - Met Monday December 10.
Looking at whether all the buses have cameras. How the Charter School affects FPS.

6. New Business

a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern - We will have the next meeting January 8 and look at business routine items

7. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your November 27, 2018 School Committee Meeting.

b. Chamber Chorus Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Olivia Goliger for the recurring trip to Providence College on February 1, 2019 to participate in an invitational HS Choral Festival as detailed.

c. Boys Ice Hockey Team Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Chris Spillane to take the Boys Ice Hockey Team to Barnstable, MA from February 21 – 22, 2019 for a Hockey Tournament as detailed.

d. Parmenter Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$900.00 from the Parmenter PCC for field trips as detailed.

e. JF Kennedy Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$675.00 from the JFK PCC for field trips as detailed.

Motion for all: Mrs. Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Zub
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills - Dr. Bergen - All looks well

9. Payroll - Mrs. Douglas - All looks well

10. Correspondence – Budget to Actual – Miriam Goodman

11. Executive Session

a. Strategy with respect to collective bargaining

A motion was made to go into executive session

Motion: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

Roll call vote: Dr. Bergen-yes; Mrs. Feeley-yes; Ms. Douglas-yes; Ms. Scofield-yes; Ms. Schultz-yes; Mrs. Linden-yes; Mrs. Zub-yes.

12. Adjournment

Mrs. Zub made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Schultz.

All were in favor.

Adjourned by pm 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 12-11-18.pdf

Report Cards Presentation to the Franklin School Committee.pdf

Report Cards Samples.pdf

BICO FY18 Annual Report.pdf

Consent ActionA - Minutes.pdf

Consent ActionB - Chorus Trip.pdf
Consent ActionC - Hockey Trip.pdf
Consent ActionD - Parmenter Gift.pdf
Consent ActionE - JFK Gift.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off 121118.pdf
SCWarrant112118.pdf
SCWarrant112918.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1911 Summary.pdf
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