

Franklin School Committee
December 12, 2023
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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□ 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:

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Or Telephone:

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

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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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.”

At 7:00pm, Mr. Callaghan called the meeting to order.

In attendance was: Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Ms. Erin Gallagher-Yes; Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Ruthann O’Sullivan-Yes; Mr. KP Sompally-Yes

Also in attendance was: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Dr. Tina Rogers

Pledge of Allegiance

Sawyer Laing is an 8th grade student at Horace Mann Middle School. Sawyer is a hard working and kind student. We are pleased to have him represent our school tonight. Sawyer is described by his teachers as an active learner and a compassionate person. He has embraced our school's core value of GROWTH as he is not afraid to take academic risks or make mistakes. He encourages other students in his classes as well. Sawyer is polite and respectful to both peers and adults. He is a pleasure to have in class.

In addition to being an honors student at HMMS, Sawyer plays trumpet in the concert and jazz bands. He also participates in Franklin's Unified Soccer program and recently brought a buddy he met from the program to have some fun at the trampoline park. Outside of school, Sawyer enjoys biking and snowboarding. A goal for Sawyer in high school next year is to participate in either Franklin Soccer, Cross Country or Winter Track.

It is with great pleasure that Ms. Motte and the Horace Mann teachers recognize Sawyer tonight. We thank him for all the ways he has had a positive impact on the Horace Mann Middle School community!

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

- A. Review of Agenda** - reviewed and in order
- B. Payment of Bills** - reviewed and in order
- C. Payroll** - reviewed and in order

D. FHS Student Representative Comments - Mr. Ahan Shetty; Mr. Siddharth Chandra

Mr. Shetty said Panther Pride Night will be 2/12/24. He said that the band, chorus, and orchestra all had successful performances last week. He said that anyone who ordered pies and cookie dough for the fundraiser can pick them up on 12/21/23. He also congratulated the Robotics Club for winning their state competition for the 3rd year in a row. Connect 4 Cancer is hosting a Blood Drive on 12/21/23 and Hiking Club is hosting a Trivia Night on 12/20/23.

Mr. Chandra said that winter sports are underway. He also said that caps and gowns for the class of 2024 can be ordered now, and after 12/22/23, the cost will increase. Finally, he said the class of 2025's prom theme is luxury.

Mr. Charles asked for clarification how many years in a row Robotics have won?

Mr. Shetty said this is the 3rd year in a row.

Mr. Giguere also replied that this group is on the agenda for the next meeting.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere said that 12/22/23 will be a half day for students and a full day for educators. He also added that there will be no homework during December break and Dr. Rogers will be sending an email home. He encourages everyone to keep reading throughout the break.

Mr. Giguere acknowledged the FHS Cheerleaders. See II. Guest Presentations below.

He said the MIAA honored three FHS coaches recently: Kristen Igoe (Lacrosse); Zach Browne (Baseball); John Leighton (Unified Basketball).

He said FHS sports finished with the most wins across the Hockomock League. Finally, he extended well wishes for the winter break to all.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. FHS Cheerleaders – State Champions!

Mr. Giguere said The Franklin High School Cheer team won their 10th consecutive Hockomock League title. They won the Division 1 South Regional Championship and went on to win the Division 1 State Championship with the overall highest score in the state.

All the committee members said congratulations.

B. Food Services Highlights - Mr. Colin Boisvert

****See presentation slides for more detailed information***

Mr. Boisvert spoke about what is new for the 2023/2024 School Year.

- Universal Free School Meals Continues
- New District Chef position (Increasing Scratch Cooking In District, Expanded Farm to School Program)
- Equipment Investments
- Adult & Catering Programs

- ECDC Lunch Service

Mr. Boisvert spoke about contracts and cost savings. He said they are looking to further expand proteins and look for more additions.

He shared lunch statistics from all the schools in the district from October 2023.

He said there were over 56,000 lunches served overall in October.

He said breakfast served has grown and compared October 2019 vs. October 2023.

He spoke about the future expansion of the food service program.

Mr. Callaghan asked the committee for any questions/comments from the committee?

Mr. Griffith said the impact of universal lunch is impressive and is curious how it can be expanded even further?

Mr. Boisvert said they continue to work on their marketing program and are trying to utilize social media more. He said they need to also look into possibly more staff and kitchen items if they are serving more students.

Mr. Charles asked if he can expand upon any grants they have received.

Mr. Boisvert replied that the funding they have received will continue into the next school year. He said when funding becomes available it is something they try to get. He said they work with the state to receive allocated funds and try for grants.

Mr. McNeill noted how proactive they are in working to be innovative and striving to achieve grant funding and also working with local vendors.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if students eat the fish?

Mr. Boisvert said the fish did get a good response and they are going to try out Salmon this week at FHS.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked what would happen if things were to change for next year.

Mr. Boisvert said as of right now the legislature has passed universal lunch as a permanent change. He also added that the USDA has expanded the CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) opportunity.

Mr. Sompally asked how frequently they get the beef and fish inventory?

Mr. Boisvert replied that they schedule deliveries in advance.

Mr. Callaghan noted the post Covid spike in both lunches and breakfasts.

Mr. Charles asked if he could speak to the ECDC lunch program?

Mr. Boisvert replied that those meals come out of the HMMS/Oak St. kitchen and their own specific menu. He said lunches are delivered into the classrooms.

Mr. Giguere said he has gotten calls from other school superintendent's to inquire about Franklin's lunch program.

C. Lifelong Learning Presentation - Ms. Patricia Gay

****See presentation slides for more detailed information***

Ms. Gay spoke about the four branches of Lifelong Learning: Solutions Program, Community Learning, Music Academy, and Summer Programs.

She spoke about the Lifelong Learning team which consists of:

- Director of Lifelong Learning
- Associate and Assistant Directors of Solutions
- Program Manager of Community Learning
- Director of Music Academy
 - Office Manager
- Community Walking Liaison
- Lifelong Learning Media and Data Specialist

She also spoke about enrollment and staff, how Lifelong Learning aligns with the Franklin District Improvement Plan.

Mr. Callaghan asked the committee for any questions/comments from the committee?

Mr. Sompally asked who designs the curriculum?

Ms. Gay said teachers can put out curriculum proposals for the summer program, and Solutions staff plan their curriculum.

Ms. O'Sullivan noted all the music programs that are offered.

Mr. McNeill asked if Lifelong Learning is self funded through the fees?

Ms. Gay replied that is correct.

Mr. McNeill asked if any programs will be expanded?

Ms. Gay said they have put art classes with STEAM and are looking to expand on middle school.

Mr. Charles asked what is the communication plan to let the community know when registration is?

Ms. Gay replied that they are on social media and send out email communications.

Mr. Griffith asked about challenges they face that the school committee can help with.

Ms. Gay said staffing and space are two of their challenges. She added that staffing has improved.

Ms. Gallagher asked if they are able to meet the demand for the Solutions program?

Ms. Gay said they are able to accommodate most families

Mr. Callaghan noted that some middle school clubs are able to return to HMMS through Lifelong Learning.

Mr. Giguere also noted that the ski club filled quickly.

D. Snow Presentation - Mr. Brutus Cantoreggi; Mr. Carlos Rebelo; Mr. Tony Brunetta

****See presentation slides for more detailed information***

Mr. Cantoreggi spoke about their snow removal priorities such as roadways, public buildings/schools, sidewalks, and their goals.

He also spoke about the FY24 snow budget.

He spoke about environmental concerns and the amount of salt that is found in the water. He also spoke about the amount of snow removal equipment the town utilizes.

He also noted the different challenges that the town faces such as the amount of sidewalks and the timing and length of the storm.

He spoke about the worker shortage they face.

He emphasized that the safety of the residents and employees of the town are the top priority.

Mr. Callaghan asked the committee for any questions/comments from the committee?

Ms. Gallagher said she appreciates the new technology they are using.

Mr. Griffith echoed what Ms. Gallagher said.

Mr. Charles thanked the department for the work they do.

Mr. McNeill asked about the route designs and if it affects the schools?

Mr. Cantoreggi said they do not focus on one particular school first or schools before streets. He said they try to prioritize sidewalks.

Mr. McNeill asked for confirmation that there is no way to tell how fast the roads will be cleared to drive on.

Mr. Cantoreggi replied that that is correct and it makes their department's job easier if the community stays home during a snowstorm.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if the school budget were to come up short, if their department had any funding to allocate?

Mr. Cantoreggi referenced that their department had extra funds this past year due to snowfall amounts being less than what was budgeted for, however he said that may not be the case this year.

Mr. Sompally asked if they used the same products in the parking lots and the streets?

Mr. Cantoreggi replied that they use the same product but also have been spraying with magnesium which freezes at a lower temperature. However, since it is more expensive, they are cautious when they use it.

Mr. Callaghan asked what the conversations consisted of between himself and the superintendent in the early mornings?

Mr. Cantoreggi replied they discussed the present situation and where they will be headed.

Mr. Giguere also replied that surface temperature creates a huge impact on the amount of snow that a town will get. He said he also speaks with other towns but Franklin has to consider the amount of schools in the district.

III. Discussion/Action Items - there was none

IV. Discussion Only Items - there was none

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports - Mr. Callaghan noted which committee members fall under the subcommittees:

1. Superintendent Evaluation - *Mr. McNeill, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Sompally*
2. Budget - *Mr. McNeill, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Sompally*
3. Policy - *Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Callaghan, Mr. McNeill*
4. Community Relations - *Mr. Charles, Ms. Gallagher, Ms. O'Sullivan*. They met 12/11/23, discussed in person events and a possible monthly communication. Next meeting 1/8/24.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. Joint PCC - *Mr. Charles*
2. Comprehensive School Facilities Planning Committee - *Mr. Callaghan, Mr. Charles, Ms. Gallagher*
3. School Wellness Advisory Council - *Mr. Sompally*. They met last week; next meeting is 1/9/24
4. SEPAC - N/A
5. Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force - *Ms. O'Sullivan*. They met on 12/12/23. Next meeting 1/9/24.
6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - N/A
7. MASC Liaison - *Mr. McNeill*

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your November 28, 2023 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Oak St. Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$4,300.00 from the Oak St. PCC for field trips as detailed.

C. 40% Club - Student Activity Account

I recommend creating a student Activity Account for the 40% Club at FHS.

D. Recurring Vet's Auditorium Field Trip - Parmenter/JFK

I recommend approval of the request of Mary MacMurray to take music students to the Veteran's Auditorium, Providence, RI, on May 23 (Parmenter) and May 24 (JFK), 2024 to see a concert and perform with the musicians as detailed.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

Mr. Charles asked what the 40% Club is?

Mr. Giguere replied that this club focuses on controlling what you can control.

For example, this group offers words of affirmations on each other's lockers.

Mr. Charles asked if there is a directory of all of the clubs?

Mr. Giguere replied that it is on the FHS website.

VII. Good of the Order

Mr. Charles reminded the community that there is a document for the process of communicating with schools and staff

Ms. O'Sullivan noted subcommittee work and said she recently met with a community member who noted that it would be helpful to have a school committee member delegated to attend town council office hours.

VIII. Citizen's Comments - there were no comments

IX. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 1/9/24 meeting:

- FHS Program of Studies
- Capital Budget Requests
- A Student Services Presentation will be held at a later date
- Calendar draft at a later date

X. Mr. Callghan asked for an adjournment to end the meeting.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

XI. Adjournment at 9:07pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 12-12-23

Payroll Warrant #2412 Final.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2412 Summary Final.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign Off 12122023.pdf
SC Warrant 112223.pdf
SC Warrant 113023.pdf
Cheerleaders
Food Service Update.pdf
LLI Presentation December 2023.pdf
Snow Pres 2023.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Oak Gift.pdf
Consent Action C - Student Activity Account -40%club.pdf
Consent Action D - JFK-Parm Trip.pdf
Budget to Actual.pdf
Pledge of Allegiance Rep.HMMS 12_12.pdf