

## Franklin School Committee

December 8, 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 via Zoom.  
Members of the public may access the meeting via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/92441961293?pwd=WHRTcjMwcEU4cHNhWnRaSmNwbEsyUT09>

Meeting ID: 924 4196 1293

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,92441961293#,,,,,0#,,474330# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 924 4196 1293

Passcode: 474330

“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.”

## MINUTES

Call to Order at 7:01 pm

Roll Call Attendance: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Akash Shetty - Grade 12

Akash Shetty is a senior at Franklin High School. He is the senior class president, captain of the mock trial team, and is involved in DECA as well. He is also a member of the tennis team and plays violin in the string orchestra. His favorite subjects to learn about are Economics and US History, and in his free time he likes to listen to a variety of music and play poker. In his opinion as class president, the Class of 2021 has done an awesome job being flexible and understanding during the ups and downs through the uncertainties of the school year, and is continuing to make the most of their senior year!

Moment of Silence

## **I. Routine Business**

A. Review of Agenda - reviewed - all is fine

B. Citizen's Comments - 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

Leah Wahrhaftig-Jeri works at Franklin High School and spoke about the teacher workloads. She spoke about the long hours to ensure a great education and her struggle.

Heather Adams works at Oak Street and shared her concerns about the no school spread evidence and how do we know that it does not spread in schools.

Jessica Kelly commented about her two six year olds and nine year old at Oak Street and the high school reps don't represent the entire population of students. She spoke about how students are struggling and not doing well.

#### **A. FHS Student Representative Comments**

Akash Shetty addressed the previous comment and how he represents the upperclassmen and not elementary students but that should be taken into consideration. He spoke about how teachers are struggling with adequate testing. He noticed that the number of students attending the high school are decreasing.

Nipun Goel agrees with Akash about their representation. He spoke again that students are opting in school learning. He spoke about the music program and they are having a concert this week.

Akash Shetty spoke about how to get underclassmen more involved.

#### **B. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ahern highlighted recognizing the scheduling and logistical issues for testing. She spoke about making plans for students to test in grade 11 and will be postponing the test.

The school district will be getting cloth masks for each student provided by the Department of Education.

She spoke about how the Department of Education has provided air purification systems.

Dr. Ahern spoke about a presentation done during the Town Council meeting about cyber attack and no information was breached on the school side. She also spoke about technology support and are refining the support for students.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about the phishing in the town and our process that the school has for large transfers.

Dr. Ahern stated that they do have a process for the financials for the schools.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked about a new hire and would it be a shared responsibility between the town and school.

Ms. Scofield asked about where the money to support this position would come from.

Ms. Spencer asked about the digital monthly meetings and if it could be changed to a different time. She commented about having staff work their contractual hours and how stressed they are.

## **II. Guests/Presentations**

### **A. Winter Athletics Update - Tom Angelo**

Mr. Angelo shared information about the winter sport season which starts on December 14. He spoke about some of the programs that have been moved to another season. He stated that 252 students have signed up for sports. He spoke about all the precautions they will follow regarding COVID.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about how many athletes participated in the fall sports.

All the School Committee members thanked Mr. Angelo for the presentation and the thoughtfulness.

Ms. Spencer asked about any new guidelines to affect sports from Gov. Baker.

Dr. Bergen asked about discipline for any students having parties.

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

### **A. Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Adoption**

I recommend adoption of the following policies as discussed:

#### **1. JJEA-Crowdfunding Policy**

Motion to vote on each separately

Motion: Ms. Scofield

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer

Approve: 7

Oppose: 0

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

#### **2. GE-Telework Policy**

Motion: Ms. Scofield

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer

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Approve: 6

Oppose: 1

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

#### **IV. Discussion Only Items**

##### **A. FY 21 Budget Updates**

Dr. Ahern presented a budget update as the money from the COVID fund ends this month.

Mrs. Goodman highlighted some of the budget savings from some different departments. She stated that we are waiting for the State budget to be finalized. She stated that the school budget will meet their goals.

##### **B. Kindergarten and Grade 1 Full and In-person update**

Dr. Ahern outlined some scenarios bringing back K and grade 1 in person and provided some of the findings. She spoke about how they toured each building to see how it may work. She stated that they did not send a survey out but will be sending one out soon.

She provided an outline of three scenarios. Dr. Ahern spoke about what the next steps would be.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about having the parent survey being done to help with how many parents are looking to go to in-school learning and is disappointed with the lack of information and detail. She also stated that we are not at a point to bring our K and Grade 1 learners back.

Mr. Keenan commented about the survey and how we need to have families weigh in to see what scenario they would like to have.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer agreed with Ms. D'Angelo about not being far in this process to get the students back to school.

Ms. Scofield commented on the three scenarios and wanted to know if this can be accomplished. She asked about when would help be available for families in these grades. She asked about remote learning and the break time spent.

Ms. Spencer spoke about the reopening plan from the State today and asked if we surveyed staff on bringing back more students.

Dr. Ahern stated that staff has not been surveyed.

Ms. Spencer asked about the 6 feet of space and 3 feet of space and would we need more staff to help cover the K and Grade 1. She asked about inequity in the schools.

Ms. Stokes supports getting K and Grade 1 back to school and doing away with the hybrid for this group. She asked for a personnel update.

Dr. Bergen added that we do need to get K and Grade 1 back and the bottom line is staffing.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about the half day model and it would not impact staffing.

#### C. Reopening of Schools Status Report 12/4/2020

Dr. Ahern shared the metrics of COVID cases that Franklin is in yellow. She spoke about the new guidance for quarantine time for positive cases.

Ms. D'Angelo asked for building-based data regarding COVID.

Ms. Spencer asked about staff quarantine and do we have a backup plan regarding lack of staffing.

Dr. Ahern said that they could pivot to remote.

Ms. Stokes asked about VLA and them receiving text books.

Jessica Kelly clarified that her twins are first graders who can read and offer to donate a time as a sub to get the students back.

Angela Snyder commented that all the students are experiencing different things but the younger students are struggling and the K - grade 1 that are not spreading COVID. They are losing so much and the risk is so much less.

Lisa DeFrancesco commented on her students who are in K and grade 1 and how they are struggling.

Amy Danahy said that she feels for the struggling students and how they need help. She stated that she is a reading specialist and the younger students need support.

Jacqueline spoke about taking the steps to listen us to through emails and the meetings. She spoke about how her children are struggling. She said that asynchronous learning for K and grade 1 requires a parent to be present.

Jess Crosby is a teacher and parent of a kindergartener. She commented that his son's teachers and how well they have done with their class. She commented that at middle schools, the students are not following the guidelines with socializing.

Kristen Walsh works at Oak Street and thanked for advocating for the staff. She asked that staff should be surveyed first. She shared about the number of COVID cases at Oak. She asked about how stressed staff are and how they are being monitored.

Christine Anderson commented about her students and how wonderful the staff has been but thinks the schools will meet to discuss best practices.

Heather Sansoucy thanked everyone for tonight's meeting. She commented that the entire world is suffering due to this. She stated that there are no easy answers. She offered an idea on how to help our schools and on a Facebook page people have volunteered to help.

Erin Regan commented that she was disappointed about not having a plan for students with only a few options.

Lauren Davies works at Oak Street and wanted to talk about the struggles with staffing.

William Ertle has a first grader and how being in person is better for students. He expressed how concerned he is and not getting feedback from the community.

Eric Benson thanked the School Committee and teachers. He shared that the hybrid model for K and grade 1 doesn't work when they can't read.

Meaghan Benson also stated that parents will help with the survey and another point is that the survey would reassess transportation needs.

Jen stated that she left her job to help her children who are in K and grade 1. She would like to know how the half days would work with remote learning too.

**D. Updated School Committee Presentation Schedule**

Dr. Ahern shared the schedule and school improvement plans will go with the district improvement plans.

**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, Franklin Racial & Social Justice Task Force)

**BUDGET** Dr. Bergen, Mr. Keenan and Ms. D'Angelo - Met on Tuesday, December 2 in a workshop. Will meet with FinCom on December 15

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS** - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen - in process of setting a new meeting day

**PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY** Dr. Bergen - no information

**POLICY** Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - Meeting on December 17

**JOINT PCC** - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - Met on November 23. Next December 22 meeting

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Giguere - December 22 meeting

**SCHOOL WELLNESS** - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - meeting December 15

**AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY** Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield- Meeting on December 9.

**TRANSPORTATION** - Mr. Keenan, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Scofield - no meetings



**AD HOC SUPERINTENDENT** - Dr. Bergen - presentation was done and a new committee will be chosen. The new committee will be Mr. Keenan and Dr. Bergen and Ms. Stokes

**RACIAL JUSTICE** - Dr. Bergen - did not meet

## **VI. New Business**

- A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared that you will have a highlight from ECDC and Dianne Plouffe from the music department will talk about performances. She also wants to look at the student opportunity acts which are due.

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your November 24, 2020 School Committee meeting as detailed.

- B. FHS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$29.69 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. for in-house enrichment at FHS as detailed.

Motion for all: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer      Second: Ms. Scofield  
Approve: 7                                      Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. MaryJane 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 is in order**

Ms. D'Angelo

## **X. Executive Session**

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

Motion to adjourn go into Executive Session:

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Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer  
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Spencer  
Oppose: 0

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

## **XI. Adjournment at 9:41 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 12-8-20

Winter COVID-19 Athletics to SC .pdf

Discussion Action A - Policy 2ndRead-Adoption.pdf

A. Budget Update for School Committee 12\_3\_2020.pdf

B. Scenarios for K-1 In Person Learning 12\_3\_2020.pdf

C. Reopening Schools Status Update Dec 4 2020-2021.pdf

D. SC Presentation Schedules 2019-Present - 2020-2021.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - FHS Gift.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2111 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2111.pdf

SCWarrant111920.xlsx

SCWarrant12520.xlsx

FPS Summary & Sign Off 120820.pdf

SCWarrant111920.pdf

SCWarrant12520.pdf

Budget2Actual.pdf

Pledge Student.pdf