

Franklin School Committee
February 14, 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.

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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.”

Ms. Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Ms. Spencer said at the end of the meeting they would be adjourning to executive session and not returning to open meeting.

In Attendance: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-No; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-No; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-No; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes

Also in attendance were: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman

Pledge of Allegiance Francesco "Frankie" Pasquarosa, Kennedy Elementary School

Frankie is in Mrs. Lacerda's fifth-grade classroom at Kennedy School. Frankie has been at Kennedy since kindergarten; his younger brother Luciano is in the third grade. Frankie's older brother Vinnie also attended Kennedy and is now a sophomore at Franklin High School. Frankie considers himself to be a student-athlete. His favorite sports are wrestling, football, and baseball, and his favorite subjects in school are ELA and science. Frankie's favorite meal is fettuccine and meatballs, and he loves skating on his family's backyard ice rink. Frankie's favorite memory of Kennedy was when he and his older brother were at Kennedy together for one year. Frankie was in Kindergarten and his big brother was in 5th grade. Kennedy School is fortunate to have Frankie as a role model student, and we will miss him when he leaves for middle school in the fall.

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**

Siddharth Chandra said that Sarah Dumas won the Hockomock Player of the Week this week. He said both boys and girls track have had successful outings. He also said that the girl's swim team won the South Sectional Title on Saturday. He said both boy's and girl's basketball are playing Attleboro tonight. He added that the boy's hockey team won yesterday. Finally, he said that spring sports registration is 2/15/23.

Ahan Shetty spoke about Panther Pride night 2 weeks ago for current 8th graders. He said the freshman banquet will be held on 3/3/23 and the sophomore banquet will be held on 3/31/23.

Red Cross and Diversity Awareness Clubs will be hosting Game Night on 2/16/23. He said the Mock Trial Team is currently 2-0.

He said the Jazz Band is preparing for the MHJE Festival on 3/1/23.

He said the SAT's are at FHS on 3/11/23. He said the FHS Theatre Company is selling tickets for their next production, Lord of the Flies - on 3/3 and 3/17.

He said there will be an All Night Party for seniors immediately after graduation

He said the class of 2024 is currently planning the prom which will be on 5/5/23.

He said prom meetings are every other Friday.

Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?

Ms. Bernstein asked which night is Game Night and which night is Mock Trial?
Mr. Shetty said they are both on Thursday.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere said this week is Random Acts of Kindness Week and he said all the elementary schools have participated in the Hearts of Kindness project by making hearts that are displayed on the common. They were hanged by the FHS Peer Leaders and Community Service Club Members. He said this project originated in Uxbridge.

He said spring conferences will be held 3/8 and 3/9 for families with students in grades K-8. These will come at the request of the teacher and/or parent. Both days are early release days.

He noted that several students from the clay program at FHS have been invited to display their work at Tufts University. There will also be an award ceremony. He spoke about the many selections that Lifelong Learning has to offer this summer.

Finally, he spoke about Panther Pride Night that happened two weeks ago.

Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?

Ms. Stokes asked for clarification on who initiates the conferences?

Mr. Giguere replied that it will work both ways and both parents and teachers can initiate.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. JFK Highlights – Dr. Connolly, Mr. Haynes

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

Dr. Connolly shared the mission and Core Values of John F. Kennedy School. She shared a video showing highlights of different events and activities at JFK. She highlighted their daily 20-30 Power Blocks.

Mr. Haynes spoke about and highlighted the Instructional Support Team(IST)

Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?

Ms. Bernstein asked about their challenges and how the School Committee can

best support JFK?

Dr. Connolly replied that making sure they are hiring qualified staff and retaining them. Mr. Haynes said he agrees and he has seen an uptick in interested candidates who are qualified which is encouraging.

Mr. Charles asked how many requests there are for IST?

Mr. Haynes replied that it can vary from week to week.

Dr. Connolly also replied that once a teacher refers a student for IST, the committee members are typically familiar with the student.

Ms. Stokes asked for some more clarification for the community between MTTS, IST and Power Blocks.

Dr. Connolly replied that Power Blocks is a time to provide enrichment to students and targeted intervention but no new content. She said the team needs to work close together in this process. She said this is helpful within the IST process.

Mr. Haynes replied the programs are much more efficient now in terms of scheduling.

Ms. Stokes asked if the consultation model is just a model at Kennedy or are the other schools a little different?

Dr. Connolly replied that there are levels of consultation between the school's assistant principals. She said the other schools refer to Instructional Blocks instead of Power Blocks.

Mrs. Marano added that they are consulting with each other but each is a little different.

B. Belize Presentation – Ms. Balliro & Ms. Quigley

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

Ms. Balliro explained why they travel and hands-on experiences the students can experience.

The proposed dates are in February, 2024 flying into Belize City. She highlighted some possible outings that could be a part of the trip.

Ms. Quigley spoke about the prerequisites needed to participate in this trip. Students are expected to be in good standing in academic and behavioral areas.

Ms. Balliro said EF partners up with local guides and experts like farmers, researchers and park rangers.

Ms. Quigley spoke about payment options. She said there is a Global Citizen Scholarship and a customizable fundraising page. She spoke about different possible fundraisers through FHS.

She said EF likes to work with students on a case by case basis in terms of equity and accessibility.

Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?

Ms. Bernstein asked about course requirements and what grade level would this trip be for?

Ms. Balliro replied it will be for rising juniors and seniors and the courses are all electives.

Ms. Bernstein asked about behavioral expectations?

Ms. Balliro replied that once a student is signed up if they receive any referrals for conduct, suspensions, or detentions they will be removed from the trip.

Mr. Gigeure also replied that there have been conversations with Mr. Hanna about behavioral expectations and will continue to have more.

Mr. Charles asked when the information session is?

They replied it is on 3/6/23 and have until 3/15/23 to sign up.

Ms. Balliro said they anticipate a lot of interest from students. However, she said if they don't they will open the trip up to juniors who have not taken a prerequisite but plan to as a senior and can apply.

Mr. Charles asked what the minimum number of students is needed?

Ms. Balliro replied that for every six students they need one chaperone. She said they plan to cap it at 30 students.

Mr. Charles asked if a student can attend this trip and the Greece trip also planned for next year?

Ms. Balliro replied that this is not a discussion they have had with Mr. Hanna.

Mr. Giguere said that is something they would need to discuss and be thoughtful about.

Ms. Stokes asked if they need to do work on this trip?

Ms. Balliro replied that through EF they could do work and earn additional college credit. She said she would love for students to speak about their experience at a school committee meeting or Panther Pride Night.

Ms. Stokes asked if it is first come, first serve?

Ms. Balliro replied that they would check who has done prerequisites and then look to see who submitted their paperwork first.

Ms. Spencer asked if the chaperones would be teachers or parents?

Ms. Balliro replied that it would be teachers.

Ms. Spencer asked how the teachers are decided?

Ms. Balliro replied that they have a few STEM teachers lined up.

C. Advisory Update – MS Advisors & Principals - Ms. Danielle Champagne, Ms. Becky Motte, Ms. Elise Coulibaly, Mr. Joe Barca

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

Ms. Champagne spoke about the Advisory Working Group and the tasks they engaged in during the summer of 2022. She said they updated the goals of the middle school advisory program.

Ms. Coulibaly spoke more about the advisory working group from the summer and the advisory planning document they utilized.

Ms. Motte spoke about the advisory planning document as well. She also spoke about the re-launching the MS Advisory Program in the fall of 2022. She shared examples of the check-ins they have with students.

Mr. Barca spoke about the activities and themes within the advisory period.

Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?

Ms. Bernstein said her 7th grader enjoys advisory.

Mr. Charles asked if there will be a partnership between FHS and 8th graders for transitioning towards the end of the school year?

Ms. Motte spoke about transition activities that are separate from advisory. She said course recommendations are happening and conversations are happening.

Mr. Charles asked if there are surveys that are sent out to teachers for their feedback?

Ms. Champagne replied they did one in October and made adjustments based on feedback. She said there is a plan to do another survey in March.

Ms. Stokes asked if the students stay with the same students and staff year to year?

Ms. Motte said it will change from year to year for middle school.

Ms. Stokes asked if all the teachers have an advisory period?

Ms. Champagne replied that most of the teachers have an advisory period.
Ms. Stokes asked if the Advisory Committee will continue on?
Ms. Motte replied that this is the goal of the committee.

Ms. Spencer asked if there are check-ins with the students who have said they have not made any connections the first week of school?
Ms. Motte replied that the information will be shared with administration and guidance.

Ms. Bernstein asked if the surveys are anonymous?
Ms. Motte said they are not anonymous surveys.
Ms. Bernstein wondered about the term trusted adult and to make sure the students are interpreting the questions the same way the staff is intending.
Ms. Motte replied that it is a good point.

Ms. Stokes asked how many students are in each advisory class?
Ms. Champagne replied about 12 or 13 students.

D. EduSpeak Update – Tim Frazier, Dr. Tina Rogers

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

Dr. Rogers presented on the education terminology typically used. They have created a document to define commonly used jargon and terminology. She presented the term and gave the definition. She said this document will live on the Franklin Public Schools website.

Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?

Ms. Stokes asked if they can add IST and if it's possible to alphabetize?
Mrs. Marano asked if they wanted it alphabetized or categorized?
Ms. Spencer and Mr. Charles agreed categorizing is better.

Ms. Stokes asked if the community can request that a term be added?
Mr. Giguere replied they will be responsive to requests and look to add new terms.
Dr. Rogers said there were more that could have been added but wanted to start with the most frequently used terms.

Ms. Spencer asked if a line can be added to contact the FPS to add any terms. Mrs. Goodman also replied that there is also a glossary on the back of the budget document.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Belize Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Ms. Balliro and Ms. Quigley to take FHS students to Belize from February 17-24, 2024 as presented.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 4 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 4-0 with 3 absent

B. 2023-24 School Calendar – DRAFT

I recommend approval of the 2023-24 School Calendar as discussed.

The following points were noted:

- Aug 28 - First day of school for staff
- Aug 29 - PDD
- Aug 30 - First day for students
- Blue labels are holidays
- Orange labels are early release days

Dr. Rogers said a survey was sent to all staff with 3 options and this was the one with the most support. She said the FEA was provided with this and are in support as well.

She spoke about half-days and considered feedback and disbursed them between Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays. There was an adjustment made to March conferences, which will be a Tues and Wed in March.

Mr. Giguere said there is an addendum added about observed holidays. He mentioned the policy about religious exemptions.

Ms. Spencer said there was a request awhile back to add Diwali. She said they researched how other districts handled this request. She added there would be a process needed to follow to add a new holiday on the calendar. She said they spoke about sending a survey to families for added input.

Ms. Bernstein asked if there was an effort made to ensure staff is aware of a holiday that may be observed and being sensitive to that need of the students? Mr. Giguere replied yes and that there is language as to which holidays are being celebrated at sundown, etc. and take homework into account. He said education and updates throughout the year would be helpful to staff.

Mr. Charles asked for clarification on half days and if they are all PD days?

Dr. Rogers replied that those in orange would be a half day for students and full day for staff.

Mr. Charles asked for clarification of that on the calendar for the community?

Dr. Roger said yes.

Mr. Charles also asked for the latest possible day with snow days to be noted as well as graduation.

Mr. Giguere added that graduation is historically the first Friday in June.

Ms. Stokes asked about the placement of conferences and the many half days in November and the concern of too much time off.

There was a discussion among the committee and administration regarding November and the placement of half days and conferences.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 4 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 4-0 with 3 absent

C. Policy - 1st Readings

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

EEB - Student Transportation Policy - Routing and Scheduling

IE - Organization of Instruction

IGA - Curriculum Development

IGB - Student Services Program

IGD - Curriculum Adoption

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 4 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 4-0 with 3 absent

D. Policy Elimination

I recommend elimination of Policy IGAA - Curriculum Goals as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 4 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 4-0 with 3 absent

IV. Discussion Only Items - there were none

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation** - no updates
- 2. Budget** - N/A
- 3. Policy** - N/A
- 4. Community Relations** - will be meeting soon to discuss Legislative Forum
- 5. Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - continue efforts to listen to committee and revise scenarios. Communication to be sent out to families. Community forums to come.

Ms. Bernstein expressed her concern for any moves to be made for next fall for the amount of time it takes for teachers to work on placements, recommendations and special considerations. She is concerned over plans with the master town plan still in process and their determination and recommendations still ongoing. She said she is concerned about creating a bigger issue.

Mr. Charles replied they are in the analysis phase and this is not the first they have heard of these concerns and perspectives.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - review of wellness policy, fundraisers, and common questions that come up each year. Mr. Charles noted that each elementary school is also collecting food for the Franklin Food Pantry.
- 2. School Wellness Advisory Council** - met last week. Next meeting is 3/7/23. There is talk of a booth at the Franklin Farmers Market.
- 3. SEPAC** - their calendar is now shareable and the website is updated. Parent meetups are the third Thursday each month. Workshops and presentations to come. Working on community resources.
- 4. Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - met on 2/14/23. Making plans for next Critical Conversations to be held on 3/9/23.
- 5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - February meeting was canceled. Next meeting is 3/22/23.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the January 24, 2023 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. UNH Jazz Festival (recurring) Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Ms Rudsit & Mr. Geisinger to take jazz students to the UNH Jazz Festival on March 11, 2023 in Durham, NH as detailed.

C. Oak St. (recurring) Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Mr. Hendrixson to take 3rd & 4th grade students to the RI Philharmonic in Providence, RI on May 24, 2023 as detailed.

D. Keller Gifts

I recommend acceptance of two checks totalling \$4,400.00 from the Keller PCC for field trips as detailed.

E. JFK Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1025.00 from the JFK PCC for field trips as detailed.

F. Jefferson Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$50.00 from Judy Krueger for Supplemental supplies at Jefferson Elementary School as detailed.

G. Music Gifts

I recommend acceptance of several checks totaling \$945.00 from music parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

H. FHS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,212.71 from Grynn & Barrett Enterprises for in-house enrichment at FHS as detailed.

I. HMMS (Recurring) Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Noreen Langmeyer to take 3 groups of 6th graders to Colt's State Park, in Bristol, RI for a Save the Bay lesson on May 23, 24, & 25, 2023 as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 4 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 4-0 with 3 absent

VII. Citizen's Comments - there were none

VIII. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 2/28/23 meeting:

- Dr. Rogers Teaching and Learning presentation
- DIP update

IX. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session. She said they would not be returning to open meeting.

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

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 4 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 4-0 with 3 absent

X. Adjournment at 9:26pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 2-14-23

FPS Summary & Sign Off 021423.pdf

SC Warrant 011923.pdf

SC Warrant 012623.pdf

SC Warrant 020223.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2316 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2316.pdf

1. SC Meeting 2_14_JFK Highlights.pdf

2. School committee.Belize Proposal Presentation.pdf

3. Middle School Advisory Update.pdf

4. EduSpeak Glossary.pdf

Discussion Action A - Belize Trip.pdf

Discussion Action B - 23-24 School Calendar DRAFT.pdf

Discussion Action C - Policy 1st Reads.pdf

Discussion Action D - Policy Elimination.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Recurring FHS Trip - Jazz Fest.pdf

Consent Action C - Oak St. Recurring Trip - RI Philharmonic.pdf

Consent Action D - Keller Gifts.pdf

Consent Action E - JFK Gift.pdf

Consent Action F - Jefferson Gift.pdf

Consent Action G - Music Gifts.pdf

Consent Action H - FHS Gift.pdf

Consent Action I - HMMS recurring Trip - Colts Park.pdf

Executive Session Minutes-1-24-23-DRAFT.pdf

B2A.pdf

JFK Student Pledge_SC Meeting 2_14.pdf