

**Franklin School Committee
Minutes
February 19, 2019
(rescheduled from 2/12/19 - snow)
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
No one present from the Milford Daily News

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Dr. Bergen

Attendance: Mrs. Dianne Feeley; Mrs. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Dr. Monica Linden; Mrs. Gigi Zub; Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards. The Franklin High School representatives were not present. Mrs. Cindy Douglas and Mrs. Denise Schultz and Mr. Lucas Giguere were not present.

Pledge of Allegiance Dr. Bergen led the Pledge as no students was present due to vacation week.

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda - no changes

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 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 present due to vacation week.

d. Superintendent's Report Dr. Ahern recapped the MASS Mid-Winter Meeting on January 24th, where Andrew Caulkins was the keynote speaker. He spoke of the challenges of today's graduates calling them "apprentice adults". He spoke of today's automation and globalization which creates an opportunity gap. Students are helped to develop networks and redefine student success. Dr. Ahern noted that this was validating as it aligns with the work we are doing on our District Improvement plan (i.e. MAPLE, Portrait of a Graduate). Dr. Ahern noted that Commissioner Jeff Riley also spoke about MASS initiatives and coding.

The February 4th Professional half day was a building-based focus. At ECDC they focused on curriculum with their "Big Day for PreK"; Davis Thayer worked on their role in tiered instruction; Jefferson worked on their gender wellness initiative; Keller implemented Science curriculum; JFK worked on their co-teaching model; Oak Street did an ed camp style working on their SIP; Parmenter worked on "Understanding by Design" program; Middle schools focus was on incidents of bias while the High School worked on "A World of Difference" and school culture.

Dr. Bergen thanked the High School English Department for allowing her to listen to the student essays. She was impressed with the level of writing the students had and the sense of calm. Great job!

2. Guests / Presentations

a. Dementia Friendly Community – Maggie Gundersen & Karen Alves

This initiative was grant funded last summer. They would like to see Franklin become a Dementia friendly community, so that people living with dementia and their caregivers feel they are part of the community, and are supported. Ms. Alves went through some statistics and showed that the number of dementia or Alzheimer's patients is climbing and may reach 140,000 by 2025. Their goals are to educate the community, increase socialization and decrease the stigma associated with the disease. They want to reframe people's thinking so that patients and caregivers feel safe in the community.

Ms. Gundersen shared that she has been doing the trainings and info sessions. after reviewing many prototypes, they settled on the program, Dementia Friends. This program has 5 simple messages:

1. not everyone who gets old, gets dementia
2. it is a disease and one day there will be a cure
3. It's not just memory loss, people can still have quality of life
4. they have a lot to contribute to our community

5. we have a responsibility to help them maintain their quality of life. She has done trainings at churches, Lions and Veterans clubs to increase awareness. In phase II, they would like to penetrate different populations. 13% of Franklin residents have Alzheimer's or early onset dementia. They would like to expand to the student population as many have family members with the disease. They hold a Memory Cafe on the 4th Monday of the month at 3pm at the Senior Center which provides social connection and support in a safe environment. Ms. Gundersen has trained some students already and was brought together with the FHS Alzheimer's Awareness Club which is making great strides. They showed a short, but powerful video about what a dementia friendly community would look like. The grant ends in June, but they are looking to move forward by involving local businesses, who will display a decal in their window when they have been trained.

Dr. Bergen commended Mr. Miegs who helped start the club at FHS and added that Ron DiBona has a "40% Happier Club" who invited people from Atrium to meet his students - this was a very emotional experience. This is another large group to reach out to for training.

Mrs. Scofield is thrilled with the program and wants to join (volunteer).

Mrs. Zub noted that she saw kids playing music at the Atrium Center which was great for all involved.

Dr. Bergen also noted that she wanted to get a team together for the Alzheimer's Walk in the fall.

Ms. Alves noted that if anyone wants training, to call Maggie Gundersen. The Senior Center would love to make a plan to have a structured program in the school system.

Dr. Ahern noted that she would be open to a conversation with Dr. Edwards and our Director of Wellness to talk about where to go with the program.

b. Homework Update – Dr. Joyce Edwards & Homework Study Group Representatives, Kristine Richards, Literacy Specialist at JFK; Alicia Gray, Special Educator at Davis Thayer at and Lauren Whipple, English Department at FHS. Dr. Edwards explained that the study group was formed to align our practices with the new School Committee policy on Homework. They studied current research, examined their beliefs about homework and

identified best practices for homework in Franklin to create guidelines that align with the new policy. They found, through surveys and focus groups, that our problem was that our practices were inconsistent across the district. The policy stresses the whole child, and that children need down time to de-stress and time for other activities. Their goal is to produce a set of guidelines that represents current research and best practices, aligns with the School Committee policy, addresses consistency, easily understood by all and could be implemented in the Fall of 2019.

Ms. Richards noted that they looked at the history of homework and how it has changed over the years. They looked at what homework is; outlined responsibilities for teachers, students, families and administrators; the importance of nightly reading and math facts; time recommendations by grade; and continuing homework free vacations. The homework free vacations has had overwhelming support by all stakeholders. Also noted that AP students at the FHS may need homework in February and April to be able to be prepared for the exams.

Ms. Gray shared that they are at the point where they are looking for feedback as to where to make adjustments to the draft guidelines before implementation in the fall. Surveys will be going out soon. After looking at the feedback and making adjustments, they hope to have the final guidelines in the handbooks in the fall. Then they would monitor for a year and survey again to see how it is working.

Dr. Edwards thanked the Study Group members across the district for all of their hard work.

Mrs. Scofield asked how the teachers would coordinate at middle and high school levels in different subjects so that students don't have projects or assignments due at the same time? Dr. Edwards explained that it is easier at the middle level with their team approach and collaborative structure. At the high school level, they will need to look at the suggested amount of time to spend on any given subject per night. Additionally, we want students to learn to advocate for themselves - in advance, and talk to their teachers.

Mrs. Scofield also noted that the policy is a guideline and if something was problematic, the Policy Sub Committee would work together to iron it all out.

Dr. Edwards welcomed the invitation to work together and feels there will be tweaks on both sides, but the spirit of the policy was embraced.

Dr. Linden stated that she struggled with the point of no reading or math facts over the break.

Mrs. Richards noted that they also talked a lot about this. She noted that the feedback will help point us in the right direction. Dr. Edwards agreed that once they look at the feedback, the common issues will rise to the surface and we can tweak so that everyone is happy with the result.

Dr. Linden also noted that with the School Start Times work, if students get out later this will impact consistency. Online assignments are, for example, due by midnight of a certain date. Can we adjust the time for that? She also noted that Dr. Thomas spoke at the Family Education Night about light use and it was better to do non-screen based assignments later in the night (like reading)

Dr. Edwards will look into adjusting the default time.

Dr. Bergen spoke about students not knowing how to manage their time or how to study or deal with emotional issues like procrastination and distractions.

Dr. Edwards noted that teachers work with students on time management in elementary and middle school, and by high school they have learned some of these skills. Also, the guidelines state to have a distraction free environment to do homework in.

Mrs. Zub noted that special needs students with homework and an IEP needs to be a conversation.

Dr. Linden asked if assignments could be provided as early as possible so that families can help block time for homework with students. Also, in colleges there are no vacations.

Dr. Edwards noted that they have longer breaks between semesters that high school students don't get.

3. Discussion / Action Items

a. Approval of Amego (Private Special Education School)

Dr Ahern explained that Amego has been approved by DESE to expand from a day program in Attleboro to 122 Grove Street in Franklin later in the spring. The MA General Law states that the local School Committee approve the school and designate someone to join the DESE on a site visit.

I recommend the appointment of Paula Marano, Interim Director of Student Services, as the Committee's designee to review Amego's application and bring a recommendation to the School Committee.

Motion: Mrs. Scofield; seconded Mrs. Zub

Mrs. Scofield asked what would happen if Mrs. Marano visited Amego and did not recommend approval? Dr. Ahern explained that the School Committee would need to supply a reason and give them an opportunity to rectify the concerns, but she would need to look into it. Mrs. Scofield also asked if we have any students in the program. Dr. Ahern explained that we have in the past and may have one student now.

Motion carries 5-0

b. Policy – First Reading

I recommend approval to move Policy DGA – Authorized Payroll Signatures to a second reading at the next meeting as discussed.

Motion: Mrs. Scofield; seconded Dr. Linden

Motion carries 5-0

4. Discussion Only Items

a. FY20 Budget Discussion

Dr Ahern reviewed the Superintendent's recommended budget and critical needs as presented on January 22nd with a 6.07% increase over the FY19 budget. She noted that the magnitude of the gap is still to be determined. The Governor's budget does address some foundation budget review commission recommendations, but there is no gain for Franklin because the minimum aid per pupil was not increased significantly. The minimum aid was set at \$20/student

which will increase the Chapter 70 amount to \$111,520.00 (the 1.4 million the FEA spoke of would need the minimum aid to go to \$50/student). Charter expansion went from 4 million to 6.3 million. Circuit breaker was decreased in the Governor's budget further retracting from long-term funding. More information is to come, but we anticipate it to be a difficult budget season.

Dr. Bergen asked if we had any sense of increases for out of district placement student's tuition? Mrs. Goodman noted that we have received some letters from out of district schools, but more are expected. We are expecting 5% increase across the board for these placements, but some could be more.

b. BICO Quarterly Update

c. Revised School Committee Presentation Schedule

Dr. Ahern reviewed the adjusted presentation schedule for the rest of the school year.

Dr. Linden wanted to be sure that enrichment and intervention discussion were covered. Dr. Ahern noted that yes, it will be included with the DIP #3 presentation in March.

Mrs. Scofield asked when they would get the budget books. Dr. Ahern noted that they would be ready on Friday.

5. Information Matters

a. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Budget; Community Relations; Policy; Transportation; Public Schools Advocacy; Ad Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation)

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 - preliminary numbers; keep public informed (critical needs)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS Mrs. Zub - Shared draft 2019 calendar with SC/Dr. Ahern. Next coffee March 9th at Library - School Start times is the

topic. Will be at Farmers Market, Strawberry Stroll & Harvest Festival to engage the community. Dr. Bergen asked for a banner or canopy to spruce up the space. Mrs. Zub is looking into being at the soccer fields, etc. to be available.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen thanked Ms. Schultz for all her work putting together the Legislative Forum. She also noted that the School Committee will be presenting with the Town Council and Finance Committee on the state of the budget - date TBD.

AD HOC Dr. Bergen

POLICY Mrs. Scofield - next meeting 2/27/19 at 7pm

JOINT PCC - Dr. Bergen and Mrs. Douglas attended and spoke about budget - encouraged attendance at Legislative Fourm.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - SWAC Mrs. Douglas (absent) The next meeting is March 12.

SCHOOL START TIMES Dr. Linden - Family Education Night last week went well. We are in the home stretch of the process - presenting to School Committee March 26 to a potential vote on April 23rd.

6. New Business

- a. To discuss any future agenda items
February 26th Budget Open Hearing

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes
I recommend approval of the minutes from your January 22, 2019 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

b. HMMS Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of exercise balls, fish bowls and various items valued at approximately \$500.00 from Adam Jacoby, Interactions Company for Horace Mann Middle School as detailed.

c. JFK PCC Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,049.83 from the JFK PCC for Supplemental Supplies at JF Kennedy as detailed.

d. BJ's Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$430.00 from BJ's Wholesale Club for district wide in-house enrichment as detailed.

e. Athletics Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$844.02 from All-American Publishing for in-house enrichment for FHS Athletics Dept. as detailed.

f. Franklin Music Parents Gift

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$4,268.00 from Franklin music parents for in-house enrichment for the FPS Music Department as detailed.

g. Davis Thayer Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,000.00 from the DT PCC for field trips as detailed.

h. FHS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,719.80 from Lifetouch for in-house enrichment at FHS as detailed.

Motion for all: Mrs. Zub
Approve: 5

Second: Mrs. Scofield
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen - All bills are in order

9. Payroll - Mrs. Douglas - not present tonight

10. Correspondence – Budget to actual - Miriam Goodman, School business
Administrator - No transfers at this time

11. Executive Session

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

A roll call vote was taken to go into Executive Session
Roll call vote: Dr. Bergen-yes; Mrs. Feeley-yes; Ms. Scofield-yes; Mrs. Linden-yes; Mrs. Zub-yes; Mrs. Douglas and Ms. Schultz were not present.

12. Adjournment at 8:32 pm

Mrs. Zub made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Feeley. All were in favor.

Adjourned by 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Miller

SCAgenda 2-19-19.pdf
Proposed Homework Guideline DRAFT February 2019.pdf
Sample Survey.pdf
SC2-12-19 Homework Guidelines Presentation.pdf
Discussion ActionA - Amego Designee.pdf
Current DGA - Authorized Payroll Signatures.pdf
Discussion ActionB - Policy 1st Read.pdf
Budget Discussion FY20 MEmo for Packet 2-12-19.pdf
FY20 Superintendent's Recommended Budget.pdf
Fy2o Supt recommended budget cover.pdf
FY20 Supt recommended budget detail.pdf
FY20 Supt recommended budget overview.pdf
Revolving Detail FY20.pdf
Special Revenue FY20.pdf
BICO Quarterly Information for Superintendens.January 2019.pdf
SC Presentation Scheduled --Revised 2-6-19 - 2018-2019.pdf
Consent ActionA - Minutes.pdf
Consent ActionB - HMMS Donation.pdf
Consent ActionC - JFK Gift.pdf
Consent ActionD - BJs Gift.pdf
Consent ActionE - Athletics Gift.pdf
Consent ActionF - Music Gift.pdf
Consent ActionG - DT PCC.pdf
Consent ActionH - FHS Gift.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign off.pdf

SCWarrant011719.pdf

SCWarrant012419.pdf

SCWarrant013119.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1915 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1914.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1916 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1916.pdf

B2A.pdf

Enrollmentcompare-Jan2018-Jan2019.pdf