

## Franklin School Committee

February 9, 2021

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:

Join Zoom Meeting

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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.”

*(timeframes are approximate)*

Dr. Bergen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

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

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Ms. Elizabeth Morrison; Mr. Mike Procacini

## Pledge of Allegiance

Student: Noah Gorgas

The student selected to represent Annie Sullivan Middle School and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at this evening's school committee meeting is Noah Gorgas. Noah is an eighth grader on Team Atticus. He exemplifies the ASMS mission statement of personal growth, academic standards, and building a positive sense of community and culture within the school.

At school, Noah enjoys Social Studies and Art classes as he hopes to study architectural design or government/politics at the college level. He hopes to attend Cornell or Harvard upon graduation from Franklin High School. He is a well-rounded student and greatly respected at Annie Sullivan. He is kind to his peers, respectful of teachers, and he sets a good example for other students. This year, Noah has been selected as our student ambassador for the Town of Franklin with Project 351. Project 351 is a nonprofit organization focused on developing young leaders through service learning, hands-on community building, and values-based leadership training. Noah will join eighth graders throughout the commonwealth in a service leadership academy and will then participate in the Cradles to Crayons project. We are excited to support Noah in this journey and would love to attend a future School Committee meeting to discuss his journey through Project 351.

Mrs. Bergen thanked Noah and said they are looking forward to having him tell us more about Project 351 at a later meeting.

## Moment of Silence

### I. Routine Business

#### A. Review of Agenda

#### B. Citizen's Comments

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

#### C. FHS Student Representative Comments

Katie Garrigan spoke that it is the first week of semester two classes. Some students have changed electives and seniors have switched over to their choice English elective. Lots of excitement for their final semester at FHS. Cap and gown orders have been extended to the end of week. Senior class assembly last week

to discuss details for prom, graduation and senior week (all following COVID restrictions). Picture day tomorrow (2/10 8:30-3:30). A new club called Book Club has been started by 2 freshmen. They plan to focus on diversity through reading. National Honor Society continues it's tutoring program, available during a student's study period or after school. Fall 2 sports season has been approved by the MIAA - football, cheerleading, volleyball and indoor track. This season runs until April. Registration is open on FamilyID until 2/18.

- Dr. Bergen asked if there could be a follow up to what book titles the diversity club is reading to share at a future meeting. Ms. Garrigan said yes she can do that.

Mackenzie Atwood - FHS theater company is beginning to work on their senior directed 1-act plays. There are 4 seniors directing. Bridget Flaherty (an identity play), Ben Fine (Frankenstein), Amanda Melvin (a monologue play called What Happens in Neverland Stays in Neverland), Max Allard (Nine Worst Breakups of All Time). Rehearsals started this week and it's a small cast for COVID guidelines. Performances will be live streamed in March. Semester 2 has started, students are excited for the change. Teachers have until Thursday to submit grades. Lots of excitement for February break.

#### D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern spoke of a new group in the Franklin community called the Franklin Freedom Team, joining the existing Freedom Team network. The mission is to preserve freedom through unity in the community. The team is reactive, proactive, and retroactive and works to address hate and bias. Freedom teams have been meeting this mission in Natick, Waltham, and Hopkinton. The team meets monthly and when necessary. Membership is based on the community's ten point connection: parents, students, Franklin Public Schools, a political representative, the Chief of Police, trauma informed clinician, a member of the clergy, a restorative, transformative justice facilitator, and social media expert. Dr. Ahern has been participating on behalf of the district. Dr. Ahern looks forward to sharing more on the work of the team.

Dr. Ahern said that Unified Basketball will be happening as well under Fall 2 athletics.

Dr. Ahern spoke on the professional development a group attended recently through the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.). Both sessions were in January this year. The mid-winter conference was on January 21st. Also attended by Mr. Giguere and Dr. Edwards. The keynote address was given by Dr. Marc Brackett of Yale University, with the School of Social and Emotional Learning. Dr. Brackett discussed the mental health of superintendents and leadership teams and how the feelings can reverberate through a school system. She spoke about learning about the major principles from Dr. Brackett's book *Permission to Feel*.

Dr. Ahern said that several female leaders in the district attended the M.A.S.S. Women's Education Leadership Network, an annual event established 15 years ago to meet specific professional development needs of female superintendents, other female leaders in the districts as well as aspiring female leaders. The focus was on Authentic Leadership - Women Leaders Navigating Turbulent Times. She said 11 women engaged in two sessions focused on well being and behavioral health.

The first was by Julie Wilson (Founder and Director of the Institute of the Future of Learning). Her keynote address was titled Authentic Leadership and the Hero's Journey.

The second was a workshop style exercise by professional coach Rebecca Arnold. (Nourishing the Courageous Leader) Ms. Arnold asked them in small breakout groups, to commit to changes to nourish the soul. After February break, there will be a follow up with those who attended from Franklin Public Schools to debrief and reflect, and share insights with the broader leadership team this spring.

Dr. Ahern offered her congratulations to several FHS art students from Ms. Johnson's class. All the artwork was made at home in the remote setting. Four scholastic and art awards were given including: Morgan Towne (Junior) Gold Key for a ceramic teapot; Emily Cesa (Junior) Honorable Mention for a ceramic teapot; Elizabeth Tang (Junior) Honorable Mention for a still life painting; Elaine Pu (Senior) Honorable Mention for a self portrait. Three students were also recognized at the Massachusetts Amazing Artist Recognitions Exhibit. Congratulations to Katie Sawyer (Sophomore) teapot set; Millie Chalk (Junior) metallic teapot; Kashish Singh (Senior) raku fired organic form.

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions/comments?

## II. Guests/Presentations

- A. Annie Sullivan Middle School Highlights – Elizabeth Morrison, Mike Procacini  
Ms. Morrison and Mr. Procacini present a typical day at Annie Sullivan Middle School.

Ms. Morrison states that the students are showing resiliency and dedication and taking ownership of their learning. Parents are collaborating as well with teachers this year. They are approaching each day and each student as a team approach.

Mr. Procacini and Ms. Morrison present what a typical day from start to finish looks like. From student's arrival at the crosswalk, greeting students within 6 feet of distance, the parents have been wonderful following expectations for drop off. She acknowledges Mrs. Corsi who greets students, offers breakfast and takes lunch orders, the custodial staff who have been great keeping sidewalks clear and clean for the students, and Mrs. Daly the school nurse. Upon entry students wash hands and sanitize. They talk about how they keep morning announcements engaging and that they incorporate different unique themes like Superbowl Sunday, acknowledging student's birthdays, spirit week, community information and Morning Howl. Morning Howl includes such engagement like - would you rather this or that, making social emotional connections. Then responses are pulled out of the google forms posting on the landing page.

Ms. Morrison spoke on a typical day in 6th grade.

Mr. Procacini spoke about a recent virtual visit on google meet from MIT professor Kerri Cahoy who spoke about space exploration. 6th grade is also engaging in Self Awareness Checks. They fill out a google form in 1st period based on how they are feeling. The results are reviewed by the teachers throughout the day. Results are color coded green, yellow, and red. A nice way to connect with virtual students as well.

Mr. Procacini spoke on a typical day in 7th grade. Mr. Kelly's science class is shown to be doing a good job with in-person teaching while teaching kids remotely. Students are still able to be collaborating even distantly and remotely.

Ms. Morrison spoke on a typical day in 8th grade. Many teachers selected technology as the focus of their smart goals this year. The teachers are able to utilize real time feedback to students. Virtual families were surveyed and they appreciate the support of the teachers. Some challenges are distractions at home, students craving social interaction, technology issues, and missing hands

on learning. She talks about a more distant set up for P.E. - sports like frisbee, tennis, yoga, and bean bag toss.

Mr. Procacini spoke about 8th grade civics and civic engagement projects.

Students have met with different people such as Dr. Edwards about education reform, Ted McIntyre a physicist/climate change activist, the Franklin ACO, the head of water dept, and the head of DPW.

Ms. Morrison spoke on Peer Leader Facilitation. Last week, the 8th grade peer leaders began working with the 6th graders on icebreaker and team building activities. Also, 7th grade as well this year due to school closure last spring.

Mr. Procacini talked about a virtual visit from author Jordan Sonneblick, across all 3 middle schools. Mr. Sonneblick was able to talk to the students about his journey to becoming an author. His visit was hyped up to build student engagement, students advertised books from their perspectives on morning announcements. Students were able to have breakout rooms with Mr.

Sooneblick. Students connected with each other and shared their own writing.

Ms. Morrison spoke about continuing to have spirit days as much as possible encouraging VLA to send photos from home.

Mr. Procacini spoke on lunch (45 minutes) and mask breaks. Mask breaks are taken outside when possible.

Ms. Morrison spoke about the flex block which is the last period of the day.

Highlighted tonight are music classes and choir rehearsal. Due to restrictions, the focus is on rhythm and music studies. Guidelines are being followed really well.

Orchestra is rehearsing in person.

Mr. Procacini spoke on dismissal and how dots are spread out for distancing. This idea was borrowed from Keller Elementary School.

Ms. Morrison said they still can offer after school clubs - 20% of students are in at least one club. They recently became a Kindness Club certified school.

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions/comments?

All members thanked them for such a great presentation.

Mr. Keenan thanked them for making the best situation for everyone.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer said she would love to see more information about the Kindness Club.

Ms. Stokes said she always likes seeing pictures and visuals.

Dr. Bergen said they have been so positive and she knows how hard this all is. She said they captured the essence of middle school and to thank all the staff.

### III. Discussion/Action Items

#### A. Retirement of Davis Thayer Elementary School

I recommend approval of the retirement (closing) of Davis Thayer Elementary School for FY22 as discussed.

Dr. Ahern referenced back to where discussions began in September, 2019 when she put forward a recommendation where the School Committee studied the school for possible closure. Citing enrollment reduction, age of the building, limitations in the building and financial efficiency. This is the culmination of the Facilities Analysis Sub-Committee. Elise Stokes chaired this sub-committee.

Ms. Stokes states she will ask Atty Pond Pfeffer and Ms. Scofield if they have anything to add at the end of each section. Dr. Bergen said at the end of each section she will also ask the Committee if they have anything to add.

Ms. Stokes shares her report with the Committee. Ms. Stokes' report is broken out into sections.

##### Section 1

Ms. Stokes said the report begins with the recommendation from Dr. Ahern which was approved by the previous School Committee. The ad-hoc Facilities Analysis Sub-committee was established in November, 2019.

##### Section 2

Ms. Stokes talks about the process. The sub-committee created a visual to guide the process. They constantly reviewed the progress at both sub-committee and School Committee meetings. Ms. Stokes said she will not be sharing the visual here. Currently this brings the sub-committee to Stage 3: where the School Committee will make the decision based on one of the options.

##### Section 3

Ms. Stokes talks about information gathering. A summary of the information gathered.

##### Section 4

##### Stage 1: Phase One

Focused on gathering information from independent sources.

The sub-committee reviewed and discussed the 2019 McKibben demographic enrollment forecast, the 2013 KBA DT facility report, and the 2020 KBA facilities assessment report. McKibben and KBA also presented their findings at School Committee meetings. Some notable takeaways from the report include:

- McKibben only went back to FY17, but looking back, the highest enrollment was in FY09 at 2900. This year enrollment is about 1900. Currently serving  $\frac{1}{3}$  less students in the same 6 schools.
- McKibben's forecast enrollment will continue to decrease over the next 5 years. It will increase slightly over the next 6-10 years, but by FY30 will still be about 900 students less than in FY09.
- The 2013 KBA report provided an estimate to renovate Davis Thayer with a price tag of an estimated 22.4 million to renovate and an estimated 28.8 million to rebuild on site.
- The 2020 KBA report recommends to optimize functional capacity, FPS should close one to two schools now and work to develop a masters facilities plan to address other needs in the district.

#### Stage 1: Phase Two

Focused on gathering stakeholder and district information. This included survey results, emails, citizen comments as well as participation during community information sessions. Among those heard from were DT families, DT staff, other FPS families and FPS staff as well as other community members. Stakeholder information provided a rich assortment of perspectives on many topics and provided added factors to be considered. This will be helpful moving forward. The final part of this stage consists of financial and education programming considerations, including enrollment, staffing, other cost savings, transportation, building cost history, continuity of instructional and community programs, and pandemic considerations related to physical distancing. Also, considerations related to Keller and Sullivan and the district map. Also, discussed possible alternative uses of the building.

#### Section 5

Stakeholder Communication: it was a priority to communicate in a variety of ways with both the DT community and FPS community. Communication was extensive and Ms. Stokes said that information is in the list sub-committees report due to how extensive it is.



## Section 6

Evaluation of options. Five options were reviewed and discussed at meetings. Pros and Cons of each option were considered and discussed. Each sub-committee member then spent time on their own to review the options. The recommendations to close DT in FY22 was selected by each sub committee member individually and supported by the administration.

## Section 7

### Recommendation

After completing a comprehensive closing study for the Davis Thayer School. The ad hoc facilities analysis sub-committee recommends that the Davis Thayer facility be closed for FY22.

A second recommendation is that the School Committee create a sub-committee focused on a master facilities plan to address other facility needs in the district.

Dr. Ahern said that based on the recommendation in the report from the sub-committee, she recommends approval to retire or close the Davis Thayer facility for FY22.

Motion: Atty Pond-Pfeffer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Dr. Bergen opens for discussion to the committee.

Ms. D'Angelo thanks the sub-committee.

Mr. Keenan expresses that the School Committee has received a lot of emails from educators, community members, and families from DT. Mr. Keenan would like for the people who are advocating to keep DT open to state what that path may look like and what is the reasonable path forward. Mr. Keenan said if the school needs to close, he can see it from both ways:

Closing it in FY22 and waiting a year and closing in FY23. Is that something that can happen? Would additional time help with the master facilities plan? Mr. Keenan said that the focus right now is on getting kids back to school, there will be a lot of effort needed for planning to get the DT community moved to another school. He asks if the timing is right if there needs to possibly be a plan for COVID contingencies into fall.

Dr. Bergen asks Mr. Keenan if he would like to make a primary amendment to the main motion to be put up for discussion  
Atty Pond-Pfeffer states that the amendment to the motion needs to come after every member has had a chance to speak.  
Dr. Bergen asks Dr. Ahern her thoughts on the interpretation order. Dr. Ahern states that both points are valid.

Dr. Bergen states that the Committee will have the discussion now and the timing question posed by Mr. Keenan will be another discussion. The second and the motion will come on the recommendation to close DT in FY22. This will be discussed by the Committee.

Dr. Ahern states all committee members will have a chance to speak and then she will address Mr. Keenans questions/concerns.

Atty Pond-Pfeffer states it was an excellent report and the sub-committee vote was unanimous.

Ms. Scofield does not have a question on the motion, the recommendation was unanimous.

Ms. Spencer said that her son is currently a student at DT. She agrees that closing DT is the best financial decision for the town. However, due to the current pandemic she does not feel there is adequate time and attention to be given to coming up with a thoughtful plan of action. The best option would be to redistrict. Many current students could walk to Parmenter or even have to drive by Oak to get to Keller. We need to properly consider all of the options. If the students move to one school now, is this just a bandaid and will they possibly need to all move schools in a few years with a redistricting?

Ms. Stokes commented that she is also a DT parent and this is a very emotional issue. She also states that she is also an elected official and is required to separate the two roles. She is required to do what is best for the Franklin community and the recommendation stands.

Dr. Bergen spoke that she supports the recommendation based on the three concerns Dr. Ahern cited: age and design of the building, decreased enrollment across the district, noting there is plenty of room at Keller, and economic

efficiency. She notes that DT students would be able to be at the same complex as their older siblings at ASMS. If DT is retired the pledge from leaders is that the building will be preserved and protected. Change is never easy but Dr. Bergen believes in the resiliency of all involved.

Dr. Bergen asks Mr. Keenan if he wishes to have a motion considered that would amend the main motion

Mr. Keenan states that he would like to propose an amendment to be considered. He proposes the question of the vote being split into pieces.

1. Recommendation to close Davis Thayer
2. Recommendation for the timing of the close

Dr. Bergen asks Mr. Keenan how he would like the amendment wording to be written. Mr. Keenan replies it would be as follows:

Mr. Keenan: I would recommend approval of the decision to close Davis Thayer School without a deadline.

Motion: Mr. Keenan; Second; Ms. Spencer

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-No; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-No; Ms. Schofield-No; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-No; Dr. Bergen-No

Approve: 2 Oppose: 5

Dr. Bergen states they will now go back to the main motion and asked if there is any further discussion on the main motion from the committee.

Ms. Stokes refers back to Dr. Ahern on the timing of the closure to answer any questions.

Dr. Ahern spoke in terms of the master facilities plan, according to the KBA proposal, the plan would be pretty extensive and would include a significant reorganization of the district including a policy question of consolidating to one middle school and if the School Committee goes in that direction. The master facilities plan will take time and according to the KBA report, with 2 additional

elementary schools that need attention. There's a lot of groundwork to be done that extends beyond redistricting.

Dr. Ahern spoke on the timing piece Mr. Keenan spoke about. In the fall of 2019, Dr. Ahern received a question about her concern for retention of staff. At the time, she stated she was concerned and continues to be. Franklin has many professional status teachers who are committed to the schools. There has been turnover of administrators and she is worried about recruiting. We may potentially face difficulties in filling vacancies.

Roll Call Vote on the motion to close Davis Thayer for FY22. (See Page 9 for motion and second)

Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-No; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-No; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Approve: 5 Oppose: 2

B. Dissolution of Ad Hoc Facilities Analysis Sub Committee

I recommend dissolving the Ad Hoc Facilities Analysis Sub Committee as discussed.

Motion: Atty Pond-Pfeffer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Dr. Bergen asks for any comment/questions?

The Committee thanks the Subcommittee for their hard work and to Dr. Ahern for leadership on the journey.

Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion carries 7-0

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. Reopening Update (2/5/2021)

Dr. Ahern said last week Franklin went into the yellow as a result of a reduced positivity rate. For the week of 1/23/21, there were 45 staff (6%) in quarantine and 35 staff (4.5%) the week after.

Dr. Ahern is working with the high school administration over a concern of attendance. There is a strong remote program and students are not coming to school and doing school remotely instead. For the families who would like their children in the building more, It is not a simple process to have additional students in the building more due to transportation.

Dr. Ahern said they have opened up an opportunity in the elementary schools for transfers between VLA and hybrid students rather than the end of the second trimester. This notification went home late last week.

Dr. Ahern said pool testing information will be later in a separate presentation.

Dr. Ahern spoke on the Esser II, the second round of coronavirus relief funds came out, Franklin to receive \$475,000. Applicable to COVID related expenses through September 2023. The plan is to spend down what is remaining in Esser I which expires in September 2021. Pool testing would be an allowable expense.

Dr. Ahern stated that we have increased our Bandwidth to 10 gigs.

Dr. Ahern said that per Mr. Keenan's request and suggestion, a letter has been sent to Governor Baker to advocate for the prioritization of teacher vaccines in phase 2. Dr. Bergen also put a letter from the perspective of the School Committee to Governor Baker. Dr Ahern and Donna Grady worked with superintendents and other union leaders through the tri-county roundtable in a joint advocacy letter to the Governor.

- Atty Pond-Pfeffer asks when Dr. Ahern anticipates full in person learning for K/1? 2-5? etc.

Dr Ahern replied she is looking forward to guidance and expects the CDC to be coming out with more information, The Department of Education to be updating their transportation guidance. For returns this spring, pool testing will need to be successful so students can be brought back in distances of less than 6 feet. There is not an exact timeline on this.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked if they are no closer?

Dr. Ahern replied they are closer. Pool testing will be a tool that makes it very critical. Also, vaccinations through phase 2 will aid in the process.

Dr. Ahern invited Mr. Giguere and Mrs. Marano to speak on pool testing. They have been working with Lisa Trainor, as well as principals, nurse leaders, and the school physician. Dr. Ahern says that pool testing will help monitor for the presence of COVID and provides an additional layer of health and safety prevention and reassurance. Vaccinations in phase 2 will add to the reassurance. Pool testing will provide better indication of the % positivity rate within FPS.

- Mrs. Marano presents a swiss cheese model showing how each mitigation strategy has holes in it but putting together all the slices of cheese helps prevent the spread of COVID.
- Mr. Giguere spoke about what pool testing is. The combining of respiratory samples from several people together in a pool to conduct one laboratory test to detect SARS CoV 2 (COVID 19) Test is performed once a week with an anterior nasal swab for all consenting staff and students. Results typically in 24-48 hours. If the pooled test result is positive then the pool of people receives individual follow up testing. (BINAX NOW)
- Dr. Ahern said that Franklin has been paired with vendor Project Beacon. Pools are between 5-10 with this vendor. She spoke about the prerequisites for this vendor which include a low rate of virus among the population and a high participation rate.
- Mrs. Marano spoke about how pool testing works in the classroom. Students and teachers will be placed in pool of 5-10. Pre-K - Grade 1 will be assisted by a teacher. Grade 2 and up with self administer. The pool is sent out to be tested. If the results are positive, the individuals in the pool are further tested using BINAX NOW Rapid test.  
There is a video of the process available on the website out of Sharon, MA
- Mr. Giguere goes over how the schedule will work. For elementary schools, Cohort A will be tested on Mondays and Cohort B, on Thursdays. The earlier the tests are given in the day, turnaround could be about 24 hours. If there is a positive pool, DPH guidance says there is no need to quarantine. The BINAX NOW will be administered and results are back in 15 minutes.
- Dr. Ahern spoke about the accuracy of the BINAX NOW Antigen test. A study was done in Lawrence, MA using both PCR and BINAX NOW. It included asymptomatic and symptomatic children and adults. The study found that when compared to PCR tests, BINAX now is accurate in detecting COVID-19 in children with moderate to heavy viral loads (even asymptomatic). These children would be highly contagious. The DOH felt comfortable with this result.

- Dr. Ahern said that the DESE six week pilot program has begun. It is at no cost to schools. Funding from the aforementioned ESSER can be used towards pool testing costs. Estimated costs depend on the instructional model and participation.
- Mr. Gigueure spoke about the dashboard set up through Project Beacon for viewing results and their customer service available. FPS's responsibilities include test administration, collection, and transportation Also, any follow up tests needed.
- Mrs. Marano said that pooled tests are not reported to public health. However, if BINAX NOW test results will continue to be reported to public health.
- Dr. Ahern describes the anticipated timeline. Week of 2/8 information went out to families and faculty and staff. Mid to late February will begin online registration. Cohort B pilot anticipation date of 2/25. 3/4 or 3/8 begin testing all participants in classroom pools. People will have the option to opt in at a later date.
- Mr. Griguere said there will be a pool testing website as part of the FPS website.
- Dr. Ahern thanked Representative Jeff Roy and Congressman Jake Auchincloss for their help.

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions/comments?

Ms. D'Angelo asks if there is a minimum participation rate?

- Dr. Ahern said yes, but will need to find out from Project Beacon.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about the BINAX NOW test piece as a backup. She understands there isn't an answer from Dr. Ahern at the moment.

Ms. D'Angelo asks about the administration of the pool testing, how this could look and feel to the students and affect the student's social emotional well being.

Ms. D'Angelo would like to see some pros and cons of pool testing. She states that 6 feet is a huge barrier for bringing back kids full time.

Ms. D'Angelo asks about the cost analysis She feels the cost presented is being too conservative. Also, she asked what do secondary costs look like, for example:

PPE cost, staffing, and the analysis cost with Beacon. Finally, she feels 24 hours is not a sustainable turnaround with the volume being turned out.

- Dr. Ahern made note of all Ms. D'Angelo's questions and concerns.

Mr. Keenan asks if the March 4th date is all schools.

- Dr. Ahern replied yes.

Mr. Keenan asked if 30-50% of people are not opting in, what teachers think about that? He states people shouldn't be in an environment where they don't feel safe if students are not pool testing.

Mr. Keenan states the Governor's response about teacher's vaccinated was not a response and the community needs to put pressure on the state. The fastest path to student's in school full time is teacher vaccinations.

Atty Pond-Pfeffer said she is concerned we are spending all of the COVID money on pool testing.

Ms. Scofield agreed with Ms. D'Angelo about the 24 hour return for results and it's sustainability. She asked how the samples are sent out.

- Dr. Ahern answered they are seeking to use a 3rd party carrier like FedEx.

Ms. Scofield asked who is doing the packaging of samples?

- Dr. Ahern replied this is all part of logistical planning and responsibilities. The school offices would be responsible as they are now for pickups and mailings.

Ms. Scofield asks further who is packaging up the sample?

- Dr. Ahern said she doesn't have the information from Project Beacon yet.
- Mr. Giguere replied there will need to be a site based person. There is a plan but it is not ready to be shared yet.

Ms. Scofield asked how many tests will be completed in a day?

- Mr. Giguere replied it is based on how many students opt in.



- Dr. Ahern states the best estimate right now is for a 60% opt in. Doing the math, based on 3100 students (at a 80% participation rate) = 1700 tests per week. A lower part rate and building up from there.

Ms. Spencer asked about vaccinations and if a plan has been created yet?

- Dr. Ahern replied it will be using the state plan at regional sites.

Ms. Stokes said thank you to everyone else for asking great questions.

Dr. Bergen is in agreement with what Mr. Keenan said, we have the capacity locally to streamline vaccinations but we just don't have the vaccines here. Any kind of pressure on the state may help.

Ms. D'angelo added that based on emails from the Davis Thayer community it may be a good plan to establish an advisory council to help with transition, involving stakeholders.

- Dr. Ahern agreed with Ms. D'Angelo. An advisory group from both the DT and Keller communities will be important to work together on transition steps, student placement, wants, needs and wishes.

Dr. Bergen asked if there were any public comments.

Selena Cousin - 114 Beech Street

Asked the Committee if they have any updates in the installation of UVGI in schools. Curious if parts are still backordered.

Joanna Lussier - 17 Clearview Drive

Stated her disappointment that citizen comments weren't listened to regarding Davis Thayer's potential closing before the vote was made.

Lisa Ladd - Speech Therapist at Davis Thayer

Wished that Mr. Keenan's and Ms. Spencer's concerns about the closing of DT had been given more consideration. The timing is not right in the middle of a pandemic. She is not aware of a transition plan in place.

Julie Ricciardi - 8 Jacks Way

Has sent multiple emails but feels like she hasn't been heard. How will the kids be transitioned in a positive way in the middle of a pandemic. Asked to please keep parents involved in the communication.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. Budget - next meeting 3/3/21 at 4:30
2. Community Relations - 3/2/21 at 6:30
3. Policy - next meeting 2/25/21

B. School Committee Liaison Report

1. Joint PCC - next meeting is 4pm same day as next School Committee meeting (2/23/21)
2. Substance Abuse Task Force - next meeting 2/23/21
3. School Wellness Advisory Council - met this morning. New and improved website. New Beehive from Franklin Honey for Parmeter.

VI. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern noted that at the next meeting there would be a reopening status update and a school highlight. Budget update moved will be March 9th

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the January 26, 2021 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. USS Constitution Model Ship Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of a USS Constitution Model Ship from Mark Jandreski valued at approximately \$200.00 for FHS as detailed.

C. BJ's Districtwide Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$440.00 from BJ's Wholesale Club for in-house enrichment as detailed.

D. Scholarship

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$10,000.00 from the Digital Federal Credit Union for a scholarship as detailed.

Motion - Atty. Pond-Pfeffer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes;

Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries - 7-0

VIII. Payment of Bills

Dr. Bergen

IX. Payroll

Atty. Pond-

Pfeffer

X. Executive Session

A) Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

At 9:23pm, Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn, to enter into executive session and not return to open session.

Motion: Ms. D'Angelo; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes;

Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries - 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Tocci, Secretary

List of Documents

SCAgenda 2/9/2021

ASMS School Committee Presentation 2.9.21.pdf

Discussion Action A - Retirement of DT.pdf

Discussion Action B - Dissolve Fac Analysis Subcom.pdf

Reopening Schools Status Update Feb 9 2020-2021.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - USS Constitution Model.pdf

Consent Action C - BJs.pdf

Consent Action D - DFCU Scholarship.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2116.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2116 Summary.pdf

SC Warrant 012121.xlsx

SC Warrant 012821.xlsx

FPS Summary & Sign Off 020921.pdf

SC Warrant 012121.pdf

SC Warrant 012821.pdf

Budget2Actual.pdf

Pledge Student.pdf