

**Franklin School Committee**  
**January 10, 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 7:00pm.**

In attendance: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Absent; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Brady Miller is an 8th grader at Annie Sullivan Middle School. He is always so kind and polite to his teachers and peers. You can count on Brady giving a compliment or wishing you a wonderful day anytime you walk by him. He truly makes our school a better place by his positive attitude and hard work. Brady is an older brother to Bradley, also a student at ASMS. Brady loves his teachers, especially Ms. Hall because he loves math class and learning about numbers. He truly loves to learn and is excited to go to Franklin High School. He wants to be a writer when he gets older, hopefully for a TV show.

## **Moment of Silence**

### **I. Routine Business**

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

### **D. FHS Student Representative Comments**

Siddharth Chandra; Vice President, Class of 2024 said that the boys and girl's basketball and hockey games were currently happening. He noted the many wins the winter sports teams are having. He said congratulations to Sarah Dumas who recently qualified for Nationals in the Pentathlon.

He said the Jazz band's first concert is 1/18/23 in the FHS auditorium.

He said 24 students will be performing at Mechanics Hall in Worcester for the district concert.

Ahan Shetty; President, Class of 2024 spoke about the band cookie fundraiser. He said students who sold \$500 worth of cookies get a free prom ticket. He said there will be more prom fundraisers to come. He said the prom committee is still continuing to meet every other Friday.

He said the class of 2023 calendar raffle is now closed but are drawing winners daily.

He said Math NHS is offering peer tutoring.

He said DECA participated in the district competition last week. There were 263 participants and 85 of those advanced to states.

Panther Pride night is coming up on 2/2/23 for 8th graders.

He added that Juniors are having meetings with guidance counselors to discuss post high school plans. He said SAT's are 3/11/23 at FHS and the deadline is soon to sign up.

Ms. Stokes asked what is a Pentathlon?

Mr. Chandra replied that athletes compete in five different events

#### **E. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Giguere said Happy New Year and welcome back.

He also spoke about Panther Pride night and being a good opportunity for incoming freshmen.

He noted that 1/13/23 is a half-day in Franklin and a half-day of PD. He noted that the PD breaks out as follows:

- Elementary level: Continue with Science of Reading professional development.
- Middle level: Teachers will work to prepare for student-led conferences.
- High School: Teachers will continue to collaborate by department on curriculum development with specific focus on the Portrait of a Graduate.

He said at the next school committee meeting Mr. Hanna and his team will be presenting their program of studies.

Mr. Giguere also spoke about health and safety practices:

- Masks are not required but the district supports those who wish to wear them.
- Keep monitoring of symptoms and follow call in procedures.
- Test kits were provided before Thanksgiving. Can request more from your school.
- Continued hand washing.
- Ventilation and UVGI is in place.

He said that the Franklin Public Library is offering free tutoring for adults who wishes to learn English.

Finally, she said Franklin was awarded a Genocide Education Grant for \$31,320.00, this will help the district expand on their genocide education for middle and HS.

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

Ms. Bernstein asked if Mr. Vacca could speak on the grant.

Mr. Vacca said this is what they should be doing with the grant money. He said there is a good base in the district at Horace Mann. he said the district can be a good model for the Commonwealth.

Mr. Callaghan said thank you and he is excited to see where it goes.

Mr. Charles said that he is excited for student led conferences at the middle school.

Mr. Charles asked if they are using the Genocide grant money this year?

Mrs. Goodman replied it is for the rest of the fiscal year until the end of the following fiscal year (6/2024)

Mr. McNeill said it is great to offer resources like Panther Pride night and Franklin Public Library.

Ms. Stokes said congratulations to everyone who worked on the grant and she is also looking forward to student-led conferences.

## **II. Guests/Presentations**

### **A. Greece Field Trip – Ms. Cullinan & Ms. Reilly**

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

Ms. Cullinan said this trip is tentatively planned for 10 days in April, 2024. It is open to all students who are able to participate.

She said the trip is being planned through EF Educational Tours, she said the high school has worked with them before and there is a tour scheduled to Spain with EF this April. Ms. Cullinan said traveling is a great way for students to broaden their experiences.

She said the trip would consist of four days in Athens and then a cruise around the islands. She said there would be a connection on social media to keep families in the loop and informed.

She spoke about what is included in the cost of the trip and what costs extra and provided the price they were quoted. She spoke about ways to help make this happen including a Global Citizen Scholarship. She said each student will receive a customizable donation page which is similar to a GoFundMe page.

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

Mr. Callaghan asked about 1 chaperone per 6 students and asked if this was typical.

Ms. Cullinan replied that this is the goal of the tour company and right now she is not sure what happens if they are under the amount of students projected.

Mr. Charles asked what the criteria is for eligibility?

Ms. Cullinan said the financial aspect, being able to travel during April break, and good academic and behavioral standing.

Mr. Charles asked if there is a way of making it more equitable for some students to go?

Ms. Cullinan noted the scholarships etc., and she said there would need to be a larger fundraiser done.

Mr. Charles asked on the fundraising page if 100% of the funds raised goes completely to the student?

Ms. Cullinan replied that it is her understanding that 100% goes to the student.

Mrs. Goodman also replied that is her understanding.

Mr. Charles asked about any days missed out of school for students and staff?

Ms. Cullinan replied she spoke to Mr. Hanna about possible coverage for a missed day by leaving on a Thursday.

Ms. Stokes asked if there is a possibility of assistance through the FEF or PCC to put together a scholarship?

Mrs. Goodman said money can't come out of the budget. She said a student can be gifted money and there can be fundraisers done from the Student Activity Account.

Mr. Giguere said they have not exhausted their options for fundraising. He said this proposal will need to go through SC approval before fundraising etc.

Mr. Charles asked if this trip was for all grade levels?

Ms. Cullinan replied that it would be any student who is at the school in April, 2024 except incoming freshmen.

Mr. Giguere also replied that it is not open to current 8th grade students.

**B. Special Education Presentation – Ms. Marano, Ms. Graveline & Mr. Duquette**

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

Mrs. Marano said everything they do in Special Education is guided by both federal and state laws and regulations. Mrs. Marano gave an overview of what Special Education is and what services are provided. She also gave an overview of the disability categories and the current counts in the district.

Mr. Duquette spoke about when a child would be eligible for services. He noted that while enrollment is going down in Franklin, the number of children in Special Education is going up.

He said the number of students at ECDC has been going up since September due to the rolling enrollment. He also gave a breakdown of Special Education at the six elementary schools.

Ms. Graveline gave a breakdown of Special Education at the three middle schools and FHS. She also spoke about the continuum of services for post graduation. She also spoke about the out of district placements. There are currently 70 students, ages 6-21 in out of district placements. She said this is a team decision. Mrs. Marano said this number has stayed consistent.

Mrs. Marano said there is grant funding that is used to work with four consultants who are regularly in Franklin. She also spoke about the goals for Special Education.

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

Ms. Bernstein asked about students in NECC being separated by schools at grade levels K-3 and 4/5.

Mrs. Marano explained that it is due to space constraints.

Ms. Bernstein asked why the percentages of students in special education has gone down for high school numbers?

Ms. Marano said various reasons but it can be from high school choice, students moving, and some students transition off of their plans.

Mr. Callaghan asked if special education per pupil cost is more than a student not on special education?

Mrs. Marano said yes, as they have more teachers working with them and different service providers.

Mr. Callaghan said this is something to keep in mind during budget season.

Mr. Callaghan said Jefferson/Remington has the highest number of students in Special Ed, he asked if they have the staff to support those students?

Mrs. Marano replied they have a higher number of staff to support the students in that complex.

Mr. Charles asked if they could elaborate on their dyslexia update?

Mrs. Marano said there are new regulations around dyslexia. She said districts are starting to screen in Kindergarten and are tested three times a year. She said they are seeing a lot more students identified with dyslexia.

Mr. McNeill asked what has the impact been of the special education additions from the FY23 budget?

Mrs. Marano said there has been a positive impact and a reduction of behaviors. They have been able to provide more targeted programs and properly support the students.

Mr. McNeill asked what are the greatest remaining needs for these programs?

Mrs. Marano said it is the time the teachers need to be able to collaborate and work with curriculum leaders.

Mr. Giguere also replied that special education liaisons are also stretched thin.

Mr. McNeill asked about the effect that having these programs in Franklin has on preventing out of district placements?

Mrs. Marano replied that the more support they can give a student will help prevent them from having to go out of the district. This will help with the cost factor as well as time spent on a van each way.

Ms. Stokes noted that even though there are special education students graduating there will always be more coming in.

She noted that she thinks it would be helpful to see some IST numbers.

Ms. Stokes asked if they do program evaluations?

Mrs. Marano said they did a STRIVE and REACH (2 rounds each) evaluation. They also did it for GOALS. She said next year they will do it for co-teaching programs.

Dr. Rogers also replied that Math and Reading Specialists work closely with Interventionists. They have been able to streamline data processes and tools.

Ms. Spencer asked how many students are in a residential program and what is the cost?

Mr. Doucette replied the cost can be from \$200,000-\$400,000.

Mrs. Spencer asked for an acronym cheat sheet for terms typically used at the meetings.

Mr. Giguere replied they had discussed this before and they will do that.

Ms. Bernstein asked about students who missed the dyslexia window and getting assistance for the high school teachers who may be encountering those students?

Mrs. Marano said it will be part of their PD plan for next year and hopefully this year.

Ms. Bernstein asked about opportunities for high school students to work with Special Education students?

Ms. Graveline replied that they have had instances of this as well as the Best Buddies program.

Mrs. Marano also replied that they have also partnered up a high school student with a middle school student who seem to be presenting similarly. She also added the pre-Covid, middle school and high school students would go over to ECDC.

Mr. Giguere also replied that the ECDC director also visits the high school to speak about the early childhood education program.

Mr. Callaghan asked if the state provided any funding to go along with the state mandated dyslexia screening program?

Mrs. Marano replied that it is an unfunded mandate.

Ms. Stokes noted that she would love to see ECDC moved to the high school at some point.

Mrs. Marano replied that that option is on their radar but high school enrollment needs to lower to be able to have the space.

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

#### **A. Policy First Readings**

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

1. JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students
2. JLCD-1 – Anaphylaxis Procedure
3. EBCD – Emergency Closings
4. GBI – Political Activities of Staff

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



Ms. Stokes noted JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students and asked about wording about storage of medications. She said it is not clear where the storage of medication will be.

Ms. Spencer read from the policy that all medications will be stored in a locked cabinet and it was clarified that the student can self administer from the locked cabinet. Mrs. Marano said unless it is a medication they can self administer without it being locked up like an antacid.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent**

**B. FY23 Capital Improvement Requests**

***\*See Memorandum from Miriam Goodman for detailed breakout of requests.***

Mr. Giguere noted there are two memos; one from before the holiday break and a revised one.

Mrs. Goodman said the total request was \$996,500 broken down in priority order. She said the Town Administrator said their allocation would instead be for \$400,000. She noted that they did have conversations with the Budget sub-committee on their proposal as well. She spoke about their revised requests.

Ms. Spencer asked for clarification that they would be voting on the revised memo from 1/4/23. Mr. Giguere confirmed this.

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

Ms. Bernstein said the original document said replacing teacher laptops every nine years and the revised said four years and asked for clarification.

Mrs. Goodman said this is a typo and is four years.

Mr. Callaghan asked about a cost difference in purchasing curriculum for one year

or multiple years.

Dr. Rogers said it is atypical to do a one-year curriculum purchase especially with a core program. She also clarified the curriculum selection process they are currently in.

Mrs. Goodman said tomorrow (1/11/23) is the Finance Committee meeting and

the numbers could change in either direction.

Mr. Charles asked if they will do more than one year of a curriculum?

Mr. Giguere said curriculum is a big commitment to make and needs more than one year to implement.

Mr. Charles asked what are the ramifications for not replacing chromebooks?

Mrs. Goodman said the technology department will repair what they can. She said the bigger ramifications will come next year when more chromebooks will need to be replaced. She added the projectors are also older and will need to be replaced.

Mr. Charles stated that it would be more cost effective to fix and replace now then putting it off a year.

Mrs. Goodman said she can't estimate costs for next year but they will try to make the funds go as far as possible.

Mr. McNeill thanked Mrs. Goodman and Mr. Giguere for presenting this and their hard work.

Ms. Stokes asked what would happen if the School Committee didn't approve this?

Mrs. Goodman replied that there wouldn't be an allocation.

Mrs. Stokes asked if they could approve the 12/28/22 list?

Mrs. Goodman replied they could do that but the town still makes the decision on how much money is allocated.

Ms. Stokes asked if they have students in wheelchairs who don't have access to a wheelchair van?

Mrs. Marano replied that the request for a new van was going to replace the older van but they do have enough vans currently. She said by obtaining a new van, it increases their capacity to transport more students.

Mr. Giguere said this will come up again next year.

Ms. Spencer asked why the town would give such a drastic cut?

Mrs. Goodman replied that in the past they may have had a better idea what the allocation was going to be.

Ms. Bernstein asked what the typical amount was in other years?

Mrs. Goodman said it has varied in years past.

Mr. Callaghan said it is unfortunate that they cannot get the amount requested but good to see it written on paper as to what their goals are.

Ms. Spencer said last year was \$1.5 million in allocations.  
Mr. Charles asked about breaking up curriculum payments in installments.  
Mrs. Goodman said no, they expect payment up front.  
Ms. Stokes asked which teachers will be the ones to receive new laptops?  
Mr. Giguere said there is an order based on distribution.  
Ms. Spencer said this is a good topic to bring up at the joint budget subcommittee meeting to keep things on their radar.  
Ms. Stokes said this could be the start of a downfall of our schools and that you pay for what you value.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 5      Oppose: 1**

**Motion Carries 5-1 with 1 absent**

**IV. Discussion Only Items** - there was none

**V. Information Matters**

**A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports**

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - no updates
2. **Budget** - met on 1/4/23
3. **Policy** - next meeting 1/25/23
4. **Community Relations** - no updates
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - next meeting 1/12/23 and next redistricting meeting is 1/17/23.

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - next meeting 1/23/23
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - met on 1/10/23; next meeting 2/7/23
3. **SEPAC** - SEPAC board meeting is 1/18/23
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - met on 1/10/23. Next Critical Conversations is 3/9/23 7-9pm at HMMS.
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting 1/25/23

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2022 School Committee meeting as detailed.

*Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes, and Mr. Charles abstained from this vote due to being absent from the 12/13/22 meeting.*

**Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan**

**Approve: 3      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 3-0 with 3 abstentions with 1 absent**

**B. Surplus**

I recommend declaring the attached list of food service equipment as surplus.

**C. Art Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$41.55 from the Square 1 Art Fundraiser for in-house enrichment and supplemental supplies at Oak St. as detailed.

**D. District Wide Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$285.00 from BJ's Wholesale Club for in-house enrichment.

**E. General Scholarship**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$5,000.00 from Thomas A. Wagner for the Thomas A. Wagner Jr. Scholarship.

**F. Recurring Trip – In State**

I recommend approval of the request from Frank Wood to take the FHS DECA Students to Boston, MA from 3/9/23 to 3/11/23 for the DECA State Competition as detailed.

**G. Recurring Trip – Out of State**

I recommend approval of the request from Frank Wood to take the FHS DECA Students to Orlando, FL from 4/21/23 to 4/25/23 for the DECA International Competition as detailed.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent**

**VII. Citizen's Comments**

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive

Mr. Sherlock said there is additional money set aside in case the town goes over their snow budget and that money can become available if they do not. He also stated that the other departments are in the same position when it comes to funding.

Mr. Kyle Thompson, 8 Mercer Lane

Mr. Thompson noted that Mr. Giguere did not read the policies up for first read out loud or note any of the changes. He would like the committee to read those out loud.

Ms. Meaghan Bensen, 19 Winthrop Drive

Ms. Bensen noted that Mr. Giguere did not read the policies up for first read out loud or note any of the changes. He would like the committee to read those out loud.

Ms. Spencer asked Mr. Giguere if at the next meeting when they have the second reading if they can do this and Mr. Giguere said yes and that was an oversight was not intentional.

#### **VIII. New Business**

##### **To discuss any future agenda items**

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 1/24/23 meeting:

- Mr. Josh Hanna, FHS program of studies
- ACCEPT collaborative vote for an interested district

Mr. Callaghan asked Mr. Giguere about retirement numbers once they have an idea.

Mr. Charles spoke about getting an email for refunds for lunch after a student graduates. He asked for context on this at the next meeting.

#### **IX. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent**

#### **X. Adjournment at 10:16pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAGENDA 1-10-23.pdf  
FPS Summary - Sign Off 011023.pdf  
SC Warrant 120822.pdf  
SC Warrant 121522.pdf  
Payroll Warrant 2313 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant 2313.pdf  
Greece Trip Proposal for School Committee.pdf  
Special Education School Committee Presentation January 10, 2023.pdf  
Discussion Action A - Policy.pdf  
Discussion Action B - FY23 Capital Improvement Requests.pdf  
Consent Action A - Meeting Minutes  
Consent Action B - Surplus Food Service Equipment.pdf  
Consent Action C - Art Gift.pdf  
Consent Action D - District Wide Gift.pdf  
Consent Action E - General Scholarship.pdf

Consent Action F - Overnight Travel - DECA State Competition.pdf  
Consent Action G - Overnight Travel - DECA International Competition.pdf  
Budget to Actual.pdf  
Pledge Student.pdf