

**Franklin School Committee**  
**January 24, 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.*

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83177043578?pwd=dWdaTGhPWkUxM0J0T1MyQmpyUCtPUT09>

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US: +16465588656,,83177043578#,,,,\*229244# or +16469313860,,83177043578#,,,,\*229244#

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US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 689 278 1000

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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.**

Ms. Spencer said at the previous meeting, there was a question asked about packet materials. She said the community can visit [franklins.net/district/school-schoolcommittee](http://franklins.net/district/school-schoolcommittee) to view all packet materials. She said all meetings of the school committee or any committee are business meetings that take place in public and do not review word for word any policies or documents up for discussion.

Roll Call Attendance: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes(zoom) Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Tonight we welcome brothers Luke and John Roach from Jefferson Elementary to lead us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Luke is in third grade at Jefferson Elementary. John's teachers describe him as an extremely hard-working student. Even if something is challenging, he perseveres and always does his best. He always does his job in the classroom and is an excellent listener. He also is extremely respectful and kind to all of his teachers and his classmates. He often will help his classmates and explain something if they do not understand. Luke also makes sure everyone is included. He is a team player and displays all of the Jefferson Core Values consistently. Luke's favorite subject is science. Outside of school, Luke plays the drums.

Luke's big brother, John, is a fifth-grade student at Jefferson. John is a hard-working student who

comes in with a smile every day. He is well-mannered and inclusive. He is always kind and respectful to others. John makes it a point each morning to greet the adults at the door and even stops to ask them about their mornings and to wish them a good day. His favorite subject is social studies because he loves learning about history. John has three pets and loves animals. He also enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities. He plays basketball and football and is a big NY Giants fan!

Jefferson is proud to have Luke and John representing Jefferson Elementary School tonight.

## **Moment of Silence**

### **I. Routine Business**

#### **A. Review of Agenda -**

Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to move:

Discussion/Action item B. Westborough's request to join ACCEPT Collaborative to come before Discussion/Action item A. Policy Second Reading / Adoption.

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

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

#### **B. Payment of Bills - reviewed and in order**

**C. Payroll** - reviewed and in order

**D. FHS Student Representative Comments**

Ms. Shaw Downing said the boy's basketball game was currently underway in Mansfield and the girl's team is home vs. Mansfield. She added that the swim team is competing against King Philip today. She said congratulations to the FHS shotput team who won the Division 1 MIAA state championship. She said the Hockomock League has designated this week as MIAA Mental Health Week. She said Peer Tutoring for math is available through the Math NHS club. She said the next SAT date is 3/11/23 at FHS.

Mr. Ravin Chaudhary spoke about Panther Pride night coming up on 2/2/23 at FHS. He said the Peer Leaders Club will be giving tours. He said yearbook forms have been sent out and graduation caps and gowns need to be ordered by 2/2/23. He also said there is a Senior t-shirt contest now open. Finally, they are working to finalize a trip to Fenway Park for senior week festivities

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

Mr. Charles asked if Science Night will be happening this year?

Mr. Chaudhury said he is in Science NHS and it will be happening in the spring.

**E. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Giguere said it will be great to have student leaders at Panther Pride night. He spoke about key points regarding inclement weather processes.

He spoke about the school closing process. He said he is ultimately the decision maker if there is no school or a delay. He also said they are in consultation with the DPW, highway department, Director of Facilities, local/state weather forecast, and a service called Precision Weather.

He said the factors they take into consideration are safety, a sensitivity to childcare needs, road conditions, timing of a storm and what is predicted, and building conditions. He said they make the decision based on when they believe they have all the information they need. He also said they send out notifications to families via text and email, as well as being provided to the news stations. He said the community can visit the Franklin Public School website and there is more information under the About Us section.

Mr. Giguere said that Covid 19 test kits are available to Franklin residents. Anyone interested can contact the Public Health Nurse. He said pickup will be at the Franklin Senior Center and there is a limited supply.

Mr. Giguere also spoke about the redistricting analysis. They are working to review scenarios and gather community input. He said no decisions have been made. He thanked all those who are serving on the committee and who have emailed the committee. He said they are gathering and replying to related questions in bulk. He said there is a redistricting analysis website and there will also be a district newsletter to come soon with more information. He spoke about composting at Keller and Annie Sullivan. It is a collaboration between DPW and the schools. NBC10 was recently at the school to highlight the work being done.

Finally, he said the Hockomock League has dedicated this week as Mental Health week to support the mental well-being of student athletes.

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

Mr. Callaghan thanked Mr. Giguere and the team for all of their work on the capital improvement requests.

Mr. Charles asked if there will be a link shared to the composting news segment in the next district newsletter?

Mr. Giguere said yes.

**II. Guests/Presentations**

**A. FHS Program of Studies Update - Josh Hanna**

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

Mr. Hanna spoke about the core beliefs at FHS and the Portrait of a Graduate. He spoke about the program of study process and that it starts in September and October.

He highlighted the adjustments and why they are being made, including increasing graduation requirements such as:

- Increase the number of credits needed to graduate from 106.5 to 111.5.
- World language (2 consecutive years of a single language)
- Art, design and media, or performing arts

He said these changes will be implemented for the Class of 2027.

He gave more detail about new offerings in math, science, art, music, and health.

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

Ms. Bernstein said she likes that many of these class additions are coming from teacher interest and suggestions of students.

Mr. Callaghan said he likes the thoughtfulness of the additions.

Mr. Charles noted that the FHS space is able to accommodate and adapt to the new courses being added.

Mr. Charles asked about the removal of an updated TV studio from the capital budget at the last meeting and how that will affect the new TV programs going forward.

Mr. Hanna replied that there will be an impact if something is not working but it is still functional. He said they continue to examine possible solutions.

Mr. Giguere also replied that they had requested that in order to sustain the program. He said the studio is functioning but it will need to be updated and they will continue to advocate for it.

Mr. McNeill asked if they think with the addition of required credits, there will be an impact on student's schedules or impact graduation numbers?

Mr. Hanna said they were very thoughtful in this increase and there will not be an increase in the students who do not graduate.

Ms. Stokes said she liked hearing the process behind all the changes.

She asked how many AP classes there are at FHS?

Mr. Hanna replied there are about 15-20 roughly.

Ms. Stokes asked if it is harmful for students to have too many AP courses?

Mr. Hanna replied that he doesn't believe that to be true. He added there are students who take no AP classes and do well too.

Ms. Stokes asked what is the highest possible amount of credits a student can graduate with?

Mr. Hanna replied he believes it to be 140 but it will not be an issue for students to get enough credits even with the addition.

Ms. Spencer asked if they will be able to find a physics teacher?

Mr. Hanna said he is optimistic but it is a difficult time and there have been a lot of people who have left the teaching profession.

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

#### **A. Westborough's request to join ACCEPT Collaborative**

I recommend approval of the Westborough Public School district to join ACCEPT Collaborative as discussed.

***Ms. Stokes recused herself from the meeting at 8:06pm as she is an employee of ACCEPT.***

Ms. Donna Flaherty spoke about education collaboratives. She said they serve as an extension of the public schools. She said there are 15 districts currently who are a part of ACCEPT. She said there are two districts currently interested, Westborough being one of them.

Mr. Callaghan asked how Westborough joining ACCEPT would impact Franklin? Ms. Flaherty replied that there would not be a negative impact to Franklin and they prioritize their member districts for the slots they have for the students and in professional development.

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

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-abstain; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

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

***Ms. Stokes returned to the meeting at 8:17pm.***

#### **B. Policy Second Reading / Adoption**

I recommend adoption of the following policies as discussed:

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

Mr. Callaghan asked about a line they added to a paragraph and moving it to directly

below the paragraph.

Ms. Stokes noted there are font differences and if they can be fixed?

Mr. Giguere said that it once it is approved but before it is available online, the fonts will all look the same.

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

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

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

##### **A. 2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Schedule - DRAFT**

Mr. Giguere noted the following:

- There will be a meeting 7/11/23 after the holiday rather than waiting until the end of the month.
- 11/14/23 is an organizational meeting per usual.
- One meeting in December with the holiday.

Mr. Charles asked if there could be clarification on 11/14/23 and if it can be noted that it is an organizational meeting in addition to a regular meeting. He also asked if it can be noted that it is the first meeting after the election.

Mr. Giguere said they can make the adjustments.

Mr. McNeill noted the second meeting in April is not on the fourth Tuesday.

Mr. Giguere said they did that because of April vacation.

##### **B. ACCEPT Collaborative Quarterly Report**

Mr. Giguere said that Dr. Flaherty had shared the report with the committee.

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

There were none

#### **V. Information Matters**

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

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation** - no updates
- 2. Budget** - no updates
- 3. Policy** - next meeting 1/25/23

4. **Community Relations** - no updates
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - Mr. Charles said they talked through five different scenarios. He said they have begun to receive emails from the community since the scenarios have been released.

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - met on 1/23/23. Ms. Stokes asked if there was a SEPAC representative there and Mr. Charles replied yes.
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting 2/7/23
3. **SEPAC** - hosted a workshop and a parent support workshop.
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - next meeting 2/14/23. Planning for next critical conversations on 3/9/23.
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting is 1/25/23

VI. **Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the January 10, 2023 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. Transfers

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

C. FHS Trip to Greece

I recommend approval of the request of Ms. Cullinan & Ms. Reilly to take FHS students to Greece from April 11 - 20, 2024 as presented at the 1/10/23 School Committee Meeting.

D. JFK Recurring Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of the JFK Gr 2 Team to take JFK 2nd Graders to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI on June 2, 2023 as detailed.

E. RMS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1503.36 from Lifetouch/Shutterfly LLC for in-house enrichment at RMS as detailed.

F. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$5,964.00 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

G. New Math NHS Club

I recommend approval of the request of Jennifer Santosuosso to create a new Math National Honor Society Club as detailed.



Ms. Spencer said she thought the Math NHS club was in existence already as she has seen signs for it at the high school.

Mrs. Goodman said it has been an active club but has not done financials and to do so they need approval from the school committee.

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

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**VII. Citizen's Comments**

Ms. Gretchen Donohue, 7 Padden Rd.

Ms. Donohue spoke about her concerns of redistricting and the impact of Davis Thayer children to be redistricted a second time. She said Dr. Ahern had noted in a letter to the subcommittee in January 2021 where she said it would be prudent to avoid redistricting DT more than once. She said there will be a letter coming to the school committee from concerned parents.

**VIII. New Business**

**To discuss any future agenda items.**

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 2/14/23 meeting:

- School calendar for 2023/2024
- School acronyms request
- A school highlight
- Advisory program 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. McNeill**

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**X. Adjournment at 8:41pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 1-24-23  
Payroll Warrant #2315 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2315.pdf  
FPS Summary & Sign Off 012423.pdf  
SC Warrant 010523.pdf  
SC Warrant 011223.pdf  
SC Warrant 122222.pdf  
SC Warrant 122922.pdf  
Discussion Action A - Policy 2nd Read-Adoption.pdf  
EBCD - Emergency Closings.pdf  
GBI - Political Activity of Staff.pdf  
JLCD - Administering Medicines to Students.pdf  
JLCD-1 - Anaphylaxis Procedure.pdf  
Discussion Action B - ACCEPT add Westborough.pdf  
Draft 2023-24 FHS Program of Studies  
FHS Program of Studies 2023 Presentation.pdf  
23-24 SCSchedule-DRAFT.pdf  
BoD Quarter Two 22-23.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf  
Consent Action C - Greece Trip.pdf  
Consent Action D - JFK Recurring Field Trip.pdf  
Consent Action E - RMS Gift.pdf  
Consent Action F - Music Gifts.pdf  
Consent Action G - New Club.pdf  
Pledge Student.pdf