

Franklin School Committee
July 27, 2021
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
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.

Members of the public are now welcome to attend committee meetings in person. Additionally, in an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to continue to access the public meeting using the Zoom link or phone numbers below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99325708666?pwd=K0NweWVCQ0R3WIFKaXdQdGg3K21MZz09>

Meeting ID: 993 2570 8666

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,99325708666#,,, *078253# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 993 2570 8666

Passcode: 078253

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.”

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

In attendance were: Mr. Timothy Keenan; Atty. Judith Pond-Pfeffer; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Ms. Denise Spencer; Ms. Elise Stokes.

Ms. Jennifer D’Angelo was absent.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Miriam Goodman.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

July 27, 2021 School Committee Meeting - FINAL

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine.

B. Citizen's Comments - Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments. There were none.

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 - there were none.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern provided some information on what to expect for back to school. She said it will be full in-person and the first day of school is 8/31/21 for grades 1-12. Kindergarten orientation, screening, and placement takes place that week with the first day of school being 9/8/21. There are 180 days of instruction that is expected to be met with 900 hours for elementary and 990 hours for secondary. There will be no entirely remote option running this year.

Dr. Ahern said that vaccines are being encouraged for anyone 12 and over and the vaccine statistics in Franklin are very strong. The numbers are updated on a weekly basis by the Department of Public Health. Families are encouraged to vaccinate their children if eligible and if families were to vaccinate their children now, students would be close to or fully vaccinated by the start of the school year.

Dr. Ahern said they are remaining informed about vaccines for children under 12 years old. There will be more information to come about ways to potentially distribute the vaccine, such as school based sites.

Dr. Ahern said they are monitoring case counts and the Delta variant and remaining aware of recent decisions regarding masking indoors. She said they are hopeful that some state guidance will come out from DESE and the Department of Public Health. She said they are still gathering information and the mask policy is currently under review. She stated that summer programs that are in process,

masks are optional but not required. More information will go out to families early to mid-August.

Dr. Ahern said regular health and safety practices should continue including hand hygiene, ventilation with UVGI, and portable air purifiers will continue to run which will also help with air quality.

Dr. Ahern said pool testing will be funded again this fall but is being reviewed if it will be used in Franklin. The cost of time to benefits needs to be weighed along with a review of data from last spring.

Dr. Ahern said more information will come in the next couple of weeks and she is looking forward to working with the school committee to review the mask policy. Finally, she encouraged parents and guardians to have their children vaccinated.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the Professional Development that she and Mr. Giguere attended two weeks ago at the Executive Institute for the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. She said it was a three day conference and it was very refreshing to be with colleagues again and have an in person learning experience.

Day One had a keynote speaker, CNN host Michael Smerconish. He spoke to the superintendents about the current status of education in our nation. He related a lot of history related about the media and how it has impacted some of the questions before us. The theme throughout the conference was around the Superintendant's Association's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) initiative and support they are providing to districts. There were breakout groups following the morning sessions. They focused on moving forward after COVID, autonomy, social emotional leadership, high quality curriculum, anti-racism practices, etc.

Dr. Ahern was invited and sat on a panel and participated in a reflective conversation about the past year. She shared how the district is approaching next year.

Day Two there was a welcoming keynote from Professor Sarah Lewis from Harvard University. She brought culture to the conversation around equity. Ms. Lewis asked them to look at the power of art, predominantly pictures but also other visual artwork.

Also on the second day, there was another racial equity presentation and Dr. Ahern also attended a Q&A with the M.A.S.S. attorneys.

Day Three included a general session with important legal updates from Attorney Mike Long with the highlight of the day being the Project 351 students who engaged M.A.S.S. members with a Playbook workshop. They have developed, in

conjunction with the Boston Celtics, a playbook for anti-bias and anti-discrimination. The playbook is intended to be for students taught by other students.

Dr. Ahern added that Dr. Joyce Edwards presented with Primary Source, a professional development provider out of Watertown in the area of Social Studies. She was part of a small group presenting on the implementation of the new social studies standards, specifically civics.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Dr. Bergen said it's an honor to be selected to be on a panel.

II. Guests/Presentations - there were none.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Policy - 2nd Reading / Adoption

I recommend adoption of policy JRAA-R Student Admission/Residency as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer Second: Ms. Scofield

Approve: 6

Oppose: 0

Absent: 1

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. there were none.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Community Relations** - workshop held prior to this meeting from 4pm-7pm. Dr. Bergen spoke about three important areas of the school committee - budget, community relations, and monitoring/accountability.
- 2. Policy** - next meeting 7/28/21, 6pm-7:30pm on Zoom.
- 3. Ad-Hoc Superintendent review** - a meeting needs to be set up to go over the evaluation.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - have not met
- 2. Substance Abuse Task Force** - have not met
- 3. School Wellness Advisory Council** - have not met

VI. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- policy subcommittee meeting update
- a back to school update
- a draft School Committee presentation schedule
- reviewing the annual report to be included in the town report

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your June 22, 2021 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$1,221.54 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment for the Music Department as detailed.

C. Athletic's Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from the Special Olympics-MA for in-house enrichment for the Athletics Department as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Approve: 6

Oppose: 0

Absent: 1

VIII. Payment of Bills

Dr. Bergen

IX. Payroll

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer

X. Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Approve: 6

Oppose: 0

Absent: 1

Adjournment at 7:18pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SC Mtg. Agenda 7-27-21
Discussion Action A - Policy.pdf
File_JFAB - Student Moving Procedures.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

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Consent Action B - Music Gift.pdf
Consent Action C - Athletics Gift.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off 072721.pdf
SC Warrant 061721.pdf
SC Warrant 062421.pdf
SC Warrant 063021#1.pdf
SC Warrant 063021#2.pdf
SC Warrant 063021#3.pdf
SC Warrant 070821.pdf
SC Warrant 071521.pdf
SC Warrant 061721.xlsx
SC Warrant 062421.xlsx
SC Warrant 063021#1.xlsx
SC Warrant 063021#2.xlsx
SC Warrant 063021#3.xlsx
SC Warrant 070821.xlsx
SC Warrant 071521.xlsx
Payroll Warrant #2126 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2126.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2126B Final.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2126B Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2201 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2201.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2202 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2202.pdf