

Franklin School Committee
June 13, 2023
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

*Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29
Any individual who also wishes to record this meeting must notify the Chair*

□ 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/87860198289?pwd=Nm43SFhCTGpNRWpFeVhOUkJEb01LZz09>

Passcode: 831664

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

Webinar ID: 878 6019 8289

Passcode: 831664

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.”

At 7:00pm, Ms. Spencer called the meeting to order.

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

Also in attendance was: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Tina Rogers

Pledge of Allegiance

June 13, 2023 School Committee Minutes - FINAL

Paige Dailey will be representing Oak Street School by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance this evening. Paige is the daughter of Tom and Karianne Dailey and the sister of older brother Thomas who is a sophomore at FHS.

Paige's teachers have nominated her to represent Oak Street this evening because of her involvement in our Oak Street community. She has been a first grade volunteer all year where she spends each morning with a group of first graders playing games, practicing flashcards and building positive relationships. Paige is also a member of the Oak Street Student council. As a member of Student Council Paige meets with teachers and fellow members once a month to plan spirit days and community service projects for the school community.

As an Oak Street scholar Paige puts her best foot forward every day. She comes to school each day ready to learn and share her ideas with others. Her teachers are impressed how Paige serves as a role model for her classmates. She works diligently to learn and problem-solve. Paige is very caring; she willingly works cooperatively with classmates and is inclusive of all. Paige's positive attitude is contagious!

As she gets ready to transition to Horace Mann Middle School next year, Paige reflects on her favorite things about Oak Street as being all the fifth grade projects she has completed. She also loves her fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Buswell. Paige's favorite subject is social studies because she likes learning about all the battles leading up to the Revolutionary War as well as the fifth grade wax museum which was held last Friday. Paige also lists ELA as a favorite subject because she loves to read. When she grows up Paige wants to be a graphic novel author and artist.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

- A. Review of Agenda** - Ms. Spencer asked to strike executive session from the agenda and move it to a different date.
- B. Payment of Bills** - reviewed and in order
- C. Payroll** - reviewed and in order

D. FHS Student Representative Comments

Mr. Ahan Shetty, Junior Class President spoke and extended his condolences to the family of Anthony Gates. He said the administration has shared their plans to adjust final exams.

He said full payment is due for registered 2023/2024 bus riders on 7/10/23. He noted that senior parking registration can also be completed now. Fall sports registration is also open on Family ID.

Siddharth Chandra, Junior Class Vice-President spoke about spring sports noting his congratulations to all the teams for a great season. He said that girl's lacrosse lost earlier in the evening at their semi-final game. He said the boy's baseball team was currently playing against Methuen at Holy Cross.

He added that registration for Strength and Conditioning for the summer is now open.

Finally, he noted a few athletes who will be competing at the New Balance Nationals. They are Lily Deforge, Liz Hopkins, Gwen Holland, and Sarah Dumas.

Ms. Bernstein said that she appreciated Mr. Hanna and Mr. Giguere's handling of final exams in the wake of Mr. Gates' death.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere acknowledged the passing of Anthony Gates and the impact on FHS and the community. He said they will continue to have counseling services and support in place.

Ms. Laura Keenan gave a recap of the recent trip to Spain over April break. The committee members thanked her for sharing.

Also, Sarah Dumas, Liz Hopkins, and Lily Deforge of the Franklin girl's outdoor track team were spotlighted for their recent achievements. Their coaches were also in attendance. The committee members offered their congratulations to the girls.

Mr. Giguere shared an update on the school bus that lost a rear wheel on the way to Six Flags last Saturday. He read a statement from the Holmes Bus Company.

Mr. Giguere also noted upcoming transportation deadlines with bus payments due in full by 7/10/23.

Mr. Giguere spoke about the recent reductions made due to the budget. He spoke about the many variables that go into decision making such as sectioning and enrollment and contractual obligations regarding seniority/professional status. He noted there were no middle school music cuts however there were impacts made.

Mr. Giguere noted two upcoming retirees who have made significant contributions to Franklin.

- Michele Kingsland-Smith who has had 50 years of service in public education.
- Miriam Goodman who is the School Business Administrator and a strong leader at Central Office.

Ms. Bernstein said she is concerned about the timing of the death of a student in Franklin. She said students can have a delay in their grief and will not be in a school setting to share their grief. She asked if some hotline information could be published.

The committee members thanked Mrs. Goodman for her service.

Ms. Spencer asked when they can expect a finding from Holmes to be ready? Mr. Giguere said they have been in communication with Holmes and provided the statement. Holmes statement said the bus was inspected in 2/2023 and was in compliance.

Ms. Stokes asked about last year's trip to Six Flags and remembers a bus issue then as well.

Mrs. Goodman replied there was an incident that took place last year as well. She added that this bus that had the incident this year has been driving all year without issues.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Civics Projects Presentation - Mr. Timothy Frazier; Mr. Joe Barca; Mr. Robert Vacca

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

Mr. Barca spoke about the why of the civics projects and that they are process-focused. He gave an overview of the project and the six stages of the project.

Two students, Kevin Barry and Julianna LaFrance presented on their class project - *Free Library Services*.

Ms. Bernstein said she appreciated that the students noted that sometimes a project didn't work out and how that relates to real life. She also likes seeing local community based projects.

Mr. Callaghan noted students not being able to email outside the Franklin organization and asked if there is a workaround for that?

Mr. Giguere replied that those protections are in place for students. He does not have a solution at this moment but they can start to explore some solutions and workarounds.

Mr. Vacca said he is happy to talk about this topic as well.

Mr. Charles asked what they learned about the library that they were not aware of before?

Mr. Barry replied that not only books can be checked out, the community can check out other useful things such as small appliances.

Mr. Vacca replied that time is a challenge for them. He said he wants to work on streamlining the curriculum and the civics project experience.

Ms. Stokes asked if they had to volunteer to present to the school committee?

Mr. Barry replied they volunteered to present.

Mr. Barca noted that they are looking into a possible showcase to present the projects.

B. Oak Street Elementary School Highlights - Mr. Brad Hendrixson; Ms. Donna Krikorian

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

Mr. Hendrixson presented six questions for the committee to ask the Oak Street administrators. The questions were all answered with an accompanying video.

Ms. Spencer asked what do you value about instruction at Oak Street?

Mr. Hendrixson replied that they are committed to develop confident and self aware individuals who are curious and use their knowledge to solve problems collaboratively and independently.

Mr. Charles asked how Oak Street students are supported to be their best selves?

Mr. Hendrixson replied that Oak supports the social and emotional growth of all students through direct instruction and embedding these practices into all subjects.

Ms. Stokes asked who is impacted by Oak's use of UDL practices?

Mr. Hendrixson replied that practices aligned to the UDL benefit all students and educators.

Ms. Bernstein asked how Oak develops confident mathematicians?

Mr. Hendrixson replied that they believe all students are mathematicians and all students have the capacity to be taught how to think and problem solve.

Mr. McNeill asked how they strive to create an inclusive school community?

Mr. Hendrixson they have a special person project to showcase and learn about a special person for each student.

Mr. Callaghan asked who helps Oak to do the work?

Mr. Hendrixson replied that so many in the community like FHS students, Franklin Food Pantry, HMMS, the PCC, etc.

Ms. Bernstein said she likes the Special Person Project. Ms. Bernstein asked what the school committee and parents do to help Oak St?

Mr. Hendrixson replied to support Oak St. and visit the school.

Mr. Callaghan said he also said he liked the special person project.

He also asked if FHS students visit the other schools as well?

Mr. Giguere said that they have in the past and it is logical/geographical where it happens at Oak.

Dr. Rogers said it happens in pockets at other schools.

Mr. Callaghan said he would love some honest feedback from the schools next year how everyone has been able to manage with the budget constraints.

Mr. Hendrixson asked Mrs. Adams to speak about the heritage projects.

Mr. Charles asked about student behavior now vs. the beginning of the year.

Mr. Hendrixson replied about the resilience of children but there are still struggles.

Mrs. Elkins spoke about children, especially in younger grades, losing the foundational skills in post Covid. She noted the benefit of having lunch bunch groups.

Mr. McNeill thanked the group for the presentation.

Ms. Stokes asked about the calming corners within the classrooms?

Mrs. Elkin replied that they are teacher dependent on how they want to set them up. She said each is unique and special.

Ms. Stokes asked their thoughts on a core SEL curriculum?

Mr. Hendrixson replied that they have lessons that go along with DESSA

Ms. Elkins replied and spoke about the online Second Step program.

Ms. Stokes asked Ms. Elkins how it works being one adjustment counselor in a school?

Ms. Elkins replied that she is in the classrooms whenever possible as well as the school psychologist. She added that they work with the classroom teachers to build on their SEL tools.

Ms. Stokes asked for clarification on the school committee visiting the schools?

Mr. Giguere said they would need to coordinate with the Superintendent's office to visit as a whole.

Ms. Spencer asked about a penguin mascot she saw in the video?

Mrs. Rea (Oak St. Math Specialist) replied that is Jiji who represents the ST math curriculum.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Revised FY24 Budget Vote

I recommend approval of the revised FY24 Budget in the amount of \$71,989,431.00 as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

Mr. Giguere gave a summary of the budget process, recommendations, and revisions.

Ms. Stokes said she knows that none of the cuts had to be an easy decision and they have gotten so many emails from the community.

Ms. Spencer said that the school committee cares so much about the students of Franklin and are so frustrated about the budget cuts.

Mr. McNeill asked about the cuts to athletics?

Mr. Giguere replied that the cuts include less scrimmages, storage rental fees, paid police details will only be at larger events, and drop bussing transportations.

Mr. McNeill asked for clarification on middle school extracurricular activities?

Mr. Giguere replied that factors into the decision to make this cut are after school buses, not enough interest in clubs, and not enough staff wanting to advise clubs.

He added that he would like to start the budget process earlier in the next year. Mr. McNeill asked about the process of adding back teacher positions with the additional 736k and the direct needs that are being prioritized?

Mr. Giguere replied that they looked into all of the elementary schools and with the additional funds, have the ability to keep class sizes in range. He also explained how seniority and professional status works.

Mr. McNeill asked if they are able to identify which of the reductions are because of budgetary decisions and what the impact will be to the students?

Mrs. Goodman said that the 16 positions that Mr. Giguere had mentioned in the original recommended budget were due to enrollment reductions primarily. She added that reductions due to the budget are in the form of the Title I Director, DLI's, ESPs, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator, High School Media Specialist, and the Middle School Spanish Teacher.

Mr. Charles asked about the reduced curriculum committees and what that will look like?

Dr. Rogers replied that they are looking to maintain many of the committees but they will be running with less funding and less representatives/meetings.

Mr. Charles about the impact of cuts to the specials?

Dr. Rogers replied they would be on a six day cycle instead of a five day cycle.

Mr. Charles asked if that was the case with Middle School Spanish?

Mr. Giguere replied that that was an area where just one teacher could support the area of Spanish.

Mr. Callaghan said the budget will not improve in FY25 and that areas that ESSER funds will not be funded after FY24. He encouraged the community to stay involved. He also noted that Athletic and Extracurricular Fees are staying the same and wondered if those should be adjusted in order to help out different areas of the budget.

Mr. Giguere said it is in the committee's purview how to handle fees.

Mr. Callaghan noted that if any additional revenue is added to the budget he would like it to be looked at in terms of music.

Ms. Bernstein expressed how upset she is over the budget issues.

At 10:00pm, Ms. Stokes asked for a motion to extend the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

Ms. Stokes asked if they raise fees in one area, does the money need to be used in that same area?

Mrs. Goodman replied that if athletic fees are raised, the additional money needs to be spent on athletics.

Ms. Stokes asked what percentage of athletics are within the budget vs. what the families pay?

Mrs. Goodman replied that up until this year it was 60% revolving and 40% budget. She said the FY24 is fully supported by the revolving funds. She said the athletic revolving funds will be lower at the end of next year.

Ms. Stokes said she receives a lot of questions asking why Central Office staff is never cut and said she looked to DESE to see where Franklin's administration falls compared to the state.

Mr. Giguere replied that 2.3% of the budget is the administrative salaries. He said the staff is vital for the running of the schools, professional development, school improvement plans and goals, the budget, student investigations and behavior, and hiring, etc. He said all of these positions including teachers are needed to be successful.

Ms. Spencer thanked Mr. Giguere and his team for all of their hard work on the budget.

B. Superintendent's Evaluation

I recommend your approval of the Superintendent's composite evaluation for the 2022-2023 school year as discussed.

Ms. Stokes gave a summary of Mr. Giguere's evaluation. All of the committee members praised Mr. Giguere for his work.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

C. School Committee Norms & Protocols

The Chair recommends adoption of the amendments in the School Committee Norms & Protocols as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

IV: Discussion Only Items - there were none

I. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation** - Ms. Stokes asked the committee if the online Google form was well received. Mr. Charles suggested the form be on one page instead of multiple pages.
- 2. Budget** - met on 6/5/23; 7/26/23 is the joint budget subcommittee.
- 3. Policy** - N/A
- 4. Community Relations** - N/A
- 5. Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - Town Council Master Facilities Meeting is 6/14/23.

b. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - N/A
- 2. School Wellness Advisory Council** - will be at the Farmer's Market on 6/16/23.
- 3. SEPAC** - hosting a parent meetup this Thursday morning; last meeting of the year is 6/14/23.
- 4. Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - N/A
- 5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - N/A

Mr. Giguere circled back to thank the school committee for a fair evaluation and the hard work that went into it.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your May 23, 2023 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$489.00 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment for the Music Department as detailed.

C. ASMS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,043.70 from the ASMS PCC for in-house enrichment as detailed.

D. Surplus Books

I recommend declaring the attached list of math, science & ELA books as surplus.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

VI: Good of the Order

Mr. Callaghan requested communication as soon as possible regarding possible cuts.
Mr. Callaghan recommended an ad-hoc task force for the fee structure to compare to other communities.

VII: Citizen's Comments

Brian Gustafson, Franklin Elementary Music Teacher

Mr. Gustafson spoke about the music program in regards to reductions and cuts over the years since he has been in Franklin. He also spoke about other eliminations over the years that have never come back.

VIII. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 6/27/23 meeting:

- To be determined

~~**IX. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn:**~~

~~To approve the minutes from the May 23, 2023 Executive Session of the School Committee:~~

X. Adjournment at 10:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 6-13-23

Payroll Warrant #2323M Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2323M.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2324 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2324.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2325 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2325.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign Off 061323.pdf

SC Warrant 051823.pdf

SC Warrant 052523.pdf

Student Led Civics Projects Final.pdf

SY23 Oak Street Elementary - SC Presentation.pdf

June 13, 2023 School Committee Minutes - FINAL

Discussion Action A - Revised FY24 Budget Vote.pdf
Discussion Action B - Supt Eval.pdf
Discussion Action C - SC Norms & Protocols amendments.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Music Gift.pdf
Consent Action C - ASMS Gift.pdf
Consent Action D - Surplus.pdf
FHS Science Book Surplus 2023
Humanities Materials Surplus Inventory Form (Responses)
Surplus Books 8th Grade_ASMS
Executive Session Minutes-5-23-23-DRAFT.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf