

Franklin School Committee
June 14, 2022
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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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/82026741858?pwd=YW90VG5iODFZUFY0aWZyR045Rmw2Zz09>

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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. Stokes filled in for Ms. Spencer as Chair. Ms. Stokes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She said at the conclusion of the meeting they would be adjourning to executive session and not returning to open meeting.

Roll Call Attendance were: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer-No.

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

Pledge of Allegiance
Parmenter Elementary School
5th Grade Students

Vyapti Sutariya:

Vyapti came to Parmenter in the late fall of this school year and quickly became a valuable member of our school family. She comes to school each and every day eager to learn and excel. Vyapti loves math and challenges her classmates through extensive math discourse and assessments and often comes out on top. In such a short amount of time here at Parmenter, she has stood out as a leader and a student who consistently demonstrates our school's core values. Vyapti's superior work ethic and kindness will serve her well as she moves on to Remington Middle School next year.

Ryan Mehne:

Ryan Mehne is a respectful fifth grade student at Parmenter School who is always friendly towards his classmates and teachers. He is often observed including others and making them feel welcomed. Ryan is an enthusiastic participant in all of his classes, often asking thoughtful questions that guide discussions in a positive direction. Ryan consistently puts great effort into his studies, and perseveres when challenged with a task. We are proud to have him represent Parmenter School tonight.

Kareem Katerji:

Kareem Katerji is a role model fifth grader. He works hard and consistently puts forth his best effort. He demonstrates perseverance when tackling challenging tasks. These are wonderful qualities that will serve him well as he moves on to middle school and beyond. What stands out most about Kareem is his genuine kindness and his ability to make good choices even when that is difficult. His teachers will certainly miss his unfailingly lovely manners. All of which has made it a pleasure to have him as such an important part of the Parmenter family.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine

B. Payment of Bills

Ms. Stokes said this would be reviewed at the next meeting

C. Payroll - reviewed and in order.

D. FHS Student Representative Comments - there were none

E. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern said that Officer Gove is in attendance with police therapy dog Ben Franklin.

She said congratulations to the Unified Basketball team who was also in attendance for winning gold in Florida. She said the head of Special Olympics in Connecticut, Beau Doherty commended the team and how they played the game. Several of the basketball players and coaches spoke about their experience playing in Florida.

Mr. Callaghan said thank you for all of the incredible work and how proud they have made the committee, community, and state.

Mr. Charles said it shows how much can be accomplished when people are inclusive and work together.

Mr. McNeill said congratulations to all and the community is forever gold medalists because of them.

Ms. Stokes said they are all so proud and love seeing them wearing their medals.

Ms. Whitmore said they are all so proud of their amazing achievement.

Ms. Bernstein said there should be a sign coming off the exit stating they are gold medal winners.

Dr. Ahern said graduation and senior events recently took place. She thanked everyone who helped out with the all night party.

She said the last day of school for Franklin is a half-day on 6/22/22. She noted that high school exams begin on 6/15/22.

She noted activities across the district such as field days and 5th and 8th move up celebrations.

She said a few playoff games are happening today such as girl's lacrosse, baseball, and boy's lacrosse. She said registration is open for fall sports.

She noted that there is a new science fair club that met recently for the first time on 6/8/22.

She spoke about the World of Difference Peer Leader Group and their Walk Against Hate on 6/9/22.

She said there was a policy subcommittee meeting last week regarding safety practices and planning. She elaborated more about the practices in place. She said at the October meeting there was a presentation from Mr. Giguere and Mr. Augusta on safety practices. She spoke about the importance of having a town wide emergency team in place. This team meets regularly and is composed of Mr. Hellen and staff, Mr. Giguere, Dr. Ahern, the school business administrator, the technology director, members of the fire department, members of the police

department, building inspector, the facilities director, and others. She noted that MEMA is also right in town. She said Verizon and National Grid are also included. She added that there is district and school based emergency planning. She said they do not purposely convey all of the plans they have in place, this would put the security and safety practices at risk. She noted there is a comprehensive response manual that covers many emergency situations. The district also has a three year school safety implementation plan in place. She said they are required to submit annual medical emergency response plans to DESE. She said that Mr. Callaghan will share more later in the meeting.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the tiered focus monitoring review related to the special education department. She said they received the report related to English language development. She said there were 9 standards related as implemented meaning no findings and 3 standards rated as partially implemented. The ELD coordinator has outlined steps being taken to get these to implemented. They are as follows:

- Not enough english language development staff
- Parent involvement
- Licensure requirements

Dr. Ahern spoke about CIC and Covid testing. They recently issued a report and shared some Franklin specific information. She said there were:

- 5,751 total samples
- 4,436 school days saved
- Over 50,000 antigen tests distributed to students and staff

Dr. Ahern said that she and Mr. Giguere attended the spring meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. She said the focus was on race, equity, diversity and inclusion work of the organization. She said the keynote speaker was Regina Robinson. She said Commissioner Riley also joined the morning program and the President of MASS closed out the meeting.

She reminded the community there is no school on Monday, June 20th for the Juneteenth holiday which falls on Sunday, June 19th.

Ms. Stokes asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan spoke of the end of year celebrations. He also noted all the community members who came out to welcome the basketball team back.

Mr. Charles asked for more information on the science fair group.

Dr. Ahern said she can return with more information as the group is just starting out.

Mr. Charles asked about CIC's plan for next year.

Mrs. Marano said the state is no longer funding for symptomatic tests or at home test kits next year.

Mr. McNeill thanked Dr. Ahern for all of her updates.

Ms. Whitmore said thank you for the updates and she is excited for the science fair club.

Ms. Bernstein said that end of year celebrations cannot happen without the parent volunteers.

Ms. Stokes thanked Dr. Ahern for always providing informative and thorough Superintendent reports.

II. Guests/Presentations - Dr. Ahern suggested that for timing purposes they switch Guest/Presentation A and B.

A. Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Comfort Dog - Officer Mike Monaghan and Eddie the Comfort Dog.

Officer Monaghan said Eddie is 9 months old and covers all 28 towns in Norfolk county. Officer Monaghan said he previously worked on the K9 narcotic unit. He said Eddie is a rescue and went through the training process to become a comfort dog. He said they visit a lot of veteran's homes, schools and some hospitals. He said 6 local Kindergarten classes won a contest to help name Eddie. He said Eddie is available to assist the Norfolk County community as needed.

Mr. Callaghan thanked Officer Monaghan and Officer Gove for being there.

Mr. Charles asked about home visits.

Officer Monaghan replied they would like to begin house calls but will need to build up a certain criteria as safety is a priority for the officer and Eddie. He said they are also working on putting a task force together.

Mr. McNeill said he is happy Eddie is a part of the community.

Ms. Whitmore invited Eddie to the upcoming pride event on 6/26/22.

Ms. Bernstein said they have a comfort dog in her district at one of the schools and everyone is happy when she is there.

Officer Monaghan let the audience know there is also a summer camp through the sheriff's department Eddie will be in attendance there. Dr. Ahern noted it is hosted at Parmenter. He walked Eddie around to meet the audience.

B. 8th Grade Civics Projects Highlights

**See Presentation Slides for detailed information.*

Dr. Ashley said in 2018 Governor Baker signed into law to enhance civic engagement and from that the civics project came to be. She said the projects are required of all public school students in 8th grade in Massachusetts.

Three groups from Annie Sullivan and Horace Mann presented their projects. The group from Remington was unable to attend the meeting.

Domestic Violence & Women's Rights by Sam Eagerman, Asher Martin, Krithi Rajesh, Ryan Sullivan, Maddie Tuxbury

The students presented their slideshow to the committee.

Ms. Stokes asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan thanked everyone for their presentation. He gave out the Domestic Violence hotline number for the community.

Mr. Charles asked for their group's website.

The students replied they made it from a google site and can have their teacher provide it.

Mr. McNeill said it's great for young people to get involved in the legislative process.

Ms. Whitmore thanked the students for their presentation.

Ms. Bernstein said she is proud of the students.

Ms. Stokes thanked the students for coming to present tonight.

Suffrage of Pollinator Class insects by Shane Davey
Gun Violence by Jack Aldred

Both students spoke about their process writing to different local representatives and lawmakers.

Mr. Mello gave examples of other Civics projects from Annie Sullivan Middle School.

Ms. Stokes asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan said this is outstanding; they could find a problem and seek to make changes.

Mr. Charles said instead of complaining they are taking the time and seeking to make a change.

Mr. McNeill said a lot of people don't know what it takes for legislation.

Ms. Whitmore echoed other statements and said she is very proud.

Ms. Bernstein said it's a lot of work for teachers to engage and facilitate these projects.

Ms. Stokes said the flow chart they presented really helped her with the process. She asked if you can choose to work as an individual or work as a group?

Mr. Mello said it's up to the students and they are still experimenting with it.

Pollution by Isabelle Simino and Carly Tse

Rob Vacca, 8th grade civics at HMMS spoke about his students choosing their projects and a lot of them involving the students at Oak St.

The girls spoke about how they talked to 1st grade students at Oak about pollution. They had the students make a visual on their idea of when the ocean is polluted vs. not polluted. They compiled this on a big poster.

Ms. Stokes asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan said he loves the idea of going into the younger classrooms.

Mr. Charles said thank you for sharing your work and that their voices will probably go farther than the adults would.

Mr. McNeill commended the global and local issues the students chose.

Ms. Whitmore said it is a really great project they chose.

Ms. Bernstein echoed what her colleagues said.

Ms. Stokes noted it is the teachers who inspire 8th graders who in turn inspire the 1st graders.

Dr. Ashley said the students can continue these projects in 11th grade or pick a new project. She spoke about the Remington projects. They could not be at the meeting to present. She said one group did a project on censorship on social media and another on poverty.

Mr. Charles asked if it is possible to get links to their projects in the district newsletters?

Dr. Ahern said yes and they will work towards it and will ask for permission before including a student's work.

C. Space Needs Presentation

**See Presentation Slides for detailed information.*

Mr. Charles summarized the work this committee has done and he noted this was a fact finding committee. He noted that assistance came from Dr. Ahern, Ms.

Stokes, Ms. Spencer, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Marano, and Mr. Giguere. He said the purpose of this presentation is to communicate the findings to the committee and community. He said they will be implementing next steps and a path forward.

He said the last time they did this was 2002 with the creation of Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller. He noted that the least impact for students with DT closing was moving the group as a whole to Keller. He said there is an expected enrollment decline (2025-2026) followed by an increase (2029-2030). He said the site visits to the schools have been beneficial.

He said they will secure a consultant for a redistricting analysis.

Mr. Charles spoke about external factors not impacting district enrollment numbers such as home sales and building projects.

He spoke about the district profile including enrollment and said there are 10 total sites in Franklin:

- Early Childhood Development: 1
- Elementary: 5
- Middle: 3
- High School: 1

Mr. Charles spoke about the specialized programs at each school and Mrs. Marano described them in more detail. Mr. Charles shared a district map of Franklin by school and gave detailed information about each school and complex.

Mr. Charles spoke about recommendations and next steps. He said they would secure a consultant for redistricting analysis and establish a redistricting advisory committee. This would consist of faculty, parents, central office and school committee members. He spoke about important dates and a potential FY23 timeline.

Dr. Ahern also added:

- She said the numbers portray there is a lot of space but the analysis was done on pre-pandemic standards. She said space is being used differently now.
- She said the maintenance figures come from a 10 year lookout provided by Mike D'Angelo. She said they have their expected projects but there are a lot of moving pieces and things can happen that were not planned.

Ms. Stokes asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan asked how they can anticipate future utilizations?

Dr. Ahern replied it is a great question for visualizing and aligning the planning accordingly.

Mr. Callaghan noted there are a lot of cost savings having the specialized programs such as NECC in Franklin. He asked if the balance of which programs fall at which schools and the amount of kids in and needs to be looked at?

Mrs. Marano replied about the possibility of specialized programs in each building. She is looking at the projections for the programs. She noted that the GOALS program is growing the fastest.

Mr. Callaghan asked what happens if a student from Remington who has been hospitalized, would they then be at HMMS to attend the BRYT program?

Mrs. Marano replied that since there will only be the budget for one BRYT middle school classroom, they will be working with BRYT to set up the best practice. She said they are looking into different options.

Mr. Callaghan asked about upcoming facilities projects and if what is currently budgeted is aligned with what historically cost has been?

Mrs. Goodman replied that the maintenance and facilities budget runs through the town and the maintenance mentioned in this presentation is coming from the capital plan and borrowing authorization. She said with the new AAA bond rating they are expecting more money to come in.

Mr. McNeill asked for more number comparison data from the last redistricting in 2002.

Dr. Ahern shared some enrollment information. She said in 2002, on the 10/1/02 enrollment report, there were 5,609 students with a projected increase. In 2009, there was a high of 6,255, and has been decreasing since. She added that in Franklin and in the state, the percentage of special needs students has increased.

Ms. Whitmore said it'll be good to have stakeholders and experts involved.

Ms. Bernstein said thank you for the methodical and long term view. She said its important for parents to stay positive for your children should they need to move schools at some point in the future.

Ms. Stokes said she appreciates Ms. Bernstein's words.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Davis Thayer Vote

I recommend, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15A, that the School Committee declare that the Davis Thayer Elementary School property is no longer needed for school purposes, and further that the School Committee notify the Town Council of that determination.

She noted how well the Davis Thayer core values have been integrated with Keller's core values. She recapped the prior updates she has given including repurposing furniture, she has given two DT other updates; one in January and one in April including an update regarding stored PPE at DT.

Ms. Stokes said the district recently invited all school committee members to tour the Davis Thayer building.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

B. Superintendent's Evaluation

The chair recommends approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation as discussed.

Ms. Stokes gave an update and read through some of the commendations from the school committee on Dr. Ahern and about Franklin.

Dr. Ahern thanked the committee for their hard work and their time on the evaluation.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

C. Revised FY23 Budget

I recommend approval of the revised FY23 Budget amount of \$70,220,825.00 as discussed.

Mrs. Goodman spoke about an additional allocation of \$3,829.00 to be added to a Specialist Teacher's salary at FHS.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

D. Meal Prices

I recommend increasing the meal prices for the 2022-23 school year as detailed.

Mrs. Goodman said free lunch is expiring on 6/30/22. She said the increase is due to operating costs and food costs. The increase is \$.50 for lunch and \$.20 for breakfast.

Mr. Charles asked what the eligibility requirements are for free and reduced lunch?

Mrs. Goodman also added that at the state level there is still a discussion about continuing free lunch. She said if it does not pass, parents can apply online or paper applications in August. It is based on income levels.

Mr. Callaghan said the administration does a great job of being discreet in regards to the students who receive free or reduced lunch.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

E. Refund of Graduating Seniors' Meal Balances

I recommend making an exception to policy EFD for school year 2021-22 to refund meal account balances over \$10.00 for graduating seniors with no younger siblings as detailed.

She said this is for 93 students and the total amount equals: \$3,868.50.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

IV. Discussion Only Items

Ms. Stokes paid tribute to Dr. Ahern and invited former school committee Chair, Dr. Anne Bergen and Vice Chair, Ms. MJ Scofield to speak about Dr. Ahern for her last meeting. Each of the committee members spoke and reflected on their time working with Dr. Ahern.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the honor it has been and said it is a bittersweet time.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation** - N/A
- 2. Budget** - met 6/9/22 and discussed school meal prices and FY23 budget.
- 3. Policy** - met 6/8/22 and discussed non-discrimination, harassment and meal charge policy. Also, emergency plans and safety crisis intervention.
- 4. Community Relations** - there was a meet and greet on 6/4/22 at Birchwood Bakery, another planned for September. There was a suggestion for school calendar magnets for refrigerators.
- 5. Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - N/A

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - N/A
- 2. School Wellness Advisory Council** - N/A
- 3. SEPAC** - N/A
- 4. Substance Abuse Task Force** - N/A
- 5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - had their last meeting and summarized progress to this point.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the May 24, 2022 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Solutions Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$275.00 for in-house enrichment as detailed.

C. Music Gifts

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$974.00 from the Music Boosters for in-house enrichment as detailed.

D. PCC Gifts

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1600.00 from the Jefferson, JFK, Parmenter & Keller PCC's for in-house enrichment as detailed.

E. Parmenter Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$200.00 from the Parmenter PCC for field trips as detailed.

F. Districtwide Gift

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

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

VII. Citizen's Comments

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive

Mr. Sherlock thanked Dr. Ahern for her service and said she'll be missed. He spoke to the committee about upcoming work such as space needs and possible start school times.

VIII. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items:

Next meeting will be under the new Superintendent, Mr. Lucas Giguere on 7/19/22. Ms. Stokes requested a personnel update at the next meeting.

IX. Ms. Stokes asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session:

a. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA/RN unit as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

b. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Callaghan

Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;

Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Absent

Motion Carries 6-0; 1 absent

X. Adjournment at 10:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAGENDA 6-14-22
FPS Summary & Sign Off 061422.pdf
SC Warrant 051922.pdf
SC Warrant 060222.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2224 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2224.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2225 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2225.pdf
06142022 Space Needs & Facilities Assessment Subcommittee.pptx.pdf
Discussion Action A - DT Vote.pdf
Discussion Action B - Supt Eval.pdf
Discussion Action C - FY23 Revised Budget.pdf
Discussion Action D - Meal Prices.pdf
Discussion Action E - Graduating Senior Meal Balances.pdf
Consent Action A -minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Solutions Gift.pdf
Consent Action C - Music Gifts.pdf
Consent Action D - Elem PCC Gift.pdf
Consent Action E - Parmenter Gift.pdf
Consent Action F - Districtwide Gift.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Covid Testing Impact Report.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf