

Franklin School Committee

June 23, 2020

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.

Per Governor Baker's Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public can access the meeting via remote conference. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable.

LOCATION: Remote participation via:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95630404218?pwd=cjdpMU5DdVFXYlp6Y2svUVhJYzg3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 956 3040 4218

Password: FSC

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,95630404218#,,,,0#,,036551# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 956 3040 4218

Password: 036551

Franklin School Committee

Minutes

June 23, 2020

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Peter Fasciano of Franklin TV was located at Franklin TV
No one present from the Milford Daily News

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Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Dr. Bergen

Also present were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mr. Lucas Giguere.

Franklin High School Representatives Present: None

Roll Call for attendance:

Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda - All is fine.

b. Citizen's Comments - None

i. 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 - none

d. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern shared a few items. Elise Stokes requested anti bias education for the public schools and we do not have a full presentation at this time,

however, she shared that it is important for FPS to be inclusive. She submitted a list of actions regarding inclusivity. She spoke about implementing the district improvement plan with core values. FPS has taken steps in proactive inclusiveness and developed a protocol district wide for bias in schools. Some other items have been professional development for staff as well. She spoke about A World of Difference in the schools.

Dr. Ahern shared that ESY will begin July 8. There is a remote plan for the beginning part of the summer. We have received guidance for some in-person service as well for students with the highest level of need.

She also shared a highlight from an art teacher from Remington Middle School. Jane Pichette shared a parting gift to the 8th grade students. She drew sketches of each student and sent them as a postcard to all of the students.

Ms. Stokes thanked Sara for the quick turnaround on this.

2. Guests/Presentations

A. None

3. Discussion / Action Items

A. Budget Discussion and Revised FY 21 Budget

I recommend the School Committee adopt a revised budget of \$65, 658,500 as discussed.

Dr. Ahern requested a vote on this as the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2020.

Ms. Scofield asked about the speech and language position. How many students do they service?

Dr. Ahern will get those numbers available.

Mr. Keenan asked about the implications of this not being approved.

Mrs. Goodman replied that we need guidance as to where the SC stands and this needs to be done for the next fiscal year. We need to get the numbers ready. Without an approval right now we will have limited spending but we need to secure those numbers.

Mr. Keenan followed up with that chorus discussions are ongoing and that we don't feel good about the cuts that are happening. It is difficult to do this. The approved budget from April which was a low number to begin with so I am just looking at the bottom line number and I don't see how I can vote in favor of the number itself. We need to increase the funding at this point in time.

Ms. Stokes asked about what a 1/12 budget is?

Dr. Ahern spoke about budgeting for the next year based on FY 20 numbers.

Mrs. Goodman added that a 1/12 budget is based on the FY 20 numbers. The spending in July and August is in the 1/12 budget. I would be concerned not to have something in place.

Dr. Bergen followed up stating that the budget has been affected by the pandemic.

Ms. Scofield said that this is not the last time that we will be having this budget discussion.

Dr. Bergen asked about class sizes at the high school, how do they look?

Dr. Ahern said that it will depend on the courses, some will be high for certain departments and others will be quite smaller.

Mr. Keenan followed up that at the budget meeting last week, each of the department heads took questions, and one instance, is you getting all the funding that you need and it was stated that in fact we are. It did not come to Dr. Ahern and the heat directed towards the school committee and the clear answer would have been no the funding levels are not where they need to be.

Ms. Spencer is concerned about special education teachers who are cut, and how you came to this decision?

Dr. Ahern said we will need additional support for students in the fall. These reductions were put forward as well as placements for the students and see where reductions could happen.

Ms. Spencer asked if this will overload the teachers?

Dr. Ahern stated that it should not.

Ms. Stokes asked about working with the FY21 estimates for out of district placements?

Mrs. Goodman stated that we did factor that into the budget at this time.

Ms. Stokes asked about the student opportunity act.

Mrs. Goodman stated that it is all pending.

Ms. Scofield asked about the out of district placements, the current number could be higher. How will we be able to afford it then?

Mrs. Goodman stated we will look at flexibility in other accounts.

Ms. D'Angelo asked, looking at the administrative structure of some of the buildings, that we need to look at that.

Dr. Ahern recognized that the other avenues have been looked at regarding administrative versus non administrative areas, at this point they are quite close in terms of the percentage reduced compared to overall expenses in administrative versus non administrative accounts.

Public statements regarding budgets:

Ms. Grady wanted to reiterate what Tim and Jen stated previously. This is a town wide issue and thanked those who helped with getting some of the teachers back. She expressed her concern over the reduction in force and that we are cutting teachers rather than administrative positions. She inquired about some of the line items on the budget.

Mr. Morrongiello briefly spoke about equity and that there is equity in protecting the students with these cuts.

Ms. Sansoucy asked about why the decision for the principal was cut.

Dr. Bergen that is a personnel question and we can't discuss it.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 1

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - No; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

B. School Committee Resolution: "COVID-19 State Funding"

I recommend the School Committee adopt the School Committee Resolution "COVID-19 State Funding" as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

Ms. Scofield wants to make sure our state rep has this letter.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

C. School Committee Resolution: "Resolution in Support of Funding in the COVID-19 Era"

I recommend the School Committee adopt the School Committee Resolution "Resolution in Support of Funding in the COVID-19 Era" as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 5

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 1
Abstain: 1

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Abstain; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - No; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

Dr. Bergen wanted to hold the vote on the School Committee Resolution: "Anti-Racism Resolution" and then bring back a vote based on the feedback we received.

Ms. Scofield agreed with Dr. Bergen and we need to look at the feedback and incorporate some of the suggestions in the document.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer agrees along with Ms. Stokes.

Mr. Morrongiello just wants to make sure this moves forward.

Mr. Bates appreciates the feedback and we have a lot of ideas and addressing these racial injustices in the town. I would like to have it open to all residents.

Ms. Scofield asked about a task force, do we have one?

Dr. Bergen stated that we don't at this time.

D. School Committee Resolution: "Anti-Racism Resolution"

I recommend the School Committee adopt the School Committee Resolution "Anti-Racism Resolution" as discussed.

No vote was taken on this resolution.

E. Franklin High School Class of 2020 Student Activity Account

I recommend that the Franklin High School Class of 2020 be permitted to carry over \$20,000 from student activity funds instead of the customary \$10,000 as discussed.

Motion: Ms.Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

4. Discussion Only Items

A. Davis Thayer Facilities Analysis Questionnaire

Ms. Stokes spoke about the DT analysis and how we have to follow the policy on closing a building. She explained that the questionnaire will be sent to DT families and staff as well as the community.

Mr. Keenan commented on how we should not use this to quantify the questionnaire and we may want to broaden this out. We need to analyze results from other schools to see if they have concerns. He referred to question number 8, it is too broad and this could be interpreted in different ways.

Ms. Stokes said that question 1 will be updated to reflect the concerns. Regarding number 8, please explain.

Mr. Keenan explained that they might be thinking about their own schools or interpreting it differently. Maybe you could do this as a grid and get more information.

Ms. Stokes explained that they will look at those questions and take another look at them.

Dr. Bergen spoke about the professionals who came into DT and their results. Do you have information on cost savings at this point?

Ms. Stokes asked about putting information about what the professionals have said as of now.

Dr. Bergen said it might help frame it.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer said we don't have all that information yet. We should not put all that on this questionnaire.

Ms. Stokes said that the questionnaire is one piece of information as well as the architect information and then makes decisions based on the information. Any other questions?

B. 2020-21 School Committee Schedule

Dr. Ahern wanted to put this back onto the SC and should we add another meeting and a retreat for the SC.

Dr. Bergen just wanted to see if two would be better in July to get the work done.

Dr. Ahern - July 14 and July 28 would be the meeting dates.

Dr. Bergen said we will add the dates.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked about the cost of the retreat.

Dr. Bergen said there is no cost.

5. Information Matters

a. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Budget; Community Relations; Policy; Transportation; Public Schools Advocacy)

b. School Committee Liaison Reports (e.g. Joint PCC; Substance Abuse Task Force; School Wellness Advisory Council [SWAC]; , MASC)

BUDGET Dr. Bergen, Mr. Keenan and Ms. D'Angelo - Met on June 17

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen - Tentative meeting on July 6 at 3:00 - I do need some information from some of the committees

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen - No report

POLICY Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes- Next meeting is June 24

JOINT PCC - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - The meetings are done for the year.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Giguere - Done for the year

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - Done for the year

AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield- Worked on the questionnaire for the community and received an updated from the architect -more meetings TBD

TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Keenan, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Scofield - no reports

AD HOC SUPERINTENDENT - Dr. Bergen - We will have a date soon for a meeting

6. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared that we will continue with budget talks and opening schools in the fall. She spoke about policy that will be coming and a preview of the School Committee's annual report.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your June 9, 2020 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. Transfers

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

C. American Heart Association Gift

I recommend acceptance of the gift of \$2,800.00 from the American Heart Association for the Kid's Heart Challenge to be disbursed as detailed.

D. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

I recommend approval of the executive session minutes from your June 9, 2020 school committee meeting as detailed to be released.

E. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,700.00 from the Music Boosters for in-house enrichment as detailed.

Motion for all : Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen noted that the bills were correct

9. Payroll Ms. D'Angelo noted that the payroll was correct

10. Executive Session

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Spencer
Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote to end school committee meeting and go to Executive Session

: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

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

11. Adjournment at 8:51 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 6-23-20

Discussion Action A - FY21 Revised Budget.pdf

Discussion Action B - Resolution.pdf

Discussion Action C - Resolution.pdf

Discussion Action D - Resolution.pdf

Discussion Action E - FHS Activity Accounts.pdf

20-21 SCSchedule-DRAFT.pdf

For SC Draft questionnaire DT.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf

Consent Action C - Elementary Gifts.pdf

Consent Action D - ES Minutes.pdf

Consent Action E - Music Gift.pdf

SC Warrant 060420.xlsx

SC Warrant 061120.xlsx

FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf

SC Warrant 060420.pdf

SC Warrant 061120.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2025 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2025.pdf