

**Franklin School Committee
Franklin School Committee
June 9, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

□ 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: ZOOM
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95814618148?pwd=YWdaOFN4cGxmZjViY21wUIU1MmkgZz09>

Meeting ID: 958 1461 8148
Password: SCMTG

One tap mobile
+16465588656,,95814618148#,,1#,466078# US (New York)
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**Franklin School Committee
Minutes
June 9, 2020**

Meeting are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29

Peter Fasciano of Franklin TV was located at Franklin TV

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Franklin School Committee
June 9, 2020
FINAL

No one present from the Milford Daily News

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 wished to thank the Franklin High School graduation and the class of 2020. They had a series of events to help celebrate their graduation. She went on to thank everyone who helped to make all the events possible. Dr. Ahern played a short video of the graduation ceremony featuring some of the students.

Dr. Ahern shared a student recognition, Amanda Wiley who won the Stop the Bleed contest which was nationwide.

Dr. Ahern updated on the school closure and what is happening. The Commissioner provided us guidance on getting PPE for all the schools. This is not what school will look like in the fall but having to get ready for the fall.

She stated that it is hard to believe the last day is June 18 and students will be able to pick up their items from the schools.

Ms. Stokes asked about the reopening, and how difficult it is and how can you plan out what the fall will look like?

Dr. Ahern spoke about the group that has been assembled and that they are helping to plan the opening of schools and their involvement with this project.

Dr. Bergen spoke about the graduation parade and how wonderful it was!

2. Guests/Presentations

A. FHS DECA Students and Advisor Mr. Carmo

1. [DECA Student Video](#) -- DECA Idea Global Challenge Winners 2019

DECA students were introduced from FHS.

Miguel Carmo is the advisor of DECA. They did a global ideas challenge.

Mr. Carmo spoke about the highlights this year; 140 students participated this year, how they handled world ideas. He thanked all the students.

Ankit is the president of DECA and he spoke about what DECA is and that it is a business club with creative thinking. He spoke about all the success they have had throughout the year. He spoke about doing a project that you would like to do and have the ability to present.

Ankit introduced the global challenge winners.

- Rohit spoke about the shoelace challenge.
- Shoumik told about a mask that protects people from cold air and pollution.
- Saket spoke about how they came up with this idea and the simplicity of the mask.
- Saahil told about the process and that they needed to come up with how to solve the problem.

The DECA video was then shown.

Another DECA team:

- Adam told about the project they did called Goats, Goats, Goats. It is to have goats to mow lawns.
- Ryan spoke about how they came up with the idea and have a goat landscaping company. He talked about how it would be a nonprofit.
- Jeremy noted that he was not behind this in the beginning and working together on this made it seem like it could work.

Another DECA team

Akash spoke about their DECA team and thanked the advisors. We did a financial operations research event. We partnered with a financial firm to improve online brand presence. We worked with Middlesex Savings Bank and how it works, their core values, and how they work to help people.

Rohit added that on the cost side was a minority inclusion program.

Anish spoke about how close this is to develop something for the real world. He told us that he is a state officer for DECA.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer stated how brilliant they were to do the shoelace challenge and how impressed she was. They won the global challenge.

Dr. Bergen spoke about the importance of the clubs in the schools.

3. Discussion / Action Items

A. BICO Board Appointment

I recommend the appointment of Dr. Sara Ahern to the BICO Board for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

B. ACCEPT Board Appointment

I recommend the appointment of Dr. Sara Ahern to the ACCEPT Board for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0
Abstention: 1

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 - abstention

C. Resolution in Support of Funding in the COVID-19 Era

I recommend that the School Committee adopt the resolution as discussed.

Dr. Ahern shared what the COVID 19 era is and how it will affect students.

- Approve new funding

- Mass legislation should fund public education to maintain staffing
- Town should fully fund our schools

Ms. D'Angelo asked to expand on this.

Dr. Ahern announced that the School Committee will make a statement publicly in favor of this.

Dr. Bergen stated that once this is accepted it will be signed and sent to the State.

Ms. D'angelo stated that there is a MASC version and asked if this was a variation of that?

Dr. Bergen stated that it is.

Ms. D'Angelo said that she is not sure we need to have both versions.

Ms. Scofield stated she did not know there was another version and if it could be put on another meeting.

Mr. Keenan asked if we approve would there be a downside?

Dr. Bergen stated that she is not sure. We can wait or we can vote on this.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked if we should table this and then we have a chance to look at both.

Motion: Ms.Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote to table this resolution: 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. FY21 Budget Discussion

Dr. Ahern spoke about funded and unfunded mandates and they are in the process of putting the numbers together for that. She spoke about the budget and that this is for discussion and not up for a vote at this time. We are looking for guidance and assistance with this budget. She went on to explain that this is quite a challenge for this year and to close the budget gap.

The budget that was adopted had a 6% increase and the town will not be able to support this. We are looking at a \$3.4 million shortfall for next year. That \$3.4 million is the number we are working with at this point. She explained that the state budget is worse than they thought it would be.

The Administrative Team has been working to reduce the gap and we have updated budget figures. She explained the reluctant recommendations that are being made to the school budget.

Dr. Ahern went on to explain some of the cuts that will be coming.

Ms. Goodman explained the ways that some money in revolving funds to help with the budget and they will not be available in FY21. The category of prepaid tuition and we can do that to save some money and if we cannot continue to do that practice, it will cost the school budget more money. The CARES funding could also not be available.

Dr. Ahern explained the new additions to the budget and these roles are not occupied at this time and are being proposed to be removed from the budget.

She explained the reduced services of supplies, curriculum and stipends.

She spoke about personnel in the district and clarified that they needed to meet the date of not renewing teachers in their first three years and there were 104 positions.

Dr. Ahern stated that looking at enrollment played a role in reduction of staff as well.

She explained the long term goal is to provide student's choices to choose specials.

Ms. Spencer stated we need to advocate how we fund education. In May 22, it mentioned impacting the students the least, this looks like it is the biggest impact for the students. No child should be expected to do this during a pandemic and now we are taking these programs away. I would like to see more creative decisions.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer said we need to think outside the box. There are a number of things the town does but some of them are luxury items. There are some positions that we need to look at, team coaches, and see if we can cut them down. The second suggestion is to look at the high school and the assistant principals and to reduce their size. The assistant principals positions in the middle schools, need to be looked at.

Dr. Bergen asked before we vote, should we discuss these further and what has been brought forward.

Dr. Ahern stated that they will need to look at all of these and other conversations as to why some made the list and some didn't. We did discuss some of these and respect the feedback and take these back to the committee. She said in terms of instructional coaches and they could play an integral role with the students coming back from such a long time not being in a class and they will be working to assess their skills. In terms of the administrative team, is that most schools have specialized programs and this requires personnel to handle these programs.

Ms. Scofield asked about the \$60,000 bus transportation, due to declining enrollment, please explain.

Ms. Goodman stated we are looking to reduce buses but right now we are not sure with the CDC guidelines. She explained that nothing has been sent out to parents regarding buses this year.

Ms. Scofield asked about reduction of clubs and activities, what criteria did you use because there is no decrease in high school?

Dr. Ahern said that we are still evaluating clubs at the high school. Dr. Ahern also noted that many of the HS club advisors are unpaid.

Ms. Scofield followed up with the middle school chorus program and what criteria was used?

Dr. Ahern stated that they needed to look at enrollment numbers and how that impacted positions.

Ms. D'Angelo spoke about how the class sections and school committee class size guidance and asked how the administrators processed this, and maybe we need to look outside the box. We need to have honest conversations on how not to impact the students and are we getting new data?

Dr. Ahern stated that yes we are getting new enrollment figures.

Ms. D'Angelo stated that to look at reallocation of resources we are in a need to have a budget situation and there are some positions that we would like to have but do not need them at this time. How can we best allocate that? She stated that the non PTS went out and there was confusion on how it went up to 103.

Dr. Ahern wanted to be sure to frame it for the community and part of it was a timing piece with a June 15 deadline. It provided for flexibility when making decisions. The district will bring back positions as soon as possible.

Mr. Keenan who is on the budget committee, and stated the thought of not having chorus is sad and wanted to share some stats about cutting the budget, our spending is relatively the same as other school districts. He stated that 75% of districts spend more per pupil than Franklin.

Ms. Stokes stated that we are not solving any problems but we need to look at the bigger picture and how to fund the schools.

Dr. Bergen followed up with Mr. Keenan that short term discussion is that we are dealing with a pandemic and we need to have a discussion with the sub committee

and look at the status of DT and potential closure. We are not at a place to discuss tonight and put on a future agenda. She also would like to follow up on some items that we are focusing on short and long term solutions. She reiterated that there have been warnings that this was going to happen. She explained what has been lost over the years.

Ms. Scofield asked about ECDC?

Dr. Ahern stated they did look at ECDC and it is vulnerable with their revenue and the families not having an interest in attending preschool.

Ms. Scofield asked about the last line item in personnel, the benefits?

Ms. Goodman spoke about the calculations which are an estimate at this time. This is for the health care costs.

Ms. Spencer asked about whether we should push up the timeline for DT?

Dr. Bergen stated that we need to see the data about DT and bring it up for next year.

Ms. Spencer just wanted clarification.

Ms. D'Angelo stated that we should not bring up DT at this time.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer reiterated that we should also not bring this up.

Ms. Stokes mentioned that we could update during the committee part of the meeting regarding DT.

Dr. Bergen stated that the School Committee did read all the emails that were sent.

Community comments:

Liam Devine spoke about chorus and how he participated throughout his years in Franklin. He provided some stats regarding having chorus in schools.

Carly Alston spoke about middle school chorus and how she participated. She just graduated from FHS. She loved chorus and her experiences.

Chloe spoke about the arts and how it affects students and helps them to succeed in school. She explained how much they meant to her over the years.

Andrew Falanga commented on how students like to feel special and how distraught he was when he saw the teachers lining up on 140 to keep their jobs.

Ms. Schoen wanted to thank all the students who spoke about the music program. She went on to thank the School Committee. The cuts are devastating. It seems that the music department has received the most cuts. She asked if they could go back and look at other options.

Ms. Grady thanked the students for their heartfelt words. The teachers standing out today was not a protest but we wanted to show what over 100 teachers looked like.

Abigail George thanked the School Committee. She talked about how chorus provides self managing. She explained how it has helped her in high school and now when she is in college.

Lisa Fries wanted to bring awareness of a federally funded program that they can furlough staff one or two days a week. She went on to explain this program and how it could save some money.

Jenna Van Hyning just recently graduated from FHS and how the music program has shaped her.

Lincoln Bischoff wanted to acknowledge the effort for this proposal tonight. He wanted to say that it is a distribution model and wanted to share an approach that he uses. The last thing you want to do is eliminate people who work with people. That relationship is the most important.

Brendan McWalter graduated from FHS in 2017 and wanted to bring up the nice to have vs need to have and that people think that chorus is a nice to have.

Victoria Saldana has a high schooler in 10th grade and she wanted to stress that what Franklin schools were able to provide for their students is amazing. She is concerned what it will look like in the years to come.

Chris Dexter just graduated from FHS in 2020. He wanted to add that more than 40 students will be majoring in fine arts.

Kimberleigh Bearce spoke about how her children participate in the music programs. We did not plan for the pandemic. It takes a village to educate our children. We need to support our teachers. We need to find a way to fund this as a community.

Brynn Jacobs just graduated from FHS. She wanted to say from a student perspective that nice to have positions and need positions are different. She thinks the School Committee needs to look at some of the positions that students do not interact with should be considered.

Cam Cawley graduated in 2017 and as an instrumental performer, I have been involved in music the entire time while I was at high school. Chorus is one of the most important subjects to keep.

Delaney Hughes wanted to say that as a music student it seems it is always the department that gets hit. Sports don't seem to get taken away.

Carly Fisher spoke about her school way back when and the academics did not make her go to school, other programs did.

Jay Galasso has two children who have gone through FHS and had the best experiences. He said the music and high performance students go together.

Jackie Kepple wanted to say the students who spoke were very eloquent. She stated that inclusion and unity brings the students together, and how music does that.

Steven Helt talked about as a music educator, and how the students who spoke tonight and don't take that away from them. From a leadership standpoint, I hope that you were able to see the teachers on route 140 today, it was powerful.

Betsy spoke about how we don't spend enough per student. We have the lowest tax rate. She wants to know why we are not talking about an override.

Vera Cooper talked about theater arts. She spoke about SEL and bringing in counselors for students. She explained that music is a way of therapy.

Aninka spoke about Ms. Hersee and how wonderful she is and encourages all the students.

Kate Roberts added that she grew up in Blackstone. They stressed in Blackstone that you can't give the minimum. We need to keep programs to help students come to school.

Virginia Brennan spoke about her daughter who loves music and how it helps her to face emotional challenges every day.

Amy Danahy spoke about how proud she is of the School Committee and how hard it is. We need to look at an override.

Stacey Federico gave her perspective on health care and are we targeting chorus because of COVID? Why are we not looking at contact sports?

Shannon Nisbett echoed all the wonderful comments tonight. Some of the teachers will be so hard to replace if we lose them.

Ms. Spencer asked about the process for the budget. Town Council is waiting for the School Committee to submit the budget.

Dr. Ahern stated that we provided the items to the Town Administrator before the Finance Committee meetings.

Ms. Goodman stated that there was a recommendation made to the town. The process has been delayed for obvious reasons.

Mr. Keenan wanted to share that several people wanted to start an override and how do they go about doing that.

Dr. Bergen said that they will take the information they have and disseminate that.

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 5

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen
-Developing the first newsletter

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen - No report

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

JOINT PCC - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - Last meeting was June 8; she shared that they discussed the FY 21 budget and end of year updates.

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- Next meeting is June 11, decisions will be made but not until all the information has been received

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

AD HOC SUPERINTENDENT - Dr. Bergen - We will look at Dr. Ahern's goals which will be adjusted due the pandemic.

6. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared that there will be more information on the budget. She also stated that SEPAC and FEF often trend this last meeting to share information.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your May 26, 2020 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. Scholarship

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,500.00 from Sheila Lima for a FHS Scholarship as detailed.

C. FHS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000.00 from Signs by Cam for in-house enrichment at FHS as detailed.

D. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$968.00 from the Franklin Music Boosters for in-house enrichment as detailed.

E. School Lunch Donation

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,208.12 from various donors for scholarship/memorial as detailed.

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

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. Scofield
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 11:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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Franklin School Committee
June 9, 2020
FINAL

Beth Simon

List of Documents

SCAgenda 6-9-20

Discussion Action A - BICO Board Appointment.pdf

Discussion Action B - ACCEPT Board Appointment.pdf

Discussion Action C - Resolutions.pdf

FY21 Budget Memo to SC June 9, 2020.pdf

FY21 Proposed Reductions to SC June 9 2020.pdf
underfundedmandated.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Scholarship.pdf

Consent Action C - FHS Gift.pdf

Consent Action D - Music Gift.pdf

Consent Action E - Lunch Donation.pdf

SC Warrant 052120.xlsx

SC Warrant 052820.xlsx

FPS Summary & Sign off 060920.pdf

SC Warrant 052120.pdf

SC Warrant 052820.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2024 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2024.pdf

Exec Session Minutes Approval.pdf

Budget 2 Actual.pdf