

**Franklin School Committee**  
**(March 14, 2023- Canceled due to weather)**  
**March 21, 2023 Rescheduled**  
**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/88182166946?pwd=a0N5c1I0bWNIQTbicFJlcFRTWDIYUT09>

Passcode: 987537

Or Telephone:

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

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847

Webinar ID: 881 8216 6946

Passcode: 987537

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88182166946>

## **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. Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Ms. Spencer said at the end of the meeting they would be adjourning to executive session and returning to open meeting.**

In Attendance: 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-Yes

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Parmenter Elementary School**

#### **Preston Fumarola**

Preston is a friendly, caring fifth grader at Parmenter School. He is totally invested in his learning and he consistently demonstrates terrific effort in everything he does. Preston is a great partner who gets along well with all of his peers and is a great model in the areas of kindness and respect. Preston is always ready to take on a challenge and perseveres through until he is successful. His respectful manner is appreciated by all. Preston takes his role as a leader of the school seriously and excels at helping others.

#### **Amanda McAlpine**

Amanda is a role model fifth grader. She consistently sets high expectations for herself and works hard to meet these challenging goals. Amanda also works hard to make the school a better place, having been selected to be part of the Character Education Committee. Parmenter Core Values are evident in everything Amanda does from including everyone to respecting all members of the Parmenter community. She is a genuinely kind person and spreads this kindness with everyone she interacts with. It is truly a pleasure to have Amanda in class and to see her blossom in fifth grade.

## **Moment of Silence**

- I. Routine Business
  - A. **Review of Agenda** - reviewed and in order
  - B. **Payment of Bills** - reviewed and in order
  - C. **Payroll** - reviewed and in order
  - D. **FHS Student Representative Comments**

Ms. Shaw Downing said spring sports recently started. She offered her congratulations to winter sports teams and noted that the cheer team was undefeated and won the D1 Hockomock Championship, South Regional Champions, State Champions, and New England Champions. She noted that caps and gowns can now be ordered. She said senior tickets for the banquet are now on sale as well as tickets for the Red Sox game.

Mr. Ravin Chaudhury spoke about FHS theater putting on Lord of the Flies. He said the sophomore banquet is on 3/31/23. He said Family Science Night is

4/27/23. He noted that yearbooks are on sale and that chaperones are needed for the All Night Party. Tickets can be purchased on PayPal or in the main office.

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Mr. Charles said thank you for the Science Night update.

Ms. Stokes said the student representatives will be staying for the remainder of the meeting.

**E. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Giguere said he and Ms. Spencer attended the Massachusetts Legislative Breakfast. He said the main focus was on the successes and challenges facing schools today.

Mr. Giguere also gave a redistricting update. He said the forums were held on 3/7/23 (in person) and 3/13/23 (virtual). He also met with staff on 3/15/23. He said the Space Needs and Facilities Subcommittee last met on 3/20/23 to process the latest information. They will meet again to work to arrive at a recommendation for the School Committee.

He noted there are many Lifelong Learning summer options including STEM, Math Academy, Forensic Science, and Financial Literacy for Teens, among many others.

He said Track and Field recently competed at the New Balance Nationals.

He said the Boys 4x200 set a new school record and Sarah Dumas placed 4th overall in the Pentathlon. He noted the successful seasons FHS cheer and FHS swim had.

He said DECA recently competed at the state conference in Boston.

Mr. Giguere recognized students in Ms. Brenna Johnson's Art and Ceramics classes. He said her Clay program recently received recognition. Ms. Johnson presented a photo and spoke about the students' work

Mr. Callaghan said thank you for the student highlights.

Mr. Giguere recognized Ryan Martin, a senior who recently was named the 2023 High School Journalist of the Year. A short video was presented of Mr. Martin's broadcasting work. Mr. Martin thanked his teachers and the technology that was offered to him at FHS.

Mr. Callaghan said congratulations on this accomplishment.

Mr. Charles asked Mr. Martin, what FHS resources would he credit to his success? Mr. Martin said his teachers because they help bring the digital journalism programs in Franklin to the next level. He said they utilize the television studio each day.

Ms. Spencer asked if there is another upcoming competition? Mr. Martin replied that he will be representing Massachusetts at the national level awards.

## **II. Guests/Presentations**

### **A. Parmenter Highlights - Ms. Shannon Barca, Ms. Amy Harvey, Ms. Adria Lazur** ***\*See presentation slides for detailed information***

Ms. Barca spoke about Parmenter's Mission Statement. She said the highlights of their presentation are The Parmenter Promise, Community Building, and Tiered Level of SEL Support & Instruction.

The group presented a video of students at Parmenter talking about The Parmenter Promise. They also showed a video of staff showing the different ways they love being part of the Parmenter community. Finally, they showed another video showing community building experiences at Parmenter.

Ms. Harvey spoke about the tiered levels of SEL support.

Ms. Lazur spoke about the Second Step midyear summary and additional data about tiered level supports, free and reduced lunch, crisis intervention, and behavior support plans.

### **Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Ms. Bernstein asked about challenges they are experiencing at Parmenter?

Ms. Barca replied staffing has been an issue but they are now fully staffed in the special education area. She emphasized that all the schools are unique in their strengths and their challenges but it is important to have equitable distribution of resources.

Mr. Callaghan asked for elaboration of what crisis intervention is?

Ms. Barca replied that it is when behavior rises to the level where additional support is needed. She said the staff across the district are Safety Care trained.

Mr. Charles asked if post incident, if they have seen a shift in growth mindset in students?

Ms. Barca replied they are still working on the self management piece but have seen an increase in self awareness.

Mr. Charles asked if there is anything they would like the community to know in order to help Parmenter students be successful?

Ms. Barca replied they have a relationship with Arbor Counseling and DCF in order to support families with resources.

Ms. Stokes said she doesn't want there to be a misconception that there are only behavioral problems at Parmenter.

Mr. Giguere said all the schools have their events that occur and that Ms. Barca was providing context and advocating for the kids at her school.

Ms. Stokes said that everything they are doing is best practices to support behaviors.

**B. FY24 Superintendent's Recommended Budget**

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

Mr. Giguere and Mrs. Goodman presented the FY24 Superintendent's Recommended Budget. Mr. Giguere noted that the FY24 budget was developed to support Franklin's Portrait of a Graduate.

Mr. Giguere noted that as an impact from the pandemic, student mental health needs are rising. As well as, an increased need for academic supports to address learning gaps, increased needs of students receiving special education services, and social-emotional health and well-being require additional support

He noted the negative impacts on students nationally and locally in Franklin due to Covid. He also spoke about the positive benefits for students from additional funding through ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III.

Mrs. Goodman shared a timeline for the budget process. It started on November 8, 2022 at the School Committee Budget Workshop and School Committee Organization Meeting and has arrived at the March 21, 2023 School Committee Meeting where the Superintendent's Recommended FY2024 Budget presentation to School Committee and a budget discussion is happening.

Mrs. Goodman spoke about Chapter 70 Funding and Franklin's FY24 Chapter 70 Aid. She explained how Chapter 70 funding is determined.

Mr. Callaghan asked for clarification on the formula in regards to Chapter 70 aid and being held harmless.

Mrs. Goodman assisted with her explanation about the state giving Franklin the additional money.

Mr. Callaghan asked if this money is always a guarantee?

Mrs. Goodman replied that legislation could change from year to year and the state could decide to withdraw the funds.

Ms. Stokes asked for clarification that it is free money that can be taken away at any point?

Mrs. Goodman said yes.

Mrs. Goodman explained how the Student Opportunity Act impacts Franklin. She said that Chapter 70 aid to Franklin from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is not expected to increase more than \$30 per pupil annually for the foreseeable future. Mrs. Goodman noted that 80% of school districts in MA spend more, per pupil, on education than Franklin.

Mrs. Goodman noted the following:

- *Current FY23 Approved Budget \$70,220,825*
- *Superintendent's FY24 Recommended Budget \$73,103,500*
- *Recommended Increase \$2,882,675*
- *Percent Increase 4.11%*

She also noted the following:

- *The preliminary increase in allocation from the town is still to be determined.*
- *Health Insurance Rate Increase 5.2%*
- *Out-of-District Private School Tuition Rate Increases 14%*
- *Other Out-of-District Tuition Rate Increases 5-10%*
- *Transportation Rate Increases 8%*
- *Increased Use of One-Time Revolving Funds \$1,536,000*

Mr. Giguere noted FY24 Pre-K, Elementary and Secondary level new investment initiatives as well as FY24 district level new investment initiatives. He also noted the requests that were not included in the FY24 Budget.

Mrs. Goodman noted a placeholder for FY24 Budget Reductions. She said they anticipate absorbing most if not all staffing reductions through attrition. (retirements and resignations)

Mr. Giguere spoke about enrollment numbers at the different school levels.

Mrs. Goodman gave a summary of the ESSER/ARP funding that has been spent and projected for FY24. Mr. Giguere spoke about the positions being funded by ESSER III such as Interventionists and School Adjustment Counselors.

Mrs. Goodman spoke about budgeted revolving funds.

Mr. Giguere spoke about the next steps in the budget process.

Ms. Spencer read a statement she wrote regarding her thoughts on the budget.

**Ms. Spencer asked for any comments/questions from the committee?**

Ms. Bernstein read a statement she wrote regarding her thoughts on the budget.

Mr. Callaghan asked about a \$1 million reduction through attrition and asked if that is already factored into the numbers?

Mrs. Goodman said they built in \$1 million in reductions to be able to support additional investments

Mr. Charles asked for a clarification on classroom sizes going up in FY24? He said he is concerned about staff burnout.

Mr. Giguere elaborated on how they work on the process of class sizes. He said a common theme across the 10 schools this year has been a resilience factor. The teachers have said that building up a resilience in the classroom has been challenging. He said all the principals and teachers have advocated for the lowest class size possible.

Mr. McNeill asked about the requests not included in the FY24 budget.

Mr. Giguere replied that these were advocated for where there were needs. He said it means there is less staff assigned and distributed to the schools.

Ms. Stokes referred to slide 33 and said she would like to see Special Educators and ABA Tutors included in the recommended budget.

Ms. Whitmore said she appreciated Ms. Bernstein's statement.

Mr. Chaudhury and Ms. Downing both thanked the committee and administration for their acknowledgement and consideration of the students.

Ms. Spencer shared a visual from MASC showing the funding towns receive from the state and how it shows Franklin getting the \$11 million that was referenced earlier, although it is a wealthier community.

Ms. Bernstein compared basic education to a wellness visit for a child. She said some patients will need specialist care and some will need MRI's, surgeries, or chemotherapy. She added that you want the best for your kids healthwise such as our district wants the best for the students.

Mr. Callaghan asked Mrs. Goodman if user fees are staying the same?

Mrs. Goodman replied they are staying the same.

Mr. Callaghan asked what the transportation cost would increase to to cover 100% of busing?

Mrs. Goodman said it would be about \$700 in cost per pupil to fully support busing being 100% covered.

Mr. Charles referred to slide 16 and asked if Franklin can be compared to communities who are in the same hold harmless state? Ms. Spencer said not all the neighboring towns could fit on the document. Mr. Charles asked if Franklin could be compared to other towns who are held harmless at \$5 million plus? Mrs. Goodman replied yes.

Mr. McNeill asked about the investment initiatives and what district strategic objectives that are best being addressed?

Mr. Giguere replied that the teachers, School Adjustment Counselors, and Interventionists.

Ms. Stokes asked what can the district eliminate or consolidate in order to free up time or money?

Mr. Giguere said they have not identified specific reductions but continue to look into software subscriptions, areas of cost savings, continually applying for grant funding, programming.



Mrs. Goodman added they are always looking for competitive grants, not just entitlement grants.

Ms. Spencer referred to FY23 budget and the positions that were funded through Covid relief funding and asked what happens to the positions once those funds run out?

Mr. Giguere replied any positions that were grant funded need to be examined and prioritized to see if it will be put into the next budget or not.

Ms. Bernstein asked if areas like languages, sports, theater programs, etc. are things that will need to be cut in the future?

Mrs. Goodman replied that those are hard decisions the school committee and administration will need to make at some point in time if the district continues down the path they are on.

Ms. Spencer said in her opinion, athletics should be cut before music and arts.

Mr. Callaghan asked if they have a running list of a tally of all the initiatives and positions they have not been able to fund?

Mrs. Goodman replied that there is not a year over year tally although she does have an annual estimate of items that were reduced for multiple years.

Mr. Callaghan suggested that it may be a good idea to keep an ongoing list to help keep the community informed.

Mr. Charles referred to slide 26 and asked if there are any other options as a district that can help lessen this impact?

Mr. Giguere spoke about how strong Franklin's special education department is and how it helps to keep many students in the district.

Mr. McNeil asked about the language arts curriculum compared to the one currently in use?

Mr. Giguere said that having a strong literacy program is at the root of this initiative.

Dr. Rogers replied that the priority of this aligns with the second strategic initiative. She said they are prioritizing putting high quality research based grade level curriculum into the educator's hands.

Ms. Stokes referred to slide 7 and asked if this data is Franklin specific?

Mrs. Marano said slide 7 is Franklin specific and slide 6 is national.

Ms. Stokes said she is concerned about these statistics and Mrs. Marano agreed.

Ms. Stokes asked where mental health is being prioritized in this budget report?

Mr. Giguere said there is the School Adjustment Counselors, Interventionists, and also counseling staff.

Mrs. Marano also replied through grant funding there is the BRYT Program, Project Interface, and Wellesley Center screenings.

Mrs. Goodman also replied the William James partnership and supporting the counselors, psychologists, and support staff they have.

Mr. Callaghan noted there are communities with full time grant writers.

***At 10:00pm, it was at the 3 hour mark of the meeting. Per the new Norms and Protocols of the Franklin School Committee, Ms. Spencer banged her gavel to stop the meeting and asked for a motion to extend the meeting.***

**Motion: Ms. Charles; Second: Ms. Stokes**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

Mr. Callaghan encouraged the community to stay informed.

Mr. Charles referred to slide 24 and said he is concerned about the years where the school's did not receive close to the recommended budget and asked for context?

Mrs. Goodman said in 2021 they were in the middle of a pandemic. She added that state aid ended up being level funded.

He asked if they were able to recover from those budgets that were not met?

Mrs. Goodman replied that they are always looking for ways to reallocate the budget and adjustments and reductions to reallocate funds into initiatives.

Ms. Stokes asked if 2021 was the year a large amount of positions were let go?

Mrs. Goodman replied yes.

Ms. Stokes asked if ESSER III is still being funded?

Mrs. Goodman replied it is still being funded and will need to be in the budget in FY25 to keep what it funded.

Ms. Whitmore asked for clarification that if ESSER funds are not used they will be lost?

Mrs. Goodman confirmed this and there is a deadline of 6/30/24.

Ms. Spencer referred to slide 41 and asked if athletics is now budgeted for \$720,000 where it was \$420,000 last year? She also asked for confirmation that there will be \$565,000 left in ESSER III next year?

Mrs. Goodman confirmed both points.

Mr. Callaghan asked about BRYT, how it is being utilized and where it is located?

Mrs. Marano replied that it is a transition program for students who have spent time out of school for medical reasons for school avoidance due to increased anxiety, etc. It is currently just a program located at FHS for high school students.

Mr. Charles referred to slide 19 and local contributions. He said he assumes they will hit the 82.5% cap well before year 10.

### **III. Discussion/Action Items**

#### **A. Franklin School Committee Resolution Special Education Circuit Breaker**

##### **Funding**

I recommend support of the resolution for Special Education Circuit Breaker funding as discussed.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

#### **B. Franklin School Committee Resolution Universal Free School Meals**

I recommend support of the resolution for Universal Free School Meals as discussed.

Mr. Charles asked for confirmation that free meals have been determined?

Mrs. Goodman said from her understanding it is not final yet.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

### **IV. Discussion Only Items - there were none**

### **V. Information Matters**

**A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports**

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - no updates
2. **Budget** - met on 3/1/23, joint budget met on 3/8/23; next meeting 3/24/23
3. **Policy** - next meeting 3/22/23
4. **Community Relations** - next meeting 3/29/23
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - met on 3/20/23; next meeting 3/27/23.

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - met on 3/13/23; next meeting 4/10/23
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting is 4/4/23
3. **SEPA** - Upcoming workshop next Wednesday, 2 workshops in April, Anti-bullying law workshop in May
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - next meeting 4/11/23. Critical conversations will be 4/26/23
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting is 3/22/23

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from the February 28, 2023 School Committee meeting as detailed.

**B. JFK Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1158.60 from the JFK PCC for supplemental supplies as detailed.

Mr. Charles noted that the community is lucky to have supportive PCC's but that the schools need support from the top.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. Callaghan**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**VII. Citizen's Comments**

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive

Mr. Sherlock said April is Poetry Month. There will be upcoming workshops at the Franklin Public Library. They will be on April 8th and April 29th, both from 12pm-3pm.

**VIII. New Business**

**To discuss any future agenda items**

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 3/28/23 meeting:

- Budget Open Hearing

**IX. At 10:29pm, Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session. She said they would be returning to open meeting.**

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

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**X. At 10:35pm, The School Committee returned from Executive Session and Ms. Spencer called the meeting back to order.**

Mr. Giguere said they conducted their negotiations with the FPS Van Driver Unit and agreed to a three (3) year contract.

**Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to approve the Van Drivers contract as detailed.**

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Yes; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes; Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**XI. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 7      Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 7-0**

**XII. Adjournment at 10:37pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 3-14-23  
Payroll Warrant #2318 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2318.pdf  
FPS Summary & Sign off 031423.pdf  
SC Warrant 022323.pdf  
SC Warrant 030223.pdf  
FY24 Budget Book complete.pdf  
FY2024 Superintendent's Recommended Budget 3\_21\_23.pdf  
Parmenter SC Highlights 3.14.23.pdf  
Discussion Action A - Resolution- circuit breaker.pdf  
Discussion Action B - Resolution Free Meals.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - JFK Gift.pdf  
Budget2Actual.pdf  
Pledge Student.pdf