

Franklin School Committee

March 9, 2021

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: School Committee members will meet in Town Council Chambers or via Zoom.
Members of the public may access the meeting via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99239833104?pwd=SVdaNVMyTFYyQ1BVUkpDR1dZN05XUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 3983 3104

Passcode: FSC

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,99239833104#,,,,*876062# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 992 3983 3104

Passcode: 876062

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.”

Dr. Bergen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call Attendance were: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - absent; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Atty. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mr. Eric Stark; Mr. Jesse Craddock.

Pledge of Allegiance

Harper Blongastainer, Helen Keller Elementary School

Tonight we are honored to shine a spotlight on Harper Blongastainer. Harper is a third-grader in Miss Fishman's classroom at Keller Elementary School.

As a learner, Harper is an avid reader. She is currently reading the Whatever After series.

Harper's interest in animals is coming through in her writing. She is currently researching and writing about snow leopards and sharks. Harper believes more work should and could be done to protect animals and our environment.

According to Harper, uniqueness is Keller's most important core value. Harper doesn't want people to change who they are in order to fit in. She wants everyone to know that they do not have to change who they are to impress others.

Outside of school, Harper enjoys spending time with her family. She plays cards with her dad, board games with her mom, and does makeup with her older sisters. She also enjoys spending time on the Cape, swimming, and playing sports. It is easy to see the ways in which Harper is a role model for Keller Kids. Harper, we applaud your effort, consideration for others, and kindness. Along with your parents, we are so very proud of you.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. **Review of Agenda** - all is fine

B. **Citizen's Comments** - Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments. There were none.

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**

Akash Shetty spoke that pool testing started this week. Also, he observed that it seemed a lot more students were in person this week. The mock trial team won

their first three trials against and qualified for the state tournament. They are one of the top sixteen teams in the state. Students involved in the DECA program have created business plans of their own and are competing in the state competition. This club has over 150 members. FHS is hosting a virtual art show on the FHS website. Pantherbook newspaper is looking for more editors. Finally, FHS football season has started.

Nipun Goel spoke that there is a lot of talk about a return to school full time. The general consensus is that students want to come back but not until a safe way. Some students want full time, some want cohorts but everyone wants a remote option just in case. FHS football won their scrimmage against OA and the first game is coming up against Mansfield. Fall 2 sports are underway. Congrats to the volleyball team who won on 3/9. Finally, the music program has resumed playing indoors, they utilize special masks that allow little to no airflow as well as special covers for the end of the instruments. The students safely rehearse 10 feet apart.

Dr. Bergen asks for any committee questions/comments?

Dr. Bergen thanked both students for sharing.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern spoke that 3/3/21 was a half day Professional Development Day. Pre-K to 12th grade had a pool testing orientation and participated in PDD activities as directed by their principal.

Program staff in REACH worked with a consultant to discuss what should be universal across the program and what should be tailored in the responsiveness to developmental differences across the age span to meet student's individual needs.

Dr. Ahern stated that singing instruction has been approved under certain health parameters. This would permit in person singing instruction. However, this is temporarily on hold in order to not have to stop it once it starts. This it is being taken into consideration with all the other changes taking place with respect to in person learning.

Dr. Ahern spoke on the DT/Keller transition. The Steering Committee is made up of a committed group of administrators, educators and parents/guardians from both school communities. The first meeting was held last week. There are lots of connections between the two communities and familiarity. A draft transition plan will be put together in the coming weeks.

Following up from a question at the 2/23/21 meeting, Dr. Ahern said that the company Cold Chain Technology manufactures the containers the vaccine shipped in so they would have no influence over local vaccine clinics. Finally, Dr. Ahern said that Senate President Karen Spilka will be hosting the 4th annual SEL event on March 19th from 10-12 in connection with the Rennie center. The event will feature experts on education and social emotional learning. This is part of her MetroWest Kids Initiative. There will be some Franklin specific materials.

Dr. Bergen asks for any committee questions/comments? There were none.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Helen Keller Elementary School Highlights – Eric Stark, Principal; Jesse Craddock, Assistant Principal

Mr. Stark spotlights what makes Keller great and the phrase Keller Journey - Keller students and their parents/caregivers are on an educational journey. Mr. Stark spoke about school improvement efforts that include: social-emotional well-being; curriculum assessment and instruction; technology, and communication and collaboration.

Mr. Craddock spoke on social-emotional well-being. This includes Mindful Monday and Wellness Wednesday, and Core Value Thursday. Mr. Craddock also spoke on curriculum, assessment, and instruction in both the remote and hybrid models.

Mr. Stark talked about technology and staying connected. For Veterans Day, a dozen veterans and some Keller kids joined a google meet to record a special morning message. Through technology this celebration was able to reach far and wide.

Mr. Stark also talked about communication and collaboration through the School Council. They implemented an approve/improve protocol which is a plan parents/guardians can communicate what they approve of and what needs improving. In January, the first written update was shared with the school. An example was changing the specials schedule mid-year for all kids to experience the different specials.

Mr. Craddock spoke on the core values school improvement goal and how it lines up with FPS's core values.

Mr. Stark spoke on the creation of core value statements. For grades K-2, Keller kids said what caring means including showing kindness by asking are you ok and saying are you my friend. For grades 3-5, Keller kids participated in grade level morning meetings, discussed core value statements, and contributed to expanded meanings. Several Keller kids - Chloe Bowser, Colin Stacy, Tyler Labella, Sean Follett, and Cameron Lambert spoke about their takeaways of the expansion of the core values.

Mr. Stark read a statement from School Council members, Ms. Papadeas and Ms. Giacobbe on what the core value work has looked like.

Mr. Craddock spoke about the outcomes of the core value work and the "I can" statements.

Mr. Stark spoke about next steps and the students will begin learning the expanded meanings of the core values and advance cultural proficiency work. Keller is eager to learn from Davis Thayer students about their core values such as respect and incorporate them into Keller's.

Dr. Bergen asks for any committee questions/comments?

Ms. Stokes said thank you for the valuable information and including DT values.

Ms. Spencer and Ms. Scofield echoed Ms. Stokes' statement.

Atty. Pond Pfeffer said thank you for the excellent presentation.

Mr. Keenan said it was a great job.

Dr. Bergen said thanks to everyone for all the hard work and noted the hard work by the Keller School Council.

B. FY22 Superintendent's Recommended Budget and discussion

Miriam Goodman and Dr. Ahern presented the FY 2022 budget. They summarized that the process starts in the fall.

They shared the following points:

- The budget has been developed in support of two areas.
 - Franklin's Portrait of a Graduate

- Pandemic Recovery, utilizing both operating funds as well as Coronavirus Relief Funding to prioritize social emotional supports, academic interventions, plan for full return at 3 feet of distancing, health and safety practices, continued support of technology integration.
- There was a School Committee Budget Workshop on 12/1/20
- There was a School Committee Budget Subcommittee meeting on 12/15/20
- Central Office and Principal Budget Development Meetings/Meetings with Town Administrator and Town Finance were held in January and February.
- There was a School Committee Budget Subcommittee meeting on 3/3/21

Mrs. Goodman spoke about Budget Assumptions:

- Preliminary increase in allocation from the Town is TBD (expected in the next few weeks)
- Health Insurance Rate Increases by 11% includes a 3% COVID smoother
- Out of District Tuition Rate budgeted at a 5% increase
- Transportation Rate Increases by an estimated 1.5-2%
- Proposing a reduced use of revolving funds by -\$322,000

The Superintendent's Recommended FY22 Budget vs. The FY21 Approved Budget is a difference of \$3,026,084.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the reallocation of funds for reinvestment initiatives.

- A GOALS Teacher at Jefferson - \$75,000
- An Adjustment Counselor at Oak St. - \$75,000
- SPED Transition Coordinator at FHS - \$75,000
- Spanish Teacher (Restoration) at FHS - \$40,000
- ESP for English Language Learners at FHS - \$25,000
- Franklin Arts Academy Coordinator (Partial Restoration) at FHS - \$17,000
- Math Teacher (Restoration) at FHS - \$60,000
- Digital Learning Integrationists at all schools - \$286,315
- Software Subscriptions at all schools - \$75,000

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Stipends across the District - \$15,000
- Cyber Security Expert (shared with town) - across the District - \$37,500
- PreK-12 Directors of Curriculum (ELA/Social Studies) - across the district - \$120,000-\$125,000*
- PreK-12 Directors of Curriculum (STEM) - across the district - \$120,000-\$125,000*

*With Dr. Edwards retiring at the end of this school year, Dr. Ahern is requesting two PreK-12 Directors of Curriculum to be split by ELA/Social Studies and STEM. With some organizational changes, these are proposed as budget neutral.

- Consultant Services - Master Facilities Planning (Redistricting) and Equity Audit - \$60,000

Dr. Ahern gave a summary of Elementary Classrooms with 2 changes from the 2020/2021 school year. These are based on the data from Jerry McKibben enrollment forecast and current enrollment. Some variability in the elementary population can be expected if some students sat out this school year to homeschool or sat out Kindergarten. Will be watching closely in summer as this is an estimate.

- +1 teacher at Jefferson Elementary
- -3 teachers at DT/Keller

Dr. Ahern showed a graphic showing the decline of elementary enrollment vs. number of elementary classroom teachers between 2008 vs 2022.

Mrs. Goodman summarized the revolving account offsets. Any adjustments will be made once an allocation from the town is received.

Dr. Ahern detailed the FY22 Proposed Covid-related Grant Expenditures:

- Instructional Interventionists at all elementary schools - \$300,000. Source - ESSER I and II.
- Permanent Building Subs at all PreK-12 schools - \$150,000. Source - ESSER II.
- Counseling Services at all schools (Counselor and/or Counseling Interns) - \$125,000. Source ESSER II and/or III.
- Software Subscriptions at all schools - \$50,000. Source - ESSER II and/or III.

Dr. Ahern detailed FY22 Anticipated Covid-related Grant Expenditures:

- In Person Classroom Teachers at FHS to Reduce Class Size - amount TBD. Source - ESSER III.
- Pool Testing at all schools - amount TBD. Source - Esser II and/or III.
- Remote Learning Options at all schools - amount TBD. Source - Esser III.
- Districtwide PPE - amount TBD. Source - Esser II and/or III.

Mrs. Goodman shared Funding the Superintendent's Recommended FY22 Budget:

- Town Appropriation
- Further Budget Adjustments
 - Increased use of revolving funds
 - Reduce Expenses
 - Healthcare
 - Transportation
 - Tuition to Out-of-District placements
 - Other
- Additional Federal Stimulus Funds

They presented the next steps:

- School Committee Budget Discussion on March 9, 2021
- School Committee Budget Subcommittee Meeting on March 16, 2021
- School Committee Budget Public Hearing and Budget Discussion on March 23, 2021
- School Committee Vote on FY22 Budget on April 13, 2021
- Finance Committee and Town Council Budget Meetings in April/May 2021

Dr. Bergen asks for any committee questions/comments?

Ms. Stokes asked about Instructional leadership (classroom specialist teachers) - shows proposed, can we see current?

Ms. Stokes asked why there isn't a request for an ELA curriculum across all elementary schools.

Dr Ahern replied because they just piloted a new math program in all schools this year. In the hybrid learning model, there were some successes but couldn't be adequately explored. Math will be expanded next year and ELA will come after that.

Ms. Stokes asked about the priority of tiered support on the Budget proposal.

Dr. Ahern will present information on that at the next meeting.

Ms. Spencer stated that a budget is a moral document. What is valued is what is funded. It's obvious from the budget presented that we value the mental health of our students.

Ms. Scofield asked with Dr. Edwards retiring and if two are hired for her role, what about Dr. Edward's other responsibilities?

Dr. Ahern replied they are looking at her responsibilities and how to divide those up and allocate within central office.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer said she has no questions right now but will be reviewing the budget. She commented that she thinks there are always ways money can be saved.

Mr. Keenan stated he is on the budget subcommittee. He is thinking of the \$68 million. He is accessing it from a per pupil standpoint. 75% of districts spend more on a per pupil basis than Franklin. How can we spend less than other districts but still deliver at top tier?

Dr. Bergen stated she agreed with Ms. Spencer's statement and Mr. Keenan's comments. She said a budget reflects what we want our community to be.

Dr. Ahern looks forward to the next meeting to talk in more detail.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Policy - First Reading

I recommend moving Policy GBEB - Employee Conduct to a second reading as discussed.

Motion - Ms. Spencer; Second - Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0

B. Approval of FY 21 Capital Requests

I recommend approval of the FY21 Capital requests as discussed.

Mr. Giguere spoke that there are four requests:

1. A request for two special education vans. The cost will be \$120,000 to replace both vans. This includes technology.
2. A request for a curtain divider in the HMMS gymnasium. The cost will be \$25,000, this has been repaired multiple times.

3. A request to replace the rubberized surface on the playground at ECDC that has eroded. It was installed in 2004.
4. A request for the vestibule area at Kennedy School. Adding access controls, cameras and a second buzz in.

Dr. Bergen asks for any committee questions/comments? There were none.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms.

Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion carries 6-0

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. Franklin Public Schools In-person Learning Proposal and Status Update

Dr. Ahern stated that Franklin is in yellow for the 4th week in a row. Also, there are fewer students and staff in quarantine.

Dr. Ahern talked about the reasons for more in-person learning. Concerns about students' engagement waning and concerns about SEL and academics. In the past year, so much has been learned about mitigation strategies. Vaccines are happening for educators and vulnerable populations.

Last Friday, emergency regulations were passed to allow the commissioner to determine when hybrid no longer counts as structured learning time. According to the Commissioner, K-5 will return April 5th and 6-8 will return April 28th. High school is TBD and the Commissioner will announce it in April. Hybrid will be phased out but remote is still an option for families. This is a good opportunity to plan for the fall.

Dr. Ahern detailed the plan for Franklin:

- Grades K-5: April 5th - Monday - Friday
- Grades 6-12: April 12 - Monday - Friday

Dr. Ahern stated that factors to be considered are logistics with moving furniture and health metrics. Anticipating fully remote Wednesdays will no longer be an option. More guidance is expected on structured learning time. This model depends on the percentage of students staying remote.

Mr. Giguere spoke that distancing has been amended and 3-6 feet of distancing (depending on the school) will be implemented. Six feet will be maintained by staff whenever possible, masks and face coverings are still required, and hand hygiene remains in place.

Dr. Ahern shared data from last June from The Lancet. It models the risk of infection in low and moderate risk settings. She also shared an unpublished study from the Mayo Clinic that observed the risk of contracting Covid in masked and unmasked individuals in 1, 3, and 6 feet of distance.

Mr. Giguere spoke on HVAC, UVGI and indoor air quality. HEPA filter air purifiers - 2 per classroom allow for 8 air exchanges per hour, exceeding the recommended 6. Over 1000 are deployed in the Franklin schools today. He also noted that automatic control systems that monitor for Carbon Dioxide.

Dr. Ahern spoke about additional health and safety considerations: asking families to screen students, ample supply of PPE, staff concerns for safety, getting educators and the most vulnerable vaccinated and continuing to pursue avenues for a local clinic. Also, daily disinfecting and cleaning will continue, high touch surfaces will be cleaned repeatedly throughout the day. Students who are older will clean spaces they use.

Mrs. Marano said that pool testing started at Oak/HMMS on 2/25/21. All other schools began 3/8/21. There were 695 students/staff who tested and the pools all tested negative. There is funding until 4/18/21 for this program and then Covid funds will be utilized. She further spoke that there is no evidence of in school transmission. Out of 204 close contacts were identified at school and to her knowledge 0 tested positive. Cases are most often related to exposure outside of school. 71% of cases have not been in school within the last 7 days of identification (due to quarantine/other reasons).

Dr. Ahern referenced a study about Massachuserts that is yet to be published regarding 3 ft. of distancing that was cited in the guidance document from the state.

Mrs. Marano said that with the move from 6 feet to 3 feet this will increase the number of close contacts and may need to periodically shift to remote by

classroom, team, or school. This is dependent on the number of cases in the community.

Mrs. Goodman spoke on the new guidance from DESE regarding transportation, allowing for greater capacity. Physical distancing restrictions are lifted for grades K-5 and are lessened for grades 6-12. Safety measures are still in place and windows must be opened by 2 inches

Dr. Ahern spoke about lunch for students. There will be 6 feet of distancing with strategies differing by building. Tents will be returning for masks break/lunch. Worst case scenario for upper grades - early dismissal with a grab and go option. Snack time and breakfast are still being worked out. Each building will have designated spaces for staff to eat lunch/prep time/mask breaks. Dr Ahern thanked the staff working in VLA, particularly those working with K-5 students. They are doing a remarkable job and are valued.

Dr. Edwards said hybrid students will be fully in person unless they request to be remote. No survey planned to go out at this time. There will be stricter attendance policies going forward. Students will be expected fully in-person. She stated students who are VLA and want to be in-person; we will do our best to accommodate them.

Dr. Ahern added from the survey that had gone out, the number of students choosing to go in person was overwhelming in favor.

Dr. Edwards spoke on Grades 6-8 instruction. Students will be returning on April 12th, they must be present with flexibility reduced unless they opt to be fully remote. Both in-person and remote students will need to still meet Structured Learning Time expectations. Dr. Ahern stated there is more flexibility in Grades 6-8.

Dr. Edwards also spoke in Grades 9-12 instruction. Students must be present with flexibility reduced. The space in-person with the current HS staffing and schedule is very limited and depends on a significant portion of the HS being remote. Families will be surveyed again to ask for a commitment either way. Teachers will adapt instruction to meet Structured Learning Time expectations.

Dr. Ahern spoke about planning for students in temporary quarantine. If the entire class needs to quarantine the entire class will shift to remote instruction

with their teacher. This could pertain to a team(middle school) or an entire school. Dr. Ahern said if students have concerns being back full in-person, their social emotional transition back to school will certainly be on the administration's mind.

Dr. Ahern spoke on the expectation of personnel to be in-person. There is a process for those who request a leave of absence and for those who request remote work accommodations. There is an anticipation of hiring lunch monitors and supervisory aides, tutors to support students in quarantine. Possible additional teachers if necessary dependent on switching between VLA/hybrid. Anticipate restoring cafeteria staff and Solutions. Dr. Ahern spoke on the comfort level of staff and the vaccine announcement and prioritization of teachers was a game changer. The FEA shared a survey about the teacher's comfort level of 3-6 feet and vaccinations. We need to be mindful and aware of the teacher's legitimate concerns to support the staff.

Dr. Ahern spoke about a need for volunteers in the community. There is a need for lunch/activity monitors, assisting with pool testing, crossing guards, furniture movers as there are hundreds of desks, chairs, and tables that need to be moved throughout the schools in the next 4-5 weeks. The district may have to get creative with furniture. Dr. Ahern referenced a couple of surveys that went out to families regarding their choice and comfort levels.

Dr. Bergen asks for any committee questions/comments?

Ms. Stokes agreed about the phenomenal instruction in VLA. She asked if VLA wants to join in-person who do they contact?

Dr. Ahern replied it would be the VLA administrator but a communication will be sent out as well.

Ms. Stokes asked for the School Committee for elementary class sizes?

Dr. Ahern replied they are K-2: 18-22 and 3-5: 23-25. Dr. Ahern stated that the classrooms cannot accommodate 25 students at 3 feet of distance.

Ms. Stokes asked for the middle and high school as well.

Dr. Ahern replied that they are about 23-26 for 6-12.

Ms. Stokes asked if the district will be able to track which staff have gotten a vaccine?

Dr. Ahern replied it doesn't have to be reported. The staff can be asked and tracked but it hasn't been tracked yet. Also, it is confidential information and would be reported in the aggregate.

Ms. Spencer asked what happens if a student has to quarantine?

Dr. Ahern replied that this needs to develop differently at the different levels. A tutor model is something other districts are using.

Ms. Spencer asked if we are budgeted for it?

Dr. Ahern replied we are building and planning for it and can utilize relief funds.

Mr. Giguere said they were planning an attendance summit with all the administration.

Ms. Spencer said there are other towns helping teacher's get vaccination appointments, could we possibly ask the PCC's or volunteers to help?

Dr. Ahern replied that some communities have volunteers helping and if the community can assist our teachers then that is a really kind solution.

Ms. Spencer asked if logistic volunteers should reach out to their building's principals?

Dr. Ahern replied that it will be folded into a communication.

Ms. Scofield said it's a terrific plan and all falling into place. She said thank you to Dr. Ahern and her team.

Atty Pond Pfeffer asked if there are sufficient funds for restoring staff.

Mrs. Goodman replied yes, there are sufficient funds.

Mr. Keenan said this is awesome information and very excited to be on the path back to school. He advocates for districts to encourage teachers to get vaccinated at their earliest convenience even if it brings in subs.

Dr. Ahern stated they asked the teachers to try and schedule out of school hours. But if it had to be in school hours, then the administrators would be flexible about that.

Dr. Bergen commended pool testing and how it makes people feel more secure.

Dr. Bergen also asked with the weather getting nicer, is there any sufficient outdoor furniture?

Mr. Giguere spoke with other school principals who are utilizing school furniture and bringing it back in. Mr. Giguere asked if families can be flexible too if a teacher needs to leave for a vaccine, parents can be flexible.

Dr. Bergen talked about all the pressure behind the scenes to get vaccines done. She commended Dr. Ahern on her work with pool testing and ventilation. She spoke about the sacrifice everyone has made, especially the children.

Dr. Ahern acknowledged the others and said it was an entire team effort, principals and assistant principals. Also, to stay vigilant especially with Covid variants.

Ms. Spencer asked about bussing - can families still sign up?

Mrs. Goodman replied to use the link online to sign up.

Dr Bergen asked if families should be contacting their own principal with any questions?

Dr. Ahern replied more information still to come at the district and school level.

Ms. Stokes asked if families can opt out of MCAS. And does it affect the district?

Dr. Edwards replied that last week, DESE put out new dates for Grades 3-5

testing: Mid May - first week of June. It will be one test day per subject per day.

Remote families testing will be in person. She states the test is a requirement and technically there is not an opt out. She added that Grade 6-8 dates are still TBD.

High School dates are still being set as well.

Dr. Ahern spoke on sanctions to the district not pertaining. This year, the accountability measures are suspended.

Ms.Spencer asked for clarification that there is no opt out online form for MCAS?

Dr. Edwards urged any parent who is concerned with MCAS to talk to your teacher and principal.

Dr. Bergen asks for any public comments: there are none.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Budget** - met on 3/3/21 and reviewed capital expenses. The next meeting is 3/16/21 at 4:30. Finance will be meeting 3/10/21 at 6:30pm to be voting on capital expenses. Mrs. Goodman and Anne Marie Tracey are working on a video to keep the public informed on where money is going.
2. **Community Relations** - Legislative forum was last week and had a good turnout, learned a lot. Over 70 attendees.
3. **Policy** - next meeting 3/18/21

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. **Joint PCC** - met on 2/23/21. Discussed were pool testing at Oak and HMMS. There will be a very private cart in the hall, LPN students from Tri County are assisting. Video went out to the classrooms showing how swabbing works. 157 districts are participating, results don't get reported to the DPH. Positive results are notified and another test done which does get reported. Questions arose about if this procedure added to anxiety in kids, DESE return to in-person learning, FEA next round of grants will be funded. All PCCs said 5th grade graduation should be special this year. All PCCs concerned with ways to bring in more PCC income.
2. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - next meeting 3/23/21.
3. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting 3/16/21.

VI. **New Business**

- A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- Budget hearing and discussion
- More on reopening
- A school highlight
- Policy from the next policy meeting
- Possibly requesting approval for the curriculum directing positions

VII. **Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your February 23, 2021 meeting as detailed.

- B. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of cash & checks totaling \$620.00 from Music parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

- C. Jefferson Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$32.50 from Daddario Hardware for supplemental supplies at Jefferson Elementary School as detailed.

- D. Request to Sell Leckey Mygo Stander

I recommend approval of the request of Paula Marano to sell the Leckey Mygo Stander to Bellingham Public Schools as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion carries 6-0

VIII.	Payment of Bills	Dr. Bergen
IX.	Payroll	Atty. Pond-Pfeffer

X. Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn, to enter into executive session. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond Pfeffer-Yes; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0

XI: **Adjournment at 9:54 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 3-9-21

Final Helen Keller Elementary School Presentation to School Committee March 9, 2021.pdf

FY22 Budget Book.pdf

Discussion Action A - Policy.pdf

Discussion Action B - Capital.pdf

Reopening Schools Memo Spring 2021.pdf

Reopening Schools Status Update March 4, 2020-2021.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Music Gift.pdf

Consent Action C - Jefferson Gift.pdf

Consent Action D - Leckey Mygo Stander.pdf

SC Warrant 021821.xlsx

SC Warrant 022521.xlsx

FPS Summary & Sign off 030921.pdf

SC Warrant 021821.pdf

SC Warrant 022521.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2118 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2118.pdf

Executive Session Minutes-2-9-2021.pdf

Budget2Actual.pdf

Pledge Student.pdf