

Franklin School Committee

May 11, 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/98041044388?pwd=TWxxb0hGMXFCYWVveFp0TGZLcWdNdz09>

Meeting ID: 980 4104 4388

Passcode: FPSSC

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,98041044388#,,, *366320# US (New York)

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Meeting ID: 980 4104 4388

Passcode: 366320

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 - absent; Atty. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes.

*Ms. D'Angelo and Mr. Keenan were present after the roll call attendance.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Saivagmita (Vagmi) Kantheti, is a senior at Franklin High School. Her aspiration has always been to become a physician. That is why she is excited to be going to UMKC in the fall for their 6-year combined BS/MD program. Her favorite hobbies include drawing, painting, and singing. In fact, she has been in the choir since middle school and for all four years of high school. Along with her passion for painting, she has grown into an activist and wants to help better her community for every citizen living in it. Combining these two interests, she recently organized an art show for artists of color to display their works and their culture. She believes it started important conversations and encouraged attendants to learn more about other cultures. Along with her artistic and social interests, she has always been interested in bettering her public speaking and leadership skills. This is why she joined Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and the girls' tennis team for all four years. She became captain of both the tennis team and Academic Decathlon, which she believes really helped her grow as a person. She hopes to carry these interests to college with her.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine.

B. Citizen's Comments - Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments.

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

- Atty. Pond-Pfeffer noted that the Davis Thayer spirit store will close this Friday 5/14/21. There are only three days left to order your DT t-shirts.

C. FHS Student Representative Comments

Katie Garrigan said it has been a busy time. Graduation (6/4) and prom (6/1 and 6/2) are coming up. She said that it was just announced that Carolyn Hagy is the Valedictorian and Yihan Pu is the Salutatorian. AP exams will begin next week, some are virtual and some are in person. The Community Service Group is running a clothing drive until 5/21/21. The SADD Club is running a drive for Gilly's house, a sober house in Wrentham until 5/20/21. Theatre Production is hosting

Oskey in person on 5/27/21. The Lifelong Learning Institute is running some summer camps for college preparation including the application process and college essays. Finally, she said spirit week was last week and seniors came in first place.

Dr. Bergen asked how to access and drop off for the clothing drive?

Ms. Garrigan replied there are drop off spots in the main office, gymnasium and auditorium.

Dr. Bergen also asked about the Gilly's house fundraiser.

Ms. Garrigan replied that it is being run by the SADD club. They are taking drop offs in person and there is an online link in this week's FHS student newsletter and on SADD's Twitter page.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern along with Mrs. Goodman and Dr. Edwards presented the School Committee's Budget of \$67,914,184 to the Finance Committee last Tuesday. The budget was recommended to go to Town Council at the Budget Hearing on 5/26/21. Dr. Ahern noted some things that came up that were relevant to the conversation.

- Questions and interests regarding the consultant proposed in the budget regarding redistricting as a result of student enrollment. Enrollment was up in the 1990's/2000's but decreased in the last decade or so.
- The Finance Committee asked about the Student Opportunity Act and how Franklin is faring as a result of the act. It was noted that the act doesn't hold much additional funding for Franklin as far as Chapter 70 goes. There will be a minimum aid increase of \$30 per pupil. Because enrollment has decreased, it won't have a huge effect. We will likely see an increase in funds through Circuit Breaker and the inclusion of transportation reimbursements that had previously not been included before.
- The state expectations for Franklin's local contribution to the budget was shared and highlighted. It has increased over time and the trend will probably have it continue to increase over time.
- More budget conversation to come at the hearing on 5/26/21.

Dr. Ahern spoke about the Curriculum Director search. The interview team met and interviewed candidates with two names forwarded Dr. Ahern as finalists. Ms.

Lisa Trainor and Mr. Giguere chaired this committee along with Dr. Bergen, teachers, staff, and administrators.

The finalists will be visiting elementary and middle schools on 5/13 and 5/17.

They will tour schools and meet with principals, assistant principals, central office administrators, curriculum leadership in the district, and faculty/staff as well as Dr. Ahern. Finalist names will be announced in the coming days.

Dr. Ahern shared an update to Project 351. This is an independent non-profit organization started by former Governor Deval Patrick that builds a movement of youth-led service by engaging an unsung hero from each of 351 cities and towns in the state. They are united for a year of leadership and service. This year's representative is Noah Gorgas, a grade 8 student and student council member at ASMS. This month Noah launched a service campaign in support of Cradles to Crayons. He has asked Franklin residents to donate gently used and like new newborn to youth large clothing. A link to the website Noah created is in the Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Ahern noted that recognition days continue with National School Nurses Day being May 12. The nurses have been doing tremendous work and the district nurses are appreciated.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Ms. Spencer asked for confirmation that Noah's website will be in the Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Ahern confirmed it will be in the report.

Dr. Bergen also noted the work the nurses have done this year. Also, she represented the School Committee on the Curriculum Director search committee and noted the incredible work of the committee and the candidates they found.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. FHS Highlights & Senior Week Info – Josh Hanna, Principal

Mr. Hanna acknowledged Vagmi Kantheti, the pledge student and her talents. He spoke about FHS Core Beliefs - PANTHERS - Passionate, Active, Nurturing, Thoughtful, High Performing, Engaged, Responsible, Supportive.

Mr. Hanna used Twitter posts from FHS to detail the year at FHS. Mr. Hanna spoke about how the year started remotely on September 16 showing a remote class. He showed a photo from November 16 with a small group exiting the bus in the hybrid learning model.

He talked about more signs of normal, for example The National Art Honors Society painting hallway windows.

Mr. Hanna noted how they made the best of a difficult situation by using the gym on a Wednesday as a vaccine clinic for first responders. Student Siddharth Chandra won an award for a photo he took of this event.

He showed more signs of normal like zoom concerts and fall activities happening in March.

Mr. Hanna then talked about the transition to full classrooms and showed students in a classroom and having lunch outdoors.

Mr. Hanna spoke about improving not just surviving and an every other week newsletter. He also noted being able to recently celebrate the Top 5% of students. Remote students were able to celebrate together as well virtually.

Mr. Hanna talked about end of the year activities. Prom will be two nights, following regulations. There will be a senior breakfast. A local restaurant is working with PCC on this. Mr. Hanna noted the work of PCC President Jen O'Duggan. Graduation will be outdoors, following regulations. There will also be a rolling car parade.

Mr. Hanna said that assessments are happening at FHS. 10th grade MCAS was 5/12/21. AP exams begin next week. 11th grade MCAS will be after graduation for students seeking early scholarships. They will have another chance to take the test in November. Finally, followed up with 9th grade MCAS - Bio.

Mr. Hanna talked about looking ahead to 2021-2022. It is a sustainable model at three feet right now except for the lunch block. Additional space will be sought out.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Ms. D'Angelo said Mr. Hanna has done a great job in his first year.

Ms. Spencer asked about graduation and family pods.

Mr. Hanna replied there are individual pods per family at six feet of distance. It is a five seat pod that includes the graduate and four guests. Sharing of tickets is discouraged and there are no solo seats. Sharing tickets isn't in line with safety protocol. However, if guidelines change they will change with it.

Ms. Stokes appreciates Mr. Hanna's honesty and the difficulties the year presented. She noted she is happy the car parade is happening again this year.

Dr. Bergen thanked Mr. Hanna on behalf of the committee.

****Ms. D'Angelo departed the meeting and was absent from the following votes.***

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Policy - 1st Readings

I recommend moving the following policies to a second reading as discussed:

1. IJNDB - Acceptable Use Policy
2. IJNDB-E1 - Acceptable Use Student Agreement Grades 6-12
3. IJNDB-E2 - Acceptable Use Student Agreement Grades K-5

Mr. Giguere added that these are acceptable use policies, two are grade specific - 6-12 and K-5. The Digital Learning Integrationists and those DLI's from other towns also reviewed the policies and some slight tweaks were made from the present language.

Motion: Ms. Scofield; Second: Ms. Spencer

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

Motion Carries 6-0

B. School Choice Vote

I recommend not accepting any new School Choice students for the 2021-2022 School year.

Dr. Ahern noted that the School Committee may want to consider this in the future as enrollment decreases and seats become available. She is not recommending it now due to the need for long term facilities planning and potential redistricting.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

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

Motion Carries 6-0

C. Franklin High School Summer School Revolving Account

I recommend the approval to establish a Franklin High School Summer School Revolving Account as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Ms. Stokes asked about families who can't afford a fee based program.
Dr. Ahern noted the financial assistance policy in the district and assessing reduced charges in the case of hardships.
Ms. Scofield asked if all the students will be from Franklin.
Dr. Edwards said our intention is only Franklin students but could possibly open to other students as an option.

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-absent; 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. Reopening School Status Update - May 7, 2021

Dr. Ahern spoke about metrics in the state and Franklin. For the week of May 1, there were zero staff in quarantine. Another game changer has been the change in quarantine requirement of close contacts. This has made a huge difference in the continuity of instruction.

Dr. Ahern said pool testing is currently flat in participation. There have been some various positive pools.

Dr. Ahern said MCAS testing and assessments are being used right now to make plans for summer and next year. MAP testing will be happening again in June for grades K-3.

Finally, Dr. Ahern said the application is currently being developed for ESSER II monies. Information on ESSER III should be released soon.

Dr. Bergen asked for any questions or comments? There were none.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. Budget - no meetings scheduled. Public hearing is 5/26/21.

2. Community Relations - met 5/11/21. Thanks to Steve Sherlock for presenting and sharing advice on getting information out about the schools effectively.

3. Policy - next meeting 5/20/21.

4. Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation - meeting tentatively scheduled for 6/1/21.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. Joint PCC - next meeting 5/25/21.

2. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - there will be a community forum upcoming in partnership with the substance abuse task force. They are shooting for 5/24/21. It will include Jen Knight from the SAFE coalition, Joanna Cyr from You, Inc., and Tanya Snyder from The William James College as well as Mrs. Marano and Mr. Giguere. More info to come soon.
3. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting 5/18/21.

Dr. Bergen reminded everyone about the Franklin Education Foundation. If you'd like to make a donation, it can be mailed to PO Box 531 Franklin, MA 02038.

VI. **New Business**

A. **To discuss any future agenda items**

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- Town Council budget hearing is 5/26/21
- Recognition of retirees
- Policy
- Dr. Ahern noted there is a possibility the next school highlights may be bumped to June due to a busy time with assessments.

VII. **Consent Agenda**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from your April 27, 2021 meeting as detailed.

B. **Keller Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,235.12 from O'Connor Studios for Supplemental Supplies at Keller Elementary School as detailed.

C. **Districtwide Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$245.00 from BJ's Wholesale Club as detailed.

D. **Music Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$945.00 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment for the Music Department as detailed.

E. **Scholarship**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000.00 from Peter Baglioni for a FHS Scholarship as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-absent; 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. **Executive Session**

Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn, to enter into executive session.

A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA and Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct collective bargaining sessions with the FEA unit as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

B. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

C. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-absent; 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 7:57pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 5-11-21

FHS Highlights 2021 - 2022.pdf

Senior Letter-May 2021.pdf

Discussion Action A - Policy.pdf

Discussion Action B - School Choice Vote.pdf

Discussion Action C - Summer Revolving Account.pdf

Reopening Schools Status Update May 7 2020-21

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Keller Gift.pdf

Consent Action C - Districtwide Gift.pdf

Consent Action D - Music Gift.pdf

Consent Action E - Scholarship.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2122 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2122.pdf

SC Warrant 041521.xlsx

SC Warrant 042221.xlsx

SC Warrant 042921.xlsx

May 11, 2021 School Committee Minutes - FINAL

FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf
SC Warrant 041521.pdf
SC Warrant 042221.pdf
SC Warrant 042921.pdf
Executive Session Minutes 4-27-2021 DRAFT.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf