

## Franklin School Committee

May 25, 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/99071329517?pwd=ZGtTMGdkWDUzUWU0TTEtWW9DMWNZQT09>

Meeting ID: 990 7132 9517

Passcode: FPSSC

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,99071329517#,,, \*720359# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 990 7132 9517

Passcode: 720359

## 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.

\*Ms. D'Angelo was 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.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Emma Pruitt is hardworking, highly motivated and an exemplary 8th grade student at Horace Mann Middle School. She models respect, dedication and compassion on a regular basis. Over her three years at HMMS Emma has been active in Community Service Club and Book Club and always contributes her best self to them. Outside of school, Emma likes to run, swim and is a member of the community service group, Lions Heart. Emma is a student who has maintained her positive attitude while enduring and rehabbing from a difficult elbow injury this year. She continued to work hard on her assignments and remained motivated. She is positive and kind and respectful to all. Mr. Williams and I are thrilled to recognize Emma this evening. - Ms. Motte

### **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**

Nipun Goel said that it's been busy with AP exam season here. There was a jazz band concert last week in person with masks and bell covers used. He said everyone seems more happy and relaxed with everything opening up more and being vaccinated. There was a movie night last week on the football field. The class of 2022 is holding a puzzle fundraiser with the class of 2022 logo. The puzzles have a QR code. When your QR code is scanned, you are entered into a raffle for local business gift cards. This fundraiser is for prom and future class events.

Akash Shetty, a senior, said his last day of school was 5/24 and senior week is next week. He said it's been a nice feeling around the school now that COVID restrictions have lessened. He said masks are not required at prom where it is outside. Senior Awards Night is virtual this year and will be shown on 6/3/21 at

7:30pm. Oskey, an FHS Theater Production is 5/27/21 in the FHS auditorium. There is a sign-up genius to attend to keep numbers under the limit for the auditorium. Student Government hosted an outdoor movie night last week. The FHS Peer Leaders and FHS Red Cross Club held a blood drive this past Saturday at The Best Western Hotel. Dr. Bergen thanked them both for their leadership.

#### **D. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ahern acknowledged last evening's fire in Franklin and thoughts go out to the Franklin citizens and Franklin Public School's families affected. Principals are working on identifying those affected and reaching out to provide support. Several agencies have reached out offering support. Our principals and administrative teams are helping to make those connections.

Dr. Ahern spoke about Professional Development that is happening with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. Today (5/25) marks the one year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The DEI committee continues its work and Dr. Ahern will be sharing more with the community and committee prior to the end of the school year. The Department of Education recently issued resources as related to culturally proficient teaching practices in the classroom. Additionally, our associations; MASCD which is for supervisors of curriculum development; MSAA which is for school administrators; and MASS which is the school superintendent's association are also partners in this work. The spring meeting of MASS is 5/27/21. The focus of the meeting will be on learning more about and contributing to this organization's racial equity, diversity, and inclusion strategy. District area Superintendents and Asst. Superintendents will share what they are learning from students in their district, reflect on the importance of this work, and define the why and the what of the work ahead. It will tie to the professional learning they will host at the end of the MASS Summer Institute which is being planned with professional conferences returning. Dr. Ahern has been asked to be a facilitator in a breakout group.

Dr. Ahern shared an update about the state budget process. The Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means budget was released for FY22 and is reflected on the Cherry Sheets. Overall, Chapter 70 funding is identical to what the Governor and the House budget had previously released, which is that state aid is based on the additional \$30 per pupil. This is based on enrollment and the Student

Opportunities Act. Overall, the balance in the Senate budget is a slight decrease in aid, largely due to the decrease in the Charter tuition reimbursement. The senate proposal fully funds Circuit Breaker at 75% and includes specialized transportation as noted in the SOA and has proposed to fund it at higher rates than the previous two budget iterations.

Dr. Ahern added that budget amendments were filed on 5/14/21 and the Senate began deliberating on it today. There will be a reconciliation process between the House and the Senate budgets for the final state budget but shaping up to be no major changes to come from either as we await the state budget.

Dr. Ahern thanked Mr. Giguere, Mrs. Marano, and Dr. Bergen, representatives from the SAFE coalition, William James College Project Interface, and YOU, Inc. for hosting an informative virtual presentation on 5/24/21. The topic was substance abuse and mental health in young people. The instructors were both informative and optimistic, also empathetic and realistic about challenges facing our community. The virtual presentation was recorded and will be posted to the FPS YouTube page soon.

Finally, Dr. Ahern shared that Mike D'Angelo will be presenting his expertise to the Massachusetts School Building Authority who will be hosting a virtual roundtable in early June. They will be discussing healthy buildings and the germicidal UV irradiation technology. Panelists will be reviewing the history of the technology, current application standards, and recent studies, system options, cost and benefits, and learning about the Town of Franklin's UV journey and challenges. Mr. D'Angelo will be presenting with Steve D'Giacomo.

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

Ms. Spencer asked about any end of year VLA celebrations?

Dr. Ahern replied that all school meetings and a school highlight are coming soon. VLA students, especially in 5th grade are invited to attend in person celebrations based on their comfort level.

Ms. Spencer asked for confirmation that there are no in-person celebrations for VLA and Dr. Ahern confirmed there is nothing in-person.

**II. Guests/Presentations**

**A. Retiree Recognition**

Dr. Ahern shared there are 21 retirees and several are at the meeting.

- Ms. Sarah Klim, principal at Jefferson spoke about Ms. April Schmauder (ESP). Ms. Klim has had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Schmauder as a parent, PCC volunteer, activity monitor, and an ESP. She is a kind and generous person. She is very supportive and always looking to help others. She said thank you for all you have done.
- Dr. Ahern spoke on behalf of Mr. Hendrickson about Ms. Deb Cass (Kindergarten, Oak). Ms. Cass' laugh and joy can be seen and heard down the halls of Oak. She has been a teacher at Oak for 27 years and provides her students with the structure, support, and love they need. A generation of Oak students will carry her legacy forward.
- Dr. Ahern also spoke about Ms. Dina Minor (Art, Oak). Ms. Minor has been a teacher at Oak for over 30 years. She has planted the seeds of creativity for many Oak students. Each class begins with a huddle as she explains the art project, students leave the huddle putting her inspiration into their art. She has inspired students to make the world a more beautiful place through art and art appreciation.
- Dr. Quigley, interim principal at Davis Thayer, spoke about Joanna Schomberg (special education). Ms. Schomberg began at DT in 2003. She loves to dig deep into her students' learning style. She feels best when students feel successful. She has always been able to adapt to any changes. She is described as funny, loving, and compassionate.
- Dr. Quigley also spoke about Joanne Salvucci (EA). Ms. Salvucci is extremely professional and dedicated and a true asset to DT. She is a positive team player and she will be sorely missed by everyone in the DT community.
- Dr. Ahern spoke about Seth Diamond (6th Grade, Remington). Mr. Diamond has spent his entire career teaching in Franklin. He began at Charter and has taught at Jefferson and finally at Remington. We are very proud of his commitment to the community and he is always willing to do what is best for students.
- Dr. Ahern also spoke about Sue Richards (STEM, Remington). Ms. Richards loves every a-ha moment with the students. She has had students keep in touch and is proud to have made a difference. She looks forward to the next chapter of her life but is grateful for all her students and colleagues and friends she has made.
- Ms. Lizzie Morrison, Principal at ASMS spoke about Lauri McLeland (STEM, ASMS). She has made an impression on thousands of students. She has guided students through their first experience with technology.

Her [passion for connecting the STEM curriculum to the students' lives is inspiring. She is compassionate and always supportive of new teachers.

- Dr. Ahern spoke about Joyce Edwards (Asst. Supt. for Teaching & Learning). Dr. Edwards started her career with a degree in Retail Management and worked in the private sector as a Retail Buyer. She transitioned to the classroom in her hometown of Sharon in 1999. She has always had a passion for quality curriculum and student success and the teaching and learning process. She is always thinking of the needs of the students. Her first district leadership position was Duxbury in 2006 and then hired in Franklin in 2011. The position has seen a lot of changes over the past 10 years. She has been instrumental in establishing the digital learning committee, the implementation of new science and social studies frameworks, the launch of a math pilot, summer school, and MWEA. She has contributed to the vision of a Portrait of a Graduate. Dr. Ahern said Lisa Trainor has noted that she has worked with Dr. Edwards through many transitions and will miss her enthusiasm, compassion and professionalism. In her retirement, Dr. Edwards will be moving to Florida.
- Dr. Ahern thanked all retirees for their years of service. Here is the complete list of the 2020/2021 retirees:
  - *Lynn Bushery*
  - *Deb Cass*
  - *Seth Diamond*
  - *Dr. Joyce Edwards*
  - *Kathy Goodwin*
  - *Sally Greene*
  - *Jan Henault*
  - *April Hong-Schmauder*
  - *Susan Johnson*
  - *Anne Kirkman*
  - *Karen McGuire*
  - *Lauri McLeland*
  - *Nadine Minor*
  - *Donna Reynolds*
  - *Susan Richards*
  - *Joanane Rossetti*
  - *Joanne Salvucci*
  - *Joanna Schomberg*
  - *Sheriann Scuzzarella*
  - *Dave Sutherland*
  - *Jean Wolf*

Dr. Bergen added that it was a tough year to be your last year. She said don't forget how much you have mattered your entire career. The students will always remember how you made them feel about themselves.

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

All committee members thanked the retirees.

**III. Discussion/Action Items**

**A. Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Adoption**

I recommend adoption of the following policies 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

Motion: Ms. Scofield; Second: Ms. Spencer

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

Motion Carries 7-0

**B. Policy Elimination**

I recommend elimination of Policy GBAC - Policy for Conditions for Employment as discussed.

Mr. Giguere said this policy is no longer contained in the online manual provided by the MASC and is limited in scope. There is a subsequent policy GBAD - Criminal Record Information Policy and GBADA - Fingerprint Based Criminal History Record Policy. Both provide a more comprehensive approach to how future and current employees are vetted.

Motion: Ms. Scofield; Second: Ms. Spencer

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

Motion Carries 7-0

**IV. Discussion Only Items**

**A. Reopening School Status Update – May 21, 2020-2021**

Dr. Ahern said Franklin and Massachusetts continue to see a decline in cases and percent positivity rates. There is a decrease in schools as well and the number of students and staff who need to quarantine. Pool testing will be suspended during standardized testing due to logistic complications and will resume when testing ends.

Dr. Ahern said we are adapting to new guidance from the state and the policy committee met last week about the new guidance. This includes the outdoor mask requirement being lifted. Masks are still required indoors and on school buses. Cleaning practices/cleaning of materials will stay the same.

Dr. Ahern said the Reopening Monitoring Team met for the last time this year. They have been acknowledging wow moments and sharing highlights across the group. Also, appreciation for digital learning staff, the creativity of the performing arts staff, and the nursing staff. Members of this team are acknowledged at the end of the Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Ahern said right now there is not a tremendous sense of what fall will look like. The DOE has not issued much on this yet. If the trend continues, there will be a decrease in restrictions, full in-person learning with some distance like three feet. Extended school year summer programming, Solutions, and any summer school programs are considered to be under this year's current guidance per the DOE.

Dr. Ahern said there is interest among families for a vaccine clinic. She said they are in the process of trying to put together for about 200 people who are interested.

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

Ms. Spencer appreciates the activity on the vaccination clinic and asked if it could happen before the end of school?

Dr. Ahern replied that it can be pulled together quickly but there is not a firm date set.

**V. Information Matters**

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



- 1. Budget** - Public hearing conducted by Town Council is 5/26/21 and 5/27/21 at 7pm. The school budget will be voted on.
- 2. Community Relations** - The budget flyers and large posters are complete thanks to Anne Marie Tracey. There will be posters at the senior center and library. Flyers will be at the municipal building.
- 3. Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation** - meeting scheduled for 6/1/21.
- 4. Policy** - next meeting 6/17/21.

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

**1. Joint PCC** - met on 5/25/21. They discussed end of year celebrations and a reminder that the PCC's have open positions.

**2. Substance Abuse Task Force** - Mr. Giguere said the community forum was last night, 5/24/21. Dr. Bergen; Mrs. Marano; Jennifer Knight, executive director from SAFE Coalition; Joanna Cyr, Director from YOU, Inc.; Tanya Snyder, Clinical Supervisor from William James College. He talked about sustained support, how everyone spoke that they stick with people.

The last meeting was held 5/25/21. There was an overview of what was accomplished this year and what they plan to do next year, Broken down into tiered support - tier one; all kids and community members including another larger panel in the fall. Also, vaping diversion to educate all kids. For tier two - responding to students who have substance use issues, there will be vaping cessation and how the response is to these issues. Also, the partnership with YOU, Inc. for treatment for students who have substance use issues.

Ms. Spencer asked if there will be any upcoming surveys for families and teens? Dr. Ahern said there will be a survey in the fall.

**3. School Wellness Advisory Council** - met on 5/18/21 to summarize work and look ahead. She said compared to other district's SWAC's, Franklin's expectations and programs are advanced. The continued focus on equity to ensure programs are implemented across all schools equitably. For example, the Backpack Program and School Breakfast Program. Anne Marie Tracey designed a new website, it is broken into 3 main areas - Mental Health, Physical Activity, and Nutrition. It can be accessed under Franklins.net>Assistant Superintendent> SWAC.

- Dr. Bergen noted that 7/27/21 will be the annual workshop for fall planning instead of the regularly scheduled meeting. It will be in the training room from 4pm-8pm.

**VI. New Business**

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

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- Davis Thayer school highlight
- Dr. Ahern and Anne Marie Tracey will be presenting information from the district related to communication and efforts around that goal for this year.

**VII. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes for your May 11, 2021 meeting as detailed.

**B. Transfers**

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

**C. Scholarship**

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

**D. JFK Gift**

I recommend acceptance of 2 checks totaling \$3,590.44 from the JFK PCC as detailed:

\$1,070.80 - Supplemental Supplies

\$2,519.64 - Supplemental Supplies

**E. Districtwide Gift**

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$5,000.00 from the Norfolk County District Attorney for in-house enrichment as detailed.

**F. JFK Donation**

I recommend acceptance of the donation of Table Talk Pies, valued at \$63.00 for the JFK 4th graders as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

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

Motion Carries 7-0

**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)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation

for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

B. 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-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Yes; Ms.

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

Motion Carries 7-0

## **XI. Adjournment at 8:07pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 5-25-21

Retiree List.pdf

Discussion Action A - Policy 2nd Reads.pdf

Discussion Action B - Policy Elimination.pdf

CORI Form - Version 05-19-2021.pdf

GBAD - Criminal Record Information Policy.pdf

GBAD-E1 - Criminal Record Information Procedures.pdf

GBADA - Fingerprint-based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes.PDF

GBADA – E - FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION (CHRI) CHECKS MADE FOR NON-CRIMINAL JUSTICE PURPOSES.PDF

Reopening Schools Status Update May 21 2020-21.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf

Consent Action C - Scholarship.pdf

Consent Action D - JFK Gift.pdf

Consent Action E - Districtwide Gift.pdf

Consent Action F - JFK Donation.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2123 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2123.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign Off 052521.pdf

SC Warrant 050621.pdf

SC Warrant 051321.pdf

SC Warrant 050621.xlsx

SC Warrant 051321.xlsx

Executive Session Minutes 5-11-2021.pdf

Pledge Student.pdf