

Franklin School Committee
May 9, 2023
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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□ 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:

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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 not returning to open meeting.

Mr. Giguere said they would be returning to open meeting.

Ms. Spencer replied that it is not on the agenda.

Mr. Giguere said the committee can choose to modify the agenda or it can be put on the next agenda.

There was a vote taken to return to open session from executive session.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 7-0

In attendance was: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes

Also in attendance was: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Tina Rogers

Pledge of Allegiance

We proudly introduce TJ Bowser as tonight's Keller Kid who will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. TJ is a fourth grader at Keller in Mrs. Paulhus' class. TJ demonstrates Keller's core values in many ways. TJ cares for others by always greeting them with a smile. TJ is respectful of his peers and teachers. TJ is intelligent. He enjoys learning and takes his role as a learner seriously. When asked, TJ believes the core value of respect is most important. He elaborated by saying we must always respect others and their choices.

TJ loves science, sharks, reading, and writing. He enjoys doing science experiments, learning about sharks, reading the Diary of a Wimpy Kid books, and is co-authoring a chapter book with a peer. Outside of school, TJ plays soccer. He also enjoys playing outside and swimming. Together with his parents, we are so proud of him!

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

Mr. Ahan Shetty said AP testing is currently underway at FHS. He added that the seniors have their last full week of academics next week with finals the following week.

He said Spirit Week is next week with a different theme each day.

He said the Music Department is holding a Pop Night concert on 5/10/23.

He said congratulations to Katie Peterson and Luke Sidwell for being named FHS Hockomock League Scholar Athletes. He noted that all spring sports are having good seasons.

He said the Class of 2024 had a successful prom on 5/5/23 and the Class of 2023 graduation is on 6/2/23.

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

Mr. Charles said he enjoyed Science Night and the students did a great job.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere said over 120 students volunteered for Science Night.

Mr. Giguere highlighted the Jazz Band who was in attendance. He said they earned the superior rating at the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators State Final. He said the band recently performed at the Hatch Shell in Boston as well. Each of the students and their Director, Leighanne Rudsit, introduced themselves to the committee.

Mr. Charles noted how far students could go if they started in music younger. All the committee members commended the group on their hard work.

Mr. Giguere said the Hockomock YMCA has nominated the Franklin Public Schools Food Service Team for the Bernon Family Red Triangle Award.

Mr. Giguere shared an update to the K-5 Literacy Review that has been ongoing. He said that committee has recommended Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Reading.

He said 5/5/23 was a PD Day where the K-5 teachers participated in a Into Reading workshop.

He added that ECDC completed their curriculum review and pilot and recommended Pre-K On My Way.

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

Mr. Callaghan said he is enjoying the showcase of student highlights.

Ms. Bernstein noted that the Middle School Franklin Footlighters show Beauty and the Beast Junior is upcoming this weekend.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Keller Highlights - Mr. Eric Stark, Ms. Kerri Busavage, Ms. Maegan Sanko

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

Mr. Stark said during the presentation they would speak on their administrative team structure, growing their community, and building their multi-tiered system of support to help support students.

Ms. Busavage spoke about growing the Keller community, making connections and student relationships such as Community Circles and Love Keller Days.

Mr. Stark spoke about engaging with families. He spoke about restructuring Back to School Night which included students and honoring Veterans.

He said they also redesigned the system for field trip chaperones and holiday giving.

Ms. Sanko spoke about staff leadership and events such as collecting food for the Franklin Food Pantry.

Mr. Stark spoke about Keller's MTTs with a base of culture, equity, and universal design.

Ms. Busavage and Ms. Sanko spoke about the drivers for the MTTs model such as weekly meetings, collaboration between teachers, and curriculum specialists.

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

Ms. Bernstein asked about the cycles that were referenced and how long they last for?

Ms. Busavage said they would last about 5-6 weeks and some could be longer.

Ms. Bernstein asked what the biggest challenges at Keller in terms of space and utilization?

Mr. Stark replied that the challenges right now are to maintain everything they have and to continue to communicate their needs. He said it is hard for those in the community to understand all of their choices and said the school committee can show support by continuing to ask questions and visit Keller.

Mr. Callaghan noted the hard work of the administration and the strong student empowerment.

Mr. Charles asked what the student's feedback is for the classroom pairings?

Ms. Busavage said that they love it and look forward to it.

Mr. Charles asked about their plans to thoughtfully use space in the building?

Mr. Stark noted an earlier answer to Ms. Bernstein's question and said that his answer alluded more to spirit of trying to think through decisions that may be harder for some to understand.

Mr. McNeil asked how the transition of the former Davis Thayer students has been and integrated the core values and systems presented tonight?

Mr. Stark replied that he believes the transition has gone well for those DT kids with some bumps along the way. He said they work to build a community with kids who have transitioned from many places.

Ms. Stokes asked the group why they chose the Brene Brown book?

Mr. Stark replied that his leadership style is influenced by Brene Brown.

B. DIP Update - Mrs. Paula Marano; Dr. Tina Rogers

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

Mrs. Marano reviewed the update schedule with tonight's presentation being Objective 1: Support the Social-Emotional Well-being of Students and Staff.

She shared the purpose of this objective.

She said there are three strategic initiatives under this objective. She shared the strategic objective, progress to date, and next steps that will be taken.

She spoke about advisory. She said the advisory model was rolled out to all HS and MS staff in the Fall of 2023. She shared a typical week of advisory at the middle school.

Mrs. Marano shared a timeline of the Panorama rollout and explained what it does and how the dashboard works.

Mr. Giguere said a threshold can also be set in Panorama.

Mrs. Marano noted some of the highlights of the panorama dashboard like the application of filters.

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

Ms. Bernstein said she wanted them to be mindful of teachers taking time away from the student to enter data. Mrs. Marano replied that this is why it is not available to everyone just yet as they work to figure out how the data will be updated.

She asked how the tool can be leveraged to keep parents informed?

Dr. Rogers replied that this will give them the whole child picture and they have been thoughtful of who would be involved.

Ms. Bernstein asked about securing the data?

Mrs. Marano said this is the first step taken when they begin using any new system.

Mr. Callaghan asked what happens to a student's data once they graduate?

Mr. Giguere replied that immediately it turns inactive but stays within the system and is archived.

Mr. Callaghan asked how Panormana houses the information?

Mr. Giguere said he will come back with that information for the committee.

Mr. Callaghan asked if there will still be signs of suicide screeners moving forward as he believes the funds are set to expire?

Mrs. Marano said that there are earmarks for mental health support.

Mrs. Goodman replied there was funding for two years for the screenings and that funding is set to expire at the end of June. She said they have applied for additional funding. They have not been told yet if this has been funded.

Mr. Charles asked if they have seen any benefits from the DESSA screenings?

Mrs. Marano replied yes that some schools have been using it for 2 years but some have been using it for longer periods of time. She said they are utilizing all the data.

Mr. McNeill asked about the process for using the data to change a students behavior plan?

Mrs. Marano replied being able to look at the whole child and adapt as needed.

Mr. McNeill asked what support they anticipate will still be needed for students' social and emotional needs coming out of the pandemic?

Mrs. Marano said to hopefully increase their middle school counselors, also additional counselors at each level. She said mental health is a community problem, not just a school problem. She noted the need to keep students busy after school.

Ms. Stokes said she enjoyed this presentation.

Ms. Whitmore asked if the data on Panorama is encrypted?

Mr. Giguere replied that all systems they used for student data, the company has to sign an agreement that they will house the data and not share it.

Ms. Whitmore asked how they are finding the user interface to be working?

Dr. Rogers replied they are working to make it more seamless.

Ms. Spencer asked if they can add some of this terminology on the Eduspeak glossary?

Mrs. Marano said yes.

Ms. Spencer asked how they use strategic objective #1 to support the staff?
Mrs. Marano said they try to take care of the principals so the principals can take care of the staff. She said the principals are doing a great job.
Mr. Giguere also replied they try to be as thoughtful as possible with initiatives. He said they try to be realistic with timelines.
Dr. Rogers also replied that they have room to grow but noted the professional development opportunities within the district.
Ms. Spencer noted that Mr. Callaghan highlighted they will be losing their funding for the suicide screening. She said they need to find the funding for this.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. BICO Board Appointment 23-24

I recommend approval of the appointment of Lucas Giguere as the BICO Board representative for Franklin Public Schools for the 2023-24 school year.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

B. ACCEPT Board Appointment 23-24

I recommend approval of the appointment of Lucas Giguere as the ACCEPT Board representative for Franklin Public Schools for the 2023-24 school year.

Ms. Stokes recused herself from this vote.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Ms. Whitmore

Approve: 6 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 recusal

C. Redistricting Vote

I recommend approval of the redistricting recommendation as detailed in the Redistricting Analysis Report.

Mr. Giguere reminded the committee that the presentation was on 4/25/23.

Ms. Spencer asked for a motion.

Mr. Charles made a motion.

Ms. Spencer asked for a second, there was not a second.

Mr. Callaghan initiated a discussion but Ms. Spencer said there could not be a discussion without having a second.

Mr. Callaghan seconded the motion.

Mr. Callaghan said they have recently gone on tours of the schools and noted problems all the schools are experiencing and possibly for the community to focus on a long term plan. He noted Jefferson's classrooms for specialized programs and older module buildings at Kennedy. He said while Option 2 does solve one problem, there are still others that need to be addressed.

Mr. Charles asked Mr. Giguere if the modules at Kennedy were counted towards capacity?

Mr. Giguere replied that the modules were not counted. He said the spaces are being used for a music class, health units, and related services

Mr. Charles spoke of the importance of why they need to redistrict now and to take action before there is a crisis.

Mr. McNeill said he would like a Master Facilities Plan done first so they can be strategic in their long term vision.

Ms. Stokes said she would also like a Master Facilities Plan for a bigger picture.

Ms. Whitmore said she is also in favor of a Master Facilities Plan.

Ms. Bernstein said she continues to be disturbed about how the Keller space is utilized. She would like the teacher's voices to be heard and included more. She said she heard from families that they understand redistricting may have to happen at some point. She said a compelling argument heard is that these students have been through so many changes and disruptions. She also noted the budget issues right now. She also believes a Master Facilities Plan will help to better access the situation.

Mr. Callaghan made an amendment to the motion to move forward with Option 1, keeping boundary lines as they are, and look at long term goals and solutions across the district.

Ms. Spencer asked if there was a second. Ms. Bernstein seconded the motion.

Ms. Stokes asked if this takes Option 2 and 3 off the table?

Ms. Spencer said yes and Mr. Callaghan confirmed boundary lines would remain how they are currently.

Ms. Spencer said there would be a vote on the amendment.

Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Ms. Bernstein

Approve: 6 Oppose: 1

Motion Carries 6-1

Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to approve the redistricting recommendation as detailed, and the redistricting analysis report as amended.

Ms. Stokes made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McNeill.

Mr. Charles said his assumption regardless of redistricting or not, they would be doing a master facilities plan. He looked for confirmation that they are keeping everything as is.

Ms. Spencer asked Mr. Giguere if the schools are part of the Town Master Facilities Plan?

Mr. Giguere replied in the report it says the schools will be responsible to work with the town to conduct a school master facilities plan but needs to tie into the larger picture. He said in any scenario a Master Plan was going to happen.

Ms. Bernstein asked if this precludes any other conversations about being creative with Keller?

Mr. Giguere replied said he would be cautious around any new suggestions at this point. He said the committee members can take up Mr. Stark's office to tour Keller.

Ms. Stokes noted the bandwidth of Central Office and not having to conduct a Master Facilities Plan while redistricting is helpful.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 6 Oppose: 1

Motion Carries 6-1

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. Interim School Business Administrator

Recommend an Interim School Business Administrator position for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and continuation of a comprehensive search process for a permanent position during the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Giguere said they posted this position twice and had seven applicants but there wasn't a selection made.

Mr. Giguere said there will be a public open session and interview process.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - will be reviewing the evidence at the 5/23/23 meeting.
2. **Budget** - met 5/2/23. Will present to the town finance committee on 5/10/23.
3. **Policy** - next meeting 5/16/23
4. **Community Relations** - N/A
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - Mr. Charles asked what next steps will be for this committee? Mr. Giguere said they vote to dissolve the Redistricting Advisory Committee and may be helpful to move forward with a subcommittee like this to assist with a Master Facilities Plan.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. **Joint PCC** - next meeting 5/15/23
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - met last week; next meeting 6/6/23
3. **SE PAC** - hosting a workshop on 5/11/23. Has been meeting monthly with the district special education administrators.
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - met on 5/9/23. Will be at the town health fair on 5/24/23. Next Critical Conversations planned for 5/2024. Critical Conversations was last week and was a successful event.
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - next meeting 5/17/23

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the April 25, 2023 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. Keller Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$395.43 from O'Connor Portraiture for supplemental supplies at Keller Elementary School as detailed.

C. Overseas Account

I recommend approval of the Overseas Trip Fundraising Account within the Student Activity Fund at Franklin High School.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

VII. Good of the Order

Mr. Callaghan said he would like to discuss the norms and procedures at a future meeting.

VIII. Citizen's Comments - there was none

IX. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 5/23/23 meeting:

- District Improvement Plan
- Annie Sullivan Highlights
- Staff Retirees

X. At 9:17pm, Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn and 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 ESP/LPN, unit 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. 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

Motion Carries 7-0

XI. At 9:25pm, Ms. Spencer called the meeting back to order.

XII. Mr. Giguere said they reached an agreement to ratify the 2023 - 2026 ESP/LPN contract and a vote is needed to ratify the contract. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion and a second.

Ms. Stokes made a motion to ratify ESP/LPN 2023-2026 Contract; Second: Mr. McNeill

Roll Call Vote: 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

Motion Carries 7-0

X. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Roll Call Vote: 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

Motion Carries 7-0

XI. Adjournment at 9:26pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAGENDA 5-9-23.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2322 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2322.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign Off 050923.pdf

SC Warrant 042023.pdf

SC Warrant 042723.pdf

Keller School May 9 School Committee Presentation.pdf

SC 5_9_23 Strategic Objective 1-1.pdf

Discussion Action A - BICO Board Appointment.pdf

Discussion Action B - ACCEPT Board Appointment.pdf

Discussion Action C - Redistricting Vote.pdf

Consent Action A - April 25, 2023 School Committee Minutes - DRAFT.pdf

Consent Action B - Keller Gift.pdf

Consent Action C - Overseas Account.pdf