

Franklin School Committee
November 14, 2023
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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Any individual who also wishes to record this meeting must notify the Chair*

□ Vision Statement □

The Franklin Public Schools will foster within its students the knowledge and skills to find and achieve satisfaction in life as productive global citizens.

Members of the public are now welcome to attend committee meetings in person. Additionally, in an effort to ensure citizen engagement, citizens will be able to continue to view the public meeting using Zoom. We will use the Zoom Webinar feature. You may view the meeting with the link or phone numbers below. Participants wishing to speak during the Citizen’s Comments portion of the agenda will be able to raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair. The webinar host will invite the attendee to unmute for comment.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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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.”

At 7:00pm, Mr. Giguere called the meeting to order.

In attendance was: Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Ms. Erin Ford Gallagher-Yes; Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Ruthann O’Sullivan-Yes; Mr. KP Sompally-Yes

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Franklin High School

Julia Atwood, Grace Tucceri - *not present*, Darby Nicholson, Noah Gorgas, Kerrie Lotin

The Franklin High School Student Government Officers Peer Leaders are compassionate and responsible students who choose to lead our students. They have been instrumental in getting our school year off on the right foot! They began the year celebrating the 155th year of a public high school opening their doors in Franklin MA with great success. Every day they organize morning messages that are shared by students during our advisory periods. Our Homecoming celebration and dance was the most well attended dance in the last 4 years with fantastic feedback. We are looking forward to the work that they have put into our upcoming fall pep rally.

Julia, Grace, Darby, Noah, and Kerrie Madeline along with their classmates have set the successful tone that the beginning of this year has been. The climate of a school is directly connected with our Student Government Leaders. FHS is lucky to have a tremendous collection of students who are interested in making our school a better place every single day!

Moment of Silence

The Student Government officers spoke to the committee about what their group is working on this year.

Organizational Meeting:

Election of Chair

Mr. Giguere asked for a nomination of Chair.

Mr. Dave Callaghan was nominated as Chair by Mr. Dave McNeill, Mr. Charles seconded.

A vote was taken:

Motion: Mr. McNeill

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

Election of Vice Chair

Mr. Callaghan asked for a nomination for Vice Chair.

Mr. Charles nominated Mr. McNeill. The nomination was seconded by Ms. O'Sullivan.

A vote was taken:

Motion: Mr. Charles; Second: Ms. O'Sullivan

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

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 that Legally Blonde performances will be held Nov 17-19. He said that the Student Government has organized a Spirit Week starting on 11/15/23 and ending with the Pep Rally next Tuesday. Finally, he said the FHS band concert is on 12/5/23 and the chorus/orchestra concert is on 12/7/23.

Mr. Siddharth Chandra noted that fall sports are in their final weeks and winter sports registration is open until 11/19/23. Tryouts for winter sports start immediately after Thanksgiving break.

He noted that Field Hockey and Volleyball are both competing in the semi-finals on 11/15/23 and congratulated the cheer team who came in first at the MSAA South Regional Championship. He said boys and girl's soccer seasons have ended after quarter final losses.

He said that the FHS football team is playing at Fenway Park on Tuesday 11/21/23 at 7:30pm.

He said the Class of 2024 Senior Banquet will be held on 4/5/24 and graduation will be on 5/31/23.

He said a lot of students have completed their early action college applications. He added that the Class of 2025 Calendar Fundraiser will end on 11/30/23 and students who sell more than 10 calendars will get a free prom ticket.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere said there was a full day of PD on 11/7/23.

Mr. Giguere said that he, Mr. Charles, and Ms. Ford Gallagher recently attended the MASC MASS Joint Conference.

Mr. Giguere also shared a newcomer update. He said there will be 56 School Age children by the end of the week across all levels. He said funding was recently approved and they will be provided \$104 per student/per day. He said they

continue to work with other town departments and other organizations to help support the Franklin newcomers.

Mr. Giguere also shared an inclement weather update. He said he will be sending out an inclement weather informational email soon. It will also be posted on the FPS website as well.

He added that Franklin High School will be playing their annual Thanksgiving football game at Fenway Park on 11/21/23.

Finally, he noted there will not be another meeting before Thanksgiving so he thanked all FPS staff for all they do.

Mr. Callaghan asked the committee for any questions/comments from the committee?

Mr. Charles asked if they were at capacity with the Franklin newcomers? Mrs. Marano said it is a rolling admission. She said as some students find permanent housing, new ones will come in.

Mr. Callaghan asked if the 104 per day/per pupil will be adjusted as numbers fluctuate?

Mrs. Marano said it would be adjusted if need be.

Mr. Giguere said they are adjusting how they communicate regarding the migrants and are no longer using the word. He said they were following the state vernacular as it had been presented to them but that the state has also updated their terminology.

Mrs. Marano said they are using the term new arrivals

II. Guests/Presentations

A. FHS Highlights - Mr Josh Hanna; Ms. Jennifer Santosuosso; Ms. Cathy Klein

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

Mr. Hanna shared some photos from a day at the high school as he visited classrooms.

Ms. Santosuosso presented on Clubs and Activities. She said they offer over 70

clubs/extracurricular activities. She spoke about the club fair they recently held in September.

Ms. Klein presented on sports at FHS. She noted that this fall alone had 462 students participating. She noted all the team's accomplishments this fall.

Ms. Santosuosso spoke about the Metrowest Health Survey the students took last week on 11/9/23. She also spoke about the JED foundation Survey which will be on 12/15/23.

Mr. Hanna spoke about student life and how FHS was recently recognized for having the best fan group at any game.

Mr. Callaghan asked the committee for any questions/comments from the committee?

Ms. Ford Gallagher asked when the Metrowest Health Survey results will be available and if there are any plans for neighborhood district collaborations?

Mr. Hanna replied that results are in the spring. He also noted the adjustments they make as a district.

Mr. Charles asked if there any public opportunities for the students to show what they have been doing or learning?

Mr. Hanna replied that there is a Science Night each spring.

Ms. Klein replied there is a Senior Project Night Showcase each year.

Ms. Santosuosso added that 2/12/24 is Panther Pride Night for any incoming 8th grade families.

Mr. Charles referenced the Dalton Award for sports and asked how they can expand on something like that for academics/clubs before students get to high school?

Mr. Hanna said it would be ideal to have some of the successful clubs offered at the elementary school and middle school level. He said they can continue to look for ways to connect students from the high school with students at other levels.

Mr. McNeill asked Ms. Santosuosso if all the clubs are participating in a food drive?

Ms. Santosuosso replied that about half of the clubs have volunteered to participate.

Mr. McNeill asked Ms. Santosuoso if there is a club she would like to highlight that may not get a lot of attention?

Ms. Santosuoso replied Active Minds, a club that promotes mental health awareness.

Dr. Griffith asked what is an optimal level of engagement?

Mr. Hanna noted that there are a lot of data points that can be examined and surveys administered.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if the club fair can be open to middle school students to engage them for high school?

Ms. Klein replied that that is what Panther Pride night cover among other things, like sports and academics.

Mr. Sompally asked if the number of students in sports is higher now or before Covid?

Ms. Klein replied that she would need to ask the athletic director.

Mr. Callaghan noted community engagement, the school committee support of the work on the JED Foundation and thanked the administrators for all of their support of the students at games and events.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Policy 2nd Reading/Adoption

I recommend adoption of the following policies as discussed:

HA – Negotiations Goals

HB – Negotiations Legal Status

HF – SC Negotiating Agents

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

B. Boys Varsity Lacrosse Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Lou Verrochi, Chris Baker & Kevin McCarthy to take the Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team to Long Island, NY on April 15-17, 2024 to participate in 3 Lacrosse Games as detailed.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. BICO Quarterly Report

Mr. Giguere said they are part of two collaboratives, the Bi-County Collaborative and the ACCEPT Collaborative. He said he shares the quarterly reports that are provided to them.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Superintendent Evaluation - N/A**
- 2. Budget - N/A**
- 3. Policy - N/A**
- 4. Community Relations - N/A**

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - met 11/13/23; discussed upcoming field trips, clothing drives, fundraising events. Next meeting 12/11/23
- 2. Comprehensive School Facilities Planning Committee** - Dr. Dutch said they sent out for RFI/quotes. Ms. O’Sullivan asked how they would obtain enrollment numbers? Mr. Callaghan said they reached out to McKibbon, who did their prior forecasting and Mr. Giguere said they shared the October 1st enrollment data with McKibbon as well.
Ms. Ford Gallagher said that she encourages this group to work with the Facilities Master Plan Committee.
- 3. School Wellness Advisory Council - N/A**
- 4. SEPAC** - 11/16/23 - Parent/Caregiver Meetup at Box Seats; 12/5/23 - SEPAC and SAFE Coalition hosting event.
- 5. Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - met 11/14/23; next meeting 12/12/23
- 6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - 11/30/23

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting as detailed.

This vote was taken separately due to only three committee members being present at the 10/24/23 meeting.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 3 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 4

Motion Carries 3-0-4

B. Parmenter Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3571.70 from the Parmenter PCC for field trips as detailed.

C. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1640.00 from Music Parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.

D. Keller Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3499.10 from the Keller PCC for field trips as detailed.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

VII. Good of the Order

Ms. Ford Gallagher noted trying to explore grants as a committee.
Mr. Charles gave an overview of local governments roles and responsibilities.
Mr. McNeill welcomed the new committee members.
Dr. Griffith thanked the committee and Mr. Giguere for a warm welcome.
Ms. O'Sullivan spoke about the school's budget.
Mr. Sompally spoke about his role in advocating for the students of Franklin.

VIII. Citizen's Comments

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 13 Magnolia Drive, Franklin; Franklin Matters
Mr. Sherlock thanked all the members for stepping up to serve on the school committee.
He also noted that there could be changes coming to the charter and school committee should advocate for a nine member committee.

Ms. Rachel Plukas, 37 Anchorage Road, Franklin

Ms. Plukas noted that this meeting and past meetings at school committee and town council are falling into a habit of focusing on the high school instead of FPS as a whole.

IX. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 11/28/23 meeting:

- Student Assessment Presentation from the Office of Teaching and Learning
- Remington Middle School Presentation
- Subcommittee designations

X. Mr. Callghan asked for an adjournment to end the meeting.

Motion: Mr. McNeill; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

XI. Adjournment at 8:23pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 11-14-23
Payroll Warrant #2409.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2409 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2410 Final.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2410 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2410M Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2410M.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off 111423.pdf
SC Warrant 101923.pdf
SC Warrant 102623.pdf
SC Warrant 110223.pdf
School Highlights Presentation - 11_14_23.pdf
Discussion Action A - Policy 2nd Read-Adoption.pdf
Discussion Action B - Lacrosse Trip.pdf
BICO Quarterly Report - September, 2023.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Parmenter Gift.pdf
Consent Action C - Music Gift.pdf
Consent Action D - Keller Gift.pdf
FHS Pledge Student 11_14_23.pdf
Budget to Actual.pdf