

**Franklin School Committee  
Minutes  
November 27, 2018  
Municipal Building – Council Chambers**

*Meeting are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29*

Chris Sterns of Franklin TV was present  
A reporter was present from the Milford Daily News

**Call to order:** 7:00 pm

Dr. Bergen

**Attendance:** Present were - Mrs. Dianne Feeley; Mrs. Cindy Douglas, Mrs. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Dr. Monica Linden; Mrs. Denise Schultz; Ms. Virginia Zub; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards. There were no student representatives present.

**Pledge of Allegiance -**

Sean Kryzak (CRY-ZAK) is a fifth grader at Davis Thayer.

His teachers report that Sean is a kind and engaged student. Sean always makes it a point to greet staff in the hallways, often asking how they are and wishing them a great day. Sean enjoys history, especially learning about Aztec and Mayan civilizations. Outside of school, Sean plays hockey and baseball. When asked what he's most proud of he says that he practices hard and is proud of the improvements that come with hard work. Sean also loves animals - most importantly his dog Riley, a German Shepard Poodle mix.

Sean would love to perhaps play hockey at UMASS someday and wants to play a major league sport when he's older. Davis Thayer Elementary is proud to have Sean as a student and appreciates his kindness, hard work, and engagement.

**Moment of Silence**

1. Routine Business
  - a. Review of Agenda - Looks fine
  - b. Citizen's Comments

i. In the spirit of open communication, “the School Committee will hear public comment 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” – from Policy BEDH

Mrs. Grady – FEF President. In 2013 a budget review commission was formed and found to be unfair and inequitable. Recommendations were never instituted. There is now a debt share on the ballot. We want the School Committee to move forward with those recommendations. It would be over \$1.6 million more. In the schools that would be 50 additional ESPs. We are here to ask to adopt this resolution. Dr. Bergen, I would like to prevent a faux check for what the FPS is owed.

Thank you.

Dr. Bergen – We will take this under advisement.

**c. FHS Student Representative Comments - none were present**

**d. Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Ahern – I would like to thank everyone who attended the Well Balanced Student seminar. We sent out a link about this to the entire faculty. I wanted to remind that the grades 9 – 12 screening will be at Franklin High School on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

There are a number of educators presenting at LDSO which stands for Local Staff Development Opportunities. This will run regionally from January to March.

We have:

Charles Fidler – FHS Science teacher  
Dawn-Marie Fernandes – FHS ELD Teacher  
Jennifer Violet and Yen Young – FHS Math Specialists  
Jennifer Violet and Beth Murray – FHS Math Specialists and Davis Thayer  
Jennifer Violet and Jamie Hulbig – FHS Math Specialists  
Erin O’Leary – Reading Specialist at HMMS  
Carolann Tebbetts – Art Director K-12

We are really proud of these educators.

I want to recognize that many performing arts groups will be performing this next couple of months at different schools.

I attending the first cultural district meeting and we will hear from the formal Council in 2019. The group is very exciting and they do a lot for the Franklin community.

Lastly, I have a picture to show you. This is from the concession stand and it was put up on display for the Thanksgiving football game. The awnings are up and the sign is on the side with all the sponsors.

That concludes my report.

Dr. Bergen – Any questions?

## **2. Guests/Presentations**

### **a. MCAS Presentation - Dr. Joyce Edwards**

Dr. Edwards – MCAS time and the results came in from the spring testing. We have done some analysis at the school level. I wanted to start with a brief history and talk about some new accountability measures the State has put in.

A brief history came from the No Child Left Behind Act and this spring the new MCAS 2.0 is the second year for students. Science was administered by computer this year. The two sets of tests are very different with the new one measuring different kinds of knowledge and making differences. Also in grades 3 -8 we have accountability dates by the State using the MCAS 2.0 measure. They are giving this year as a baseline year and we look ahead to an upward trajectory over the next few years.

When we look at FHS, the students took the 10<sup>th</sup> grade math, which was the same test. FHS will be taking the MCAS 2.0 this spring and will use computers.

The accountability is a complex formula and the State has taken a number of elements involved to get the results. The elements involve meeting targets

based on last year's data. If you meet the target, you get the points; if you miss, you get less points. These percentiles are assigned by school. Our district was assigned an overall rating. The schools are now being averaged to get this number this year.

Data from 2018 should not be compared to other years because there are new data indicators. The indicators that were added are achievement, and then we look at the legacy which has the CPI and that gives us the achievement result. Then next one is student growth. This is a mean calculation as in the past it was a median calculation. The last one is the ELL portion of the test and they should be meeting the target within six years. The last piece is for grades 3 – 8 are chronic absenteeism which counts towards our data. The subgroup piece is important and it is reported by the sub group for the lowest performing 25% are counted in this group and can be counted 2, 3 or more times.

At FHS the accountability indicators have six of them; ELA, Math and CPI, student growth, language proficiency, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced work.

Excused and unexcused absences are treated the same. The MCAS do not disseminate between the two and this proposed a problem with the calculation.

In terms of MCAS 2.0, there are several categories of recognition. There are schools that are high, the others are meeting targets, partially meeting targets, focused and targeted support and the last is broad for underperforming schools.

The districts accountability is 58% and we are meeting our target. We don't need any additional assistance from the State.

Would you like to stop on accountability and ask questions?

Dr. Bergen – Do we have the specific data on chronic absenteeism? It would be good for baseline.

Dr. Linden - What factors contributed to meeting targets and partially meeting targets?

Dr. Edwards – Good question, we need to look at the sub groups. Our participation is high. The achievement data is driven by sub group performance.

The MCAS 2.0 for grades 3 – 8, the ratings are exceeding expectations, meeting, partially and not meeting expectations.

The results are grades 3 – 5 the percentages that is in the meeting/exceeding are above the State. The scaled scores are the high-needs students were also included in this data and tells us that they do less well on standardized tests. We are 14% ahead of the State results. Five out of six showed improvement. We have work to do with the high-needs students to help them with MCAS. They make up 25% of the population.

#### Kennedy- School of Recognition

- Demonstrated high achievement and growth
- ELA and Math M+ increased 7%

#### Parmenter

- ELA M+ increased 10%, Math M+ increased 8%

#### Davis Thayer

- ELA M+ increased 1%, Math M+ increased by 10%

#### Jefferson

- Designated as needing targeted support - participation percentage
- ELA M+ increased 4%, Math M+ decreased 2%

#### Keller

- ELA M+ increased 3%, Math M+ decreased 12%

#### Oak

- ELA M+ decreased 1%, Math M+ decreased 12%

The middle schools need to look at some of the scores based on the numbers and data.

#### ASMS

- ELA M+ increased 1%, Math M+ increased 1%

#### HMMS

- ELA M+ increased 2%, Math M+ decreased 1%

#### RMS

- ELA M+ decreased 2%, Math M+ increased 3%

FHS – The results are quite good and they need to pass in order to graduate. Our students have done a nice job with that. We are above the State in ELA, math and science. We will analyze drop out data and attendance. We will look at those target goals from the State.

The next steps, MCAS is only one part of this. We have other ways to measure students and their progress for the Franklin public schools. In 2019, all of the students will take the computer-based tests and the high school will start the computer-based test as well.

I run an MCAS support group at each school to help the staff. We work through scheduling, putting students in groups, test codes and getting that all organized.

Dr. Bergen – Questions?

Mrs. Schultz - Thank you. So this is the third year our high needs students need improvement, how can we help them?

Dr. Edwards - I would say that it is hard to help them. This type of testing is hard for them and our results are not significant with the State. We could do more for struggling students. This goes to our district improvement plan with intervention and enrichment. There is a resource component to that. Our resources tend to be in the need of human resources instead of stuff.

Mrs. Schultz - It is stunning for me to see the numbers. How can we support you when we create a budget?

Dr. Linden - The needs expectations differ from the proficient, how will that impact the students ?

Dr. Edwards - The high school data will come out late because of the new process. With the legacy MCAS the threshold passing was lower from 3 -8, and in grade 10 it was higher. I don't know how the standards setting and ability to take retest and we will support them. There is a phase in process.

Dr. Linden - When I was looking at the data, was the difference between boys and girls on the ELA, was that the boys are underperforming than the girls,

why? Also that there are more students in sub groups that are boys with IEPs.

Dr. Edwards - Perhaps based on gender, there is a developmental component for the ELA and I asked PPS to let me know the percentage of boys on IEP's, there are 64% of boys on IEP's. That impacts the results.

Dr. Linden - We need to follow this trend and help the boys to succeed in ELA and stay on top of that.

Dr. Edwards - It was pre K through post grad. I wanted to see a quick snapshot.

Mrs. Schultz - It was across the board.

Dr. Edwards - There was a disparity in the high school but not much.

Mrs. Zub – As a grade 7 parent, it is interesting to see that data as they normalize.

Dr. Bergen - Someone made a point that we are helping special needs children in Franklin that the scores reflect that. The act of taking the test can be trying for them. Are you noticing the newer test amount of time it takes to administer the test?

Dr. Edwards - It changed in a limited way. The testing days are down to two. The tests are longer though, and take more time during the day. We manage the window to take the tests after April vacation. We test ELA prior to math and prior to science.

Dr. Bergen – Thank you.

### **3. Discussion / Action Items**

#### **a. Superintendent's Goals**

Dr. Ahern - I have proposed a professional practice goal and student goal. I will participate in the new Superintendent Coaching. The goal of the program is to work with the leadership team and work towards improvement.

As a result you will see that some of outcomes are tentative and we will do more planning.

In terms of the student goals, I want to look at SEL and how the students are doing. That would include establishing a baseline, looking at chronic absenteeism, and student engagement.

As I did last year, I looked at the rubric and want to align that with my goals. And use the proficient descriptors for the rating scale.

Dr. Ahern gave a brief description of what her role and goals will be during the next year

I recommend approval of the Superintendent's Goals as discussed.

Motion: Mrs Schultz  
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Douglas  
Oppose: 0

#### b. Policy – First Read

Mr. Giguere – This policy was developed to ensure that all stakeholders use electronic communications in a safe and responsible manner. This is for online and in person. We expect our employees not to disrupt education. There are six points to the policy. Employees should be aware not to represent the district in an unprofessional way. Employees may have a social media account for work. They should not be used for political, personal or religious beliefs. The employees should not friend, follow, like or similar methods with current students. Employees should not use personal social accounts during the day.

Ms. Scofield- Steve Sherlock sent an email regarding concerns, his question is who are the stakeholders? It is in the second paragraph. To me we thought it was clear but can we clarify that? We need to define stakeholders. This policy is for staff members. Another question was that Steve had, when parents take a picture in class, how do we handle that?

Dr. Linden - Is it in the student handbooks?

Dr. Ahern - That is a great question.

Ms. Scofield - They have to sign the permission slip to opt out. If I may, thank everyone for putting this together. It was a lot of work.

Dr. Linden - Can I add to Steve's comments, is the sharing of passwords. He was concerned with that. It is a worst case takes advantage that someone uses your password and could put information out there. The other thing, was the language, we are really mixing social media accounts.

Dr. Berge- That will go back to the policy sub committee.

Mrs. Feeley- On the expectations for use of social media, could health and wellness post anything about students?

Dr. Ahern – If they are posting educationally related, they can do that.

Mrs. Feeley - Do we need section 3B?

Dr. Ahern – We want to educate everyone on this and to maintain a separate account.

Mrs. Feeley – What if you have a family member?

Dr. Ahern – That is in the last paragraph.

Mrs. Feeley – The last thing, is lunch considered school time?

Dr. Ahern – The staff can use social media during lunch.

Mrs. Feeley – When this gets approved, when does this start?

Dr. Ahern –It would go into effect this year but have meetings about this with the staff.

I recommend moving Policy INJDD – Social Media Policy to a second reading as discussed.

The policy will not move forward at this time and will go under review by the committee.

c. Capital FY19 Approval

Dr. Ahern – this will be brought to FINCOM on December 6.

Mr. Giguere – there are seven requests:

1. New van for students with special needs
2. Replacing 500 chromebooks at FHS
3. Replacing teachers computers that are over 4 years old
4. Replacing 6 of our milk coolers, buy and not lease
5. Clear touch interactive displays for ECDC
6. Double stack combination oven
7. AESOP substitute software

Any questions?

Dr. Bergen – Questions?

Mrs. Goodman – If the committee would exchange the coolers with the oven so there is a better chance to get that.

Dr. Bergen – Sounds good.

Dr. Ahern – There were some facilities requests done from the buildings as well. Mike D'Angelo is taking those under facilities.

Ms. Scofield – In terms of the chromebooks and computers, the director has a spreadsheet, how many were replaced last year?

Dr. Ahern – We replaced fewer last year.

Ms. Scofield – What about the chromebooks?

Dr. Ahern – That was about the same.

I recommend approval of the FY19 Capital as discussed.

Motion: Mrs. Schultz

Second: Mrs. Douglas

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Approve: 7

Oppose: 0

#### 4. Discussion Only Items

a. FEA – Donna Grady, President - she spoke during Citizen's Comments

b. Class Size Information – FHS & Middle Schools

Dr. Ahern - The enrollment figures for the middle schools and FHS show there are some small class sizes with the special ed and there are some at the FHS with the higher level classes. We see equitable class size across the middle schools. You will see some larger class size in the other classes like Spanish, art, computers. At the FHS there are some classes that are larger but we will see a dip in that number over the next number of years.

#### 5. Information Matters

a. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Budget; Community Relations; Policy; Transportation; Public Schools Advocacy; Ad Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation) Proposed Timeframe 7:00 PM b. School Committee Liaison Reports (e.g. Joint PCC; Substance Abuse Task Force; School Wellness Advisory Council [SWAC]; School Start Times Advisory Committee [SSTAC], MASC)

**BUDGET** Dr Bergen - Met last Tuesday, November 13. Next meeting is December 18. Based on recent workshops, the committee will shift through what we received and relay information to the public. We want to focus on the public and the needs of the students.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS** Mrs. Zub - Next meeting is December 5 at 7:00 pm at the FHS library. This will be an open forum. The website has been updated.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY** Mrs. Schultz - Met tonight. We want to think fiscal budgets. MASC is putting together the legislative agenda.

**AD HOC** Dr. Bergen - no meeting

**POLICY** Mrs. Scofield - Next meeting is December 4 at 7:00. I will get in touch with Steve Sherlock for some information and new wording for the social media policy.

**JOINT PCC** - Dr. Bergen and Mrs. Douglas - Met November 26. Talked about the backpack project with the Food Pantry.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - Mrs. Douglas - Met on November 27. Working on substance abuse.

**SWAC** Mrs. Douglas - Next meeting will be January 8.

**SCHOOL START TIMES** Dr. Linden - Next meeting is December 18. We will be learning more about sleep habits, working on the communication plan, survey has gone out to parents and older students, and another one will go out to all students.

**TRANSPORTATION** Mrs. Douglas - Next meeting is December 3

6. New Business a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern - We will have a report card presentation and policies coming from the committee.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes of your November 13, 2018 School Committee meeting as detailed.

b. Music Department Surplus

I recommend the request of Diane Plouffe to declare the attached list of antiquated or broken music equipment as surplus.

c. Athletic Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$960.75 from All American Publishing for the FHS Athletic Dept. in-house enrichment as detailed.

d. FHS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$37.48 from Ohiopyle Prints for in-house enrichment at FHS as detailed.

e. Davis Thayer Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$968.32 from O'Connor Studios for inhouse enrichment at Davis Thayer as detailed.

f. FHS Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of a synthesizer/controller/workstation with powered speakers and a studio work table valued at approximately \$2,500.00 from Alan & Donna Adams for the Franklin High School as detailed.

g. Oak Street Gift

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$1,300.00 from the Oak St. PCC for field trips as detailed.

h. HMMS Music Dept. Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of a flute from Sharon Whalen for the HMMS Music Department.

i. RMS Trip

I recommend approval of the recurring request of the Remington Adventure Club to travel to Rock Spot in Lincoln, RI on December 13, 2018 as detailed

j. DECA Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Miguel Carmo to take the FHS DECA Club to Boston from March 7, 2019 to March 9, 2019 for the DECA State Competition as detailed.

Motion for all: Mrs. Douglas  
Approve:7

Second: Mrs. Zub  
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen

9. Payroll Mrs. Douglas

10. Correspondence

11. Executive Session

a. Strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

**Roll call vote: Dr. Bergen-yes; Mrs. Feeley-yes; Ms. Douglas-yes;  
Ms. Scofield-yes; Ms. Schultz-yes; Mrs. Linden-yes; Mrs. Zub-yes**

12. Adjournment 8:55 pm

Mrs. Zub made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Schultz.  
All were in favor.

**Adjourned by 8:55 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

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SCAgenda 11-27-18.pdf  
MCAS Presentation 2018.pdf  
Discussion ActionA-Supt.Goals.pdf  
Discussion ActionB-Policy.pdf  
Discussion ActionC-FY19Capital.pdf  
2018-2019 HMMS-class size.pdf  
2018-2019 RMS Class Size Report.pdf  
Class Sizes ASMS 2018 2019.pdf  
FHS Class Sizes 2018-2019 for School Committee.pdf  
Consent ActionA-Minutes.pdf  
Consent ActionB - Music Surplus.pdf  
Consent ActionC-Athletics gift.pdf  
Consent ActionD - FHS Gift.pdf  
Consent ActionE - DT Gift.pdf  
Consent ActionF - FHS Donation.pdf  
Consent ActionG - Oak Gift.pdf  
Consent ActionH - HMMS Flute Donation.pdf  
Consent ActionI - RMS Trip.pdf  
Consent ActionJ - DECA Trip.pdf  
FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf  
SCWarrant110818.pdf  
SCWarrant111518.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #1910 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #1910.pdf  
Pledge Student.pdf