

Franklin School Committee
October 12, 2021
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 and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to continue to access the public meeting using the Zoom link or phone numbers below:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83274894638?pwd=R29jOHl4cmhlRTNjY05mZE8wM0x4QT09>

Meeting ID: 832 7489 4638

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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.”

Dr. Bergen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She stated at the end of the meeting they will be adjourning to executive session and not returning.

Roll Call Attendance were: Ms. Jennifer D’Angelo-Yes; 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

Mr. Keenan was not present for the roll call vote.

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Mr. Nipun Goel; Mr. Ravin Chaudhury; Mr. Ryan Augusta

Pledge of Allegiance

Cooper Edson has been chosen by his teachers to recite the pledge of allegiance at tonight’s meeting. Cooper’s teachers find him to be a kind, compassionate young man who gets along with everyone. They are proud of Cooper’s hard work and how he represents himself, his family and Oak Street School both at school and beyond.

Cooper has a younger brother, Nathaniel, who is in third grade at Oak Street. Cooper enjoys studying history, playing video games and playing basketball, tennis and lacrosse. His favorite subjects are history and social studies. When he grows up, Cooper wants to be a historian or an engineer. Cooper shared that he thinks the best thing about Oak Street School is how people are always kind and welcoming.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine

B. 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

Ms. Lynne Leblanc - Skyline Drive

Ms. Leblanc said it's clear to her no one on the School Committee wants to make a plan or decision regarding masks and only wants to wait for DESE or the Board of Health's guidance. She said the grant money accepted at the expense of the children won't last forever. She said she moved to Franklin for the schools and at this point doesn't know if she will be sending her three year old.

C. FHS Student Representative Comments - Nipun Guel and Ravin Chaudhury

Nipun Goel said he is the Senior Class President. He said that Friday 10/15/21 is the senior prom with the theme being Garden Party. He said there will be over 450 attending including students and faculty and there is so much excitement surrounding it. He said it is a stressful time right now for seniors as coursework loads up and college applications begin. He added the FHS theater company will have their annual production of Cabaret on 10/21 and 10/22 with tickets available online and in person. He also spotlighted the DECA club which is a business club, he added there are over 250 members this year. He added there's a hopefulness to lift the mask mandate. Students are wearing masks and getting vaccinated. He added that the Football team has moved to 5 and 0 after beating Taunton last Friday. He added it was the Homecoming game complete with parade and floats. Finally, he extended his congratulations to junior Shaw Downing for being named Hockomock player of the week for Field Hockey.

Ravin Chaudhury said he is the Junior Class President. He said the Class of 2023 has begun planning for prom. He added that the Homecoming dance was on Thursday night with over 1000 people in attendance. It was sponsored by the Student Government so admission was free. He stated there will be a calendar fundraiser coming up in the next month. He said the PSAT test will be 10/16/21 from 7:30am-12pm. Students need a photo ID to get in and the confirmation email. Finally, he said the boys and girls soccer teams won their last games as well as the golf team. He said the Boy's Soccer Team volunteered this past Saturday with the Elijah Project in Providence. They helped over 1000 families with food and essentials.

Dr. Bergen thanked both students for their leadership.

Jackie Maciel, Elm Street came to the microphone to say she had a citizen comment but wasn't recognized earlier.

Dr. Bergen replied she hadn't noticed anyone else but that Ms. Maciel is certainly welcome to give a comment.

Ms. Maciel said she wanted to address some comments made by Ms. Spencer at the last meeting. She reminded the Committee of the recent lottery in MA for those vaccinated as well as a Vaccine clinic that recently came to Franklin. She stated that maybe efforts to vaccinate people have been exhausted. She said to forget the 80% and that Chapter 70 money is not needed since she found out that Chapter 70 money is \$30 per pupil and \$144,000 out of a budget of \$7.6 million. She said she bets a lot of people in town would give \$30 each so the School Committee could defy the Department of Education.

Mark Bisson, 39 Miller Street

Mr. Bisson asked if the current COVID Dashboard could include additional information like full recovery rates and close contact rate. He spoke at the last sub-committee meeting that the sub-committee stated they are not medical professionals but they are leaving it up to DESE but he said DESE is not medical professionals. He said the Department of Public Health's policy is currently no masks and we need to follow the science. He said it's the wrong approach to be dictated to by DESE.

Dr. Ahern asked Dr. Bergen if she could address some pieces of misinformation from citizen comments.

Dr. Ahern stated that for Chapter 70 the \$30 is not how much Franklin gets total from the state per pupil, it is an increment added to per pupil expense from the state. Mrs. Goodman added that the annual Chapter 70 aid is \$28.5 million and is 42% of the current budget.

Dr. Ahern also clarified that over 100 were not laid off. Those individuals received non-renewal notices and were then recalled back into the district.

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern said that construction is underway on the resurfacing of the ECDC playground which is a capital project from the last round of capital improvement. She extended her congratulations to FHS football coach Eian Bain who was named as New England Patriots Coach of the Week. The award and \$1000 is made possible from the Kraft family/Patriots Charitable Foundation.

She shared that there is anticipation for the middle school's to have visiting author Ayesha Syed. She is an author of several young adult novels. She is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books. She will be presenting to the middle school virtually in November. This is sponsored by the middle school PCC's and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Dr. Ahern said due to disruptions in the supply chain for the food services program, the school nutrition program is having trouble securing items. This is a problem across the state and nation as well. The food services department is working hard to make adjustments as needed.

Finally, she added that the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey will be administered this fall to middle schoolers and high schoolers. The survey did not occur in 2020 due to COVID disruption. Families can opt out of the survey. There will be survey results after several months.

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

Ms. D'Angelo asked Mrs. Goodman to share the per pupil expenditure at some point in the future.

Ms. Stokes wondered if she should ask a question now about ESSER or later?

Dr. Ahern replied to ask this question in the Back to School Status Update section.

Dr. Bergen asked about TikTok and community awareness?

Dr. Ahern replied that Mr. Giguere has recently sent a message home to families regarding this but not limited to TikTok. She said they urge parents and guardians to monitor their students' online use.

Mr. Giguere spoke about the shared concerns of all parents and about TikTok challenges. He said there had been an uptick of some vandalism. He said they will continue to educate and put out information as this is a shared concern.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Safety Presentation – Lucas Giguere, Asst. Supt.; Ryan Augusta, AP FHS

**See Safety Presentation slides for detailed information.*

Mr. Giguere emphasized the theory of action and the importance of a safe learning environment. Mr. Giguere spoke about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and how it relates to the schools - physiological, safety, belonging, esteem.

Mr. Giguere spoke about the collaboration with Synergy, a company that specializes in safety in three areas - assessment, planning, and training. This company is composed of active and former law enforcement officials who worked in schools. Mr. Augusta noted the company provided a PD Day on 11/6/18. This training is used as a basis for moving forward.

Mr. Giguere and Mr. Augusta spoke about three focus areas:

1. Practices and Protocols
2. Staff Training
3. Facilities

Mr. Augusta spoke on the types of safety drills and Mr. Giguere spoke about the communication process and the emergency management team in Franklin.

Mr. Augusta spoke about the safety terms. Mr. Giguere spoke how the levels of threat and care have evolved since his time began in Franklin. He also noted how shelter in place is a fire term and used for students who need assistance during a fire drill.

Mr. Augusta spoke about belonging and building relationships with students and adults in the school community and how important to emphasize "See Something, Say Something".

Mr. Giguere spoke about safety with SEL and Mental Health Support. He noted the officers who are SRO's Paul Guarino, Dave Gove, Jamie Mucciarone, and Sgt. Spillane and this has been the same group for a few years now. He also noted therapy dog Ben Franklin.

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

Ms. D'Angelo asked how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion pertains to this work?

Mr. Giguere replied that it would be creating an environment that is inclusive to all while feeling safe and being able to do your best when feeling like that.

Mr. Augusta added about the freedom team being on the cycle under #4: Debrief Incidents and being as inclusive as possible when incidents arise.

Ms. D'Angelo followed up by asking about kids with sensory issues and any plans that are in place during emergencies?

Mr. Augusta replied by speaking of HS students in Strive and the safety individual plans for students in that program and making them more comfortable.

Mr. Giguere added this is the same at all levels and noted earmuffs as a tool for students with sensory issues and loud noises.

Mr. Keenan said thank you for this school safety focus.

Atty. Pond Pfeffer asked what SRO is?

Mr. Giguere said it's a School Resource Officer, the police officers assigned to help the school district.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked what Franklin Freedom Team is?

Mr. Giguere replied this team was developed as support when there is an incidence of hate or bias and come together to determine how they can support the school or town.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked if these are individuals from the town that have been appointed?

Mr. Giguere replied it's administrative leadership and clergy.

Dr. Ahern replied that it includes Franklin citizens, employees of the town, Dr. Ahern, Mr. Jamie Hellen, mental health clinician, community members including students and parents. She stated there is a website with more information.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked how someone in the community would know about this team?

Dr. Ahern replied that a press release went out, information in the news media, and the website.

Ms. Scofield said thank you for the update.

Ms. Spencer asked if there will be another assessment done with the last one being in 2018?

Mr. Giguere said he doesn't know if there needs to be another one right now and the 2018 report was comprehensive. There is no firm date for them to come back in reassess.

Mr. Augusta added they're working closely with the SRO's.

Ms. Stokes said thank you and this can be scary to talk about in schools but it's even scarier to not have a plan.

Dr. Bergen asked about see something, say something and if kids are putting it to use in schools?

Mr. Augusta said he reassures the kids what they tell him, he keeps between them because the kids can feel as if they are snitching.

Mr. Giguere added they try to thank the reporter for reporting something and reinforce the positive message.

Dr. Bergen asked if there has been any cutbacks in SRO's over the years?

Mr. Giguere said there have been no cutbacks on SRO's.

Dr. Bergen asked if there are cameras on busses?

Mrs. Goodman - replied that there are cameras on busses.

Dr. Bergen asked if there is a screening or lookout for teens who are loners or those not having joined a team or club?

Mr. Giguere said there was a districtwide approach to that in the spring with the return to school. There was a questionnaire for students asking if they have a trusted adult.

Dr. Bergen thanked them for the thoroughness and how important this work is.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. Superintendent's Goals 2021-22

The Chair recommends approval of the Superintendent's Goals for 2021-22 as detailed.

**See Superintendent's Goals 2021-22 Presentation slides for detailed information.*

Dr. Ahern shared the Superintendent's Goals for 2021-22. She stated the goals were shared last December with the suggestion they be two-year goals.

Dr. Ahern went through the Professional Practice Action Steps. She noted there are steps here that are direct feedback from the School Committee on her evaluation.

Dr. Ahern talked about the Proposed Student Learning Goal and how it was tweaked from last December.

There are two action steps: Student Learning Goal Action Steps Part 1 and Part 2. She said there is information related to survey results included as well and will be happy to answer any questions regarding it.

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

Ms Stokes asked if the district's strategy of improvement process is primarily an internal process or is it gathering stakeholder input?

Dr. Ahern replied it is a process of gathering stakeholder input led by Superintendent and Central Office along with the School Committee but there was not an outside group coming in for a consultant process.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer said this is a lame duck School Committee and this should be put off for a vote by a new School Committee.

Dr. Ahern replied she understands where Atty. Pond-Pfeffer is coming from. She said the longer this is put off, more time in the school year goes by and makes it difficult for her to accomplish the goals by the end of the year. She said these are

not two-year goals and would conclude at the end of the school year Then, a new set of two-year goals would be established.

Ms. D'Angelo asked if these are one-year goals, then last year were two-year goals?

Dr. Ahern replied last year's would have spanned 2020-2022 and this is the midway point to tweak. The biggest tweak being in the area of professional well being due to the survey data.

Ms. D'Angelo said the vote was delayed her first year on the committee so they would have that option.

The Chair recommends approval of the Superintendent's Goals for 2021-22 as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Ms. D'Angelo-No; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-No; Ms. Scofield-Yes;

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

Motion Carries 5-2

B. MASC Resolutions

I recommend adoption of the:

1. Resolution 1: Dedicated Funding For Schoolbased Clinics And Services
2. Resolution 2: Homework Gap And Wifi/Internet Access
3. Resolution 3: IDEA Full Funding Act
4. Resolution 4: Recess
5. Resolution 5: Zero-Tolerance Policies
6. Resolution 6: Alternative To MCAS
7. Resolution 7: School Committees And Receivership
8. Resolution 8: Electric School Buses
9. Resolution 9: Prohibiting The Use Of Native American Mascots

Note: A motion and a second was given only to:

1. Resolution 1: Dedicated Funding For Schoolbased Clinics And Services

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Dr. Bergen then asked for any discussion on Resolution 1.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked if the resolutions are going before all School Committees?

Dr. Ahern replied these resolutions come from the MASC Board of Directors or be proposed by other School Committees. She said many SC's go through this process before the MASC conference.

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer asked what happens after the meeting?

Dr. Ahern said there is a process where the resolutions can be sent to legislation to enact a change.

Dr. Bergen commented that some resolutions are recommended for the legislature. She stated that the vote tonight only means that the Franklin SC would like this to be moved forward.

Ms. Stokes stated that Resolution 1 mentions funding but doesn't mention where funding is coming from.

The Committee asked if Ms. Spencer could speak to this funding concern at the convention.

Ms. D'Angelo suggested that the Committee be given more time to read through the resolutions before voting.

Ms. Spencer noted that she was the representative last year as well and there were about 10 resolutions reviewed then.

Dr. Bergen entertained a motion to postpone the vote tonight to adopt the resolutions.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

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

Dr. Bergen entertained a motion to remove Resolution 2-9 from the agenda tonight.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

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

C. Policy First Reading

I recommend moving policy GCF - Professional Staff Hiring to a second reading as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Scofield; Second: Ms. Spencer

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

D. Policy Elimination

I recommend elimination of policy GCD - Professional Staff Vacations and Holidays as discussed.

Dr. Ahern this information can be found in collective bargaining and contracts.

Motion: Ms. Scofield; Second: Ms. Spencer
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. Back to School Status Update – October 8, 2021

Dr. Ahern shared the metrics and numbers as of October 8th in the packet. She noted that the data included in the graph begins from the July data.

She noted that vaccination rates are still rising for children ages 12-19 with 81% having 1 dose and 73%/74% fully vaccinated. She does not anticipate being at the 80% by 10/15/21 as data is still being collected. This is the earliest data to apply to DESE to have the mask mandate lifted at a specific school. She added that the mask mandate was extended until 11/1/21.

Dr. Ahern said the total cases and in-person cases are also shared in the report. She said since the last meeting, there has been a rise in cases in particular HMMS who had to shift their back to school night to virtual.

Dr. Ahern acknowledged Mrs. Marano and all the coordination she has done.

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

Ms. D'Angelo asked about the vaccination rates per school?

Dr. Ahern replied the High School is at about 75% for students and staff and data is still being collected.

Ms. Stokes asked if there was any update about the ESSER III funds yet?

Dr. Ahern shared the application is complete and submitted and haven't heard anything back. Mrs. Marano also confirmed this.

Ms. Stokes followed up with a question on the BRYT Program and Director of SEL position and asked if they need to wait for approval for proceeding?
Dr. Ahern replied that is correct.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Budget** - Dr. Bergen mentioned a recommendation from the summer workshop is to hold more joint sub-committee meetings.
- 2. Community Relations** - Ms. Spencer spoke about the harvest festival table the Committee had. Dr. Bergen added about how polite the children were.
- 3. Policy** - next meeting 10/21/21, 6-7:30. Mask policy is on the agenda.
- 4. Ad-Hoc Superintendent** - Dr. Bergen stated this Committee will be dissolved and a new Committee will be formed with the new School Committee in place.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - next meeting end of the month
- 2. Substance Abuse Task Force** - met 10/12/21 at SAFE coalition office. Mr. Giguere said there will be a community forum with a group of people from Franklin. The date will be 11/17/21 and will also be livestreamed. Dr. Bergen added some of the information presented today was eye opening. She reminded the Committee that this is a community issue.
- 3. School Wellness Advisory Council** - met last week with the new school wellness coach and completed the school wellness assessment tool. Next meeting 11/9/21.

VI. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items for the 10/26/21 meeting:

- Policy
- Enrollment report
- Revisit MASC resolutions
- Tina Rogers and Linda Ashley - Student Assessment/MCAS

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the September 28, 2021 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Athletics Gift

I recommend acceptance of the following Athletic Department gifts totaling \$6,669.82 as follows:

1. \$328.12 All American Publishing (Supplemental Supplies)
2. \$441.70 All American Publishing (Supplemental Supplies)
3. \$5,900.00 MIAA, Inc. (Supplemental Supplies)

Ms. Scofield asked if the MIAA, Inc is that the MIAA?

Dr. Ahern replied it is the MIAA.

Ms. Scofield asked about the \$5,900.00 amount.

Mrs. Goodman replied this was a gift to support the expenses Franklin puts out for tournaments they were hosting for the 2020/2021 school year.

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. Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session.

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

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 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgemda 10-12-21

10_12_21 FPS School Safety Update.pdf

Discussion Action A - Supt Goals.pdf

Discussion Action B - MASC Resolutions.pdf

Discussion Action C - Policy 1st Read.pdf

Discussion Action D - Policy Elimination.pdf

Superintendent proposed Goals 2021-2022.pdf

Back to School Status Update October 8, 2021.pdf

October 12, 2021 School Committee Minutes - FINAL

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Athletics Gifts.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2207 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2207.pdf
SC Warrant 092321.xlsx
SC Warrant 093021.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off 101221.pdf
SC Warrant 092321.pdf
SCWarrant 093021.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf