

**Franklin School Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**April 10, 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  
No one present from the Milford Daily News

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

Dr. Bergen

**Attendance:** Mrs. Dianne Feeley; Mrs. Cindy Douglas; Mrs. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Dr. Monica Linden; Mrs. Denise Schultz; Ms. Virginia Zub; Mr. Peter Light; Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards. The two high school representatives were present, Blaine Roche and Claudia Moccia. Steve Sherlock from Franklin Matters.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Sophie Kripp - An 11th Grader from Franklin High School

Here is just a bulleted list of most of the after school activities I'm involved in:

- Girl Up Club; A club that focuses of girls education in developing countries as well as self-empowerment
- Alzheimer's Awareness Club; A club that raises awareness for those with Alzheimer's and those affected by the disease. We also work with the elderly in the community by volunteering at local senior centers
- Mentoring Middle Schoolers in Music, Math and French Tutoring
- President of FHS Creative; A photography and graphic design club
- French Honors Society, Tri-M Honors Society/ Music honors society
- Nursery

**Moment of Silence**

**1. Routine Business**

**a. Review of Agenda - Dr. Ahern** - Please remove the minutes of the executive agenda

## **b. Citizen's Comments - None**

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

## **c. FHS Student Representative Comments**

Blaine - Following the events of this weekend, we lost a very special student. He was a great part of our community. We are looking to help heal, and we set up a go-fund-me page. It has exceeded our expectations.

Claudia - Our annual school musical the Addams Family Musical took place. It was great. We held our Spring Fling for members of the senior center.

Blaine - Senior project is starting today. For those seniors it is their last day. Q3 is coming to an end. Senior banquet took place and it was great for our last time together.

Claudia - First games and meets have started in spring sports.

Blaine - Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming break and for the seniors it is a mad dash towards the end of the year.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you. The focus on the senior center is so important. That is a great thing you do.

## **d. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ahern - I wanted to add about the grieving that is happening at FHS. This is very difficult for the young people. This type of loss is very difficult. I want to take this time to extend our condolences to the Sewall family. We have provided support to the students through our guidance counselors.

A few things to share, messages went out regarding our administrative searches. We have posted for Oak and Remington Principals and Assistant Superintendent positions. We are collecting applications and putting together search committees. They will interview the semi finalists and forward them to the next round, they will have a chance to see the district. We will do reference checking as well. We had two interim positions at Jefferson Elementary school this year; Sarah Klim who will be the Principal and Kim Booth will have the Assistant Principal position at Jefferson Elementary school.

I will send a follow-up email about the concession stand and let them know what is going on. It will be starting soon and the fundraising has been productive. It will begin over the Spring vacation. They will put a construction fence around the area. We met with the staff that will be affected and took time to hear everyone thoughts about this. It is ready to go. The work will be done over the weekends and over the summer. All workers will be CORI checked.

Successes of our faculty have been happening around the district. Our literary specialist at Remington presented at the New England League of Middle School Conference and the title of her presentation was Effective 21st Century Curriculum for 21st century students. We are thrilled she represented Franklin at the conference.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you.

## **2. Guests/Presentations**

### **a. Update on STEM & Digital Learning (DIP Goal #2)**

Dr. Edwards - Thank you. This is in three segments and I will share this in three segments. The district improvement plan will be for Science, Math and Digital Learning. We will stop at the end of the segment for any questions. The first of the plan is adopting the math materials, continue implementation of alignment and instruction changes of new standard in Science and Digital

Learning. You will have a good idea of what we have done this year and will continue into future years.

Thanks to Drew O'Connor at the high school, I have some great pictures showing the science update and take a look at what science looks like in the classrooms from K-12.

The takeaway is that Science is very active and the students work with their peers on science and discovery. Elementary is working with STEMSCOPES and implementing life science and physical science and will transition to computer MCAS in grade 5 for Science.

For the middle schools, we are using STEMSCOPES and will complete the implementations of new standards this year and will transition to computer MCAS in grade 8.

For the high school, they have implemented all of the standards because they can do that by course and we implemented a Marine Science course and we will introduce AP Physics C with electricity and magnetism. We will develop science skills integration documents to address graphing and interpretation, argument/conclusion writing, and problem solving.

We need to continue with the new standards and provide an Earth and Science professional day next year. We will need to see how to measure their effectiveness. We are looking into integration of topics that will tie into STEMSCOPES. We will begin to develop common assessments to track growth

Dr. Linden - I really like how it is active. Could you send me the documents on the Science program? Can you talk about how this relates to the personalization of the objective?

Dr. Edwards - One of the reasons it gave us the opportunity to use the tool to develop entry point for students. It is also about growing our advanced

learners. STEMSCOPES provides this. It is about teaching more complex material. It is a great tool for the students.

Dr. Linden - Would different groups be doing different aspects?

Dr. Edwards - Yes, it could be. We have intro lessons and work to the next level and keep going.

Dr. Bergen - When kids do a lot of groups projects, it is good to have assessments to see how they are doing.

Dr. Edwards - Yes, the roles will rotate and we will be able to use a rubric for the group work and have the teacher's oversight.

So for the Math, which is the next part, we are working with all the grades. ECDC is looking at a new program that will provide benchmarking. In the elementary schools they are working on launching units to start the year with a positive math mindset. We are implementing the 2017 standards and created and piloted benchmark assessments. We had a professional day with Professor Mahesh Sharma from Framingham State University. He will be back in June too.

The middle schools are investigating new math resources this year. We have had extensive piloting and teacher input as part of the process. We decided on Illustrative Math grades 6-8 as well as other supplemental resources. We will have a professional day in June and next year implement this. We had a joint decision with FHS for Algebra to go with Big Ideas which we are using for Geometry. The three middle school math specialists have been instrumental in getting this program on board. Illustrative is aligned with the Massachusetts set of standards.

The high school was also looking at Big Ideas and will be using this as well. We are investigating new Math resources for purchase. There was extensive piloting and teacher input as part of the process to get this started. There

was a joint decision with middle schools for Algebra to go with Big Ideas. The high school will also participate in beta pilot of the Illustrative Math for Algebra with extensive training. We will partner with other schools to share the cost of this program and training. It is expensive. We will do this in the Fall.

At the middle schools we will have a program called IXL which is adaptive resource and they can use this as a tool to personalize the process. We can use this for assessments along the way and gather data as well. Any questions?

Mrs. Zub - As a parent, one of the things was the Math in elementary school, it was so different. Do you have resources for parents?

Dr. Edwards - We do have a program for the parents. We will have Math Mornings, etc and what the schools do to promote their math programs. There is a math site that parents can access to help the students. The middle schools will need this as well because it will be different for them. We will definitely communicate all of the programs to the parents.

Mrs. Schultz - The math is hard and I am glad that there will more parent engagement.

Dr. Edwards - It is a different skill set for the students. We are asking them to problem solve.

Digital learning is the next topic. We introduced Bill of Rights and responsibilities in the fall for students and staff. We introduced FAQ's in the Fall for families. We developed a Scope and Sequence this year aligned with 2016 standards. The Scope standards for K-12 will have multiple standards and what do they need to know for each grade and what do they need for the next grade. We have taken the standards and put in teacher friendly language. We are doing a lot of the digital standards in our classrooms. We just need to make some adjustments. We will present this to the staff in the

spring. The assessment is built into the content areas. We will finalize these over time and study how this will work and how we can make this work. Staff will provide feedback to Digital Learning Committee to refine and revise during the 2018-2019 school year. The scope and sequence will be published in 2019. Chromebooks are 1 to 1 in the middle schools right now and we will continue the distribution of chromebooks. This is ongoing and will continue to grow.

Any questions?

Dr. Linden - I am glad this is integrated. Will this be tricky for professional development?

Dr. Edwards - The teachers will get one part of it and model it and show it to the teachers. Schools will have people who will be able to help others. We will have building-based professional development days.

I did bring a couple of samples of the Math books if you would like to look at them. Everything is online too.

Mrs. Schultz - Thank you for doing this. It is a great effort.

Dr. Edwards - The teachers also need to be thanked. We all did a lot of work to get this done.

**b. School Safety Presentation – Peter Light, Sara Ahern, Sgt. Mark Manocchio**

Dr. Ahern - Thank you for asking for an update of school safety. It is a good time to do this in light of the Parkland Florida tragedy.

Mr. Light - We wanted to start off with a slide that shows the safety. Here are the four hierarchies. 1. Physical security 2. School culture 3. Social and emotional learning 4. Student achievement

Dr. Ahern - The security is a cycle as we refine our practices with the Town. We work with them to revise our plans and communicate the plans to the community so they know what to expect. We provide training within our buildings which included drills, lockdowns etc. We debrief incidents as well. This in ongoing throughout the year

Mr. Light - We have three basic categories; evacuation, lockdown and administrative lockdown. A true lockdown is students and teachers stay in the classroom until notified and administrative lockdown where the doors are locked and no one can come in or leave. The classes go on as normal.

Dr. Ahern - You may see an administrative lockdown for a medical emergency lockdown

Sgt. Manocchio - The lockdowns are self explanatory. I am here for questions.

Sgt. Manocchio - We have the lockdowns drills and the fire department has the fire drills. The lockdowns are a new thing and the idea is to protect the students and staff and we introduced new techniques.

Mr. Light - We have trained the staff for all types of incidents. There are no two incidents that are alike.

Sgt. Manocchio - That is an excellent point, it used to be very black and white but now the times have changed and we train the teachers on options that they may need to implement at the time.

Mr. Light - We have a number of safety enhancements. Building use protocols; doors are locked; ongoing security camera upgrades; upgrades to PA and speaker systems; school entry reconfiguration; badging and ID systems upgrades. We have communications to the community. We use Regroup which we can email, call and text parents. We use TWITTER as a



secondary. We attend trainings with the police and fire staff. We debrief after each incident with the fire and police department.

Sgt. Manocchio -Yes, we work on the debriefing with the schools.

Mr. Light - We work well with the police and they help us when we need them in a matter of minutes. All of the departments work together to make the schools safe. We communicate with appropriate details with all stakeholders. During an incident we are focused on what is happening. Students will put information out on social media and put out information that they hear or think they hear. We need to be careful as to what we put out and have all the facts checked first. We can only share certain information and we have to coordinate with the authorities and that we don't compromise any investigation that may happen. We will hold a parent forum if we need too.

School climate and culture are the best safety measures. If students feel safe they trust the school. The relationships between students and adults help to make sure the schools are safe. Students need to communicate if something doesn't feel right, say something.

Sgt. Manocchio - That is part of the training. Say something and we can check it out. Don't worry, we will make sure it is safe.

Mr. Light - Social emotional learning is to make sure all students can feel supported. This helps with the climate of the school. We have advisories and the World of Difference program. We have a broad base of school support and enough counseling services in the schools. We have effective community partnerships to help with counseling, school wellness, substance task force and referral services.

Dr. Ahern - I want to talk about the roundtables between the community partnerships and helps. For the next steps, we are always looking to improve on our practices and have some plans to get the departments together and

engage in some new planning. We will have enhanced training with the police department and we will continue with table-top exercises with safety officials. We will assess the facilities and do some upgrades with cameras, add additional cameras, and the feasibility of locked vestibules in the identified schools.

Mr. Light - We had a theory of action for a number of years, talks about a safe environment at the Franklin schools. We are committed to have safe schools. We want to make sure we take every step to provide safety for all the students.

Mrs. Feeley - Could you please tell me the student badges, what do they do?

Mr. Light they allow the students to access the building during different times. It allows them to get in the front door. We expanded the use so they can pay for lunches, they can use at the check in at dances.

Mrs. Feeley - The seniors are coming and going with the new program, they can only get in the front door?

Mr. Light - We can track them but that is not what we want to do. It is not for that, it is to keep the doors locked. We don't have live monitoring.

Mrs. Feeley - If a door was left open, are you aware of that? Is there an alarm?

Mr. Light - It depends on the school. The custodians are good and check the doors. It will be checked and if it is opened, it will be investigated. They are not alarmed. It is very costly to do that.

Mrs. Schultz - How would the staff know what the teacher decides to do?

Mr. Light - You don't. They need to go to their Principal and tell them what they are doing.

Mrs. Schultz - There are no cell phones they can use?

Mr. Light - No, they have their own cell phones.

Dr. Bergen - The person from Parkland was clearly known by the police, are you involved to get help for people who need help?

Sgt. Manocchio - Yes, we do. We would and try to get help for some students. The roundtables help with this.

Dr. Bergen - When you practice a lockdown, kids are everywhere, then what?

Sgt. Manocchio - The teachers are trained to help kids who may not be in a classroom.

Dr. Bergen - As part of SEL, is training for teachers to recognize students who need help?

Dr. Ahern - Yes, they are being trained to recognize students who may need additional help or mental health assistance.

Sgt. Manocchio - Students made us a training video, I would like to show it on Autism Awareness. Would that be okay?

Dr. Bergen - Yes. Thank you.

The video is on You Tube - search - autism awareness demi and lauren

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

- a. Budget Vote I recommend approval of the FY19 Franklin Public Schools budget in the amount of \$63,235,000.00 as discussed.

Motion: Mrs. Douglas

Second: Mrs. Schultz

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Approve: 7

Oppose: 0

b. Oak Street Trip I recommend approval of the request of Jo-Ann Stanton to take Oak Street 1st graders to the Providence Children's Museum on May 15, 2018 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Douglas  
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz  
Oppose: 0

#### **4. Discussion Only Items - none**

#### **5. Information Matters**

a. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Budget; Community Relations; Policy; Transportation; Public Schools Advocacy; Ad Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation)

b. School Committee Liaison Reports (e.g. Joint PCC; Substance Abuse Task Force; School Wellness Advisory Council [SWAC]; MASC)

**BUDGET** Dr Bergen - We will meet on April 24 at 6:00 pm.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS** Mrs. Zub - We had a community coffee on April 4 and we are working on some dates for TV. We will have one in May or June. Our coffee was about the budget, elementary schools, report cards, and PCC. Our next meeting is May 11 at the Franklin Senior Center.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY** Mrs. Schultz - Nothing yet.

**AD HOC** Dr. Bergen - We met April 8 and will meet April 13. We will be evaluating all the goals for Dr. Ahern.

**POLICY** Mrs. Scofield - We met last week and will meet May 1.

**JOINT PCC** - Dr. Bergen and Mrs. Douglas - We met on the homework policy and how homework will be graded. Dr. Edwards met with them and described to everyone what is happening.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** Mr. Light - Next meeting May 1.

**SWAC** Mrs. Douglas - Next month sometime, no date as of yet.

**SCHOOL START TIMES** Dr. Linden - We had a steering meeting where all the members were assigned and they will meet within their groups. May 2 is the next meeting.

**MASC** Mrs. Schultz - The day on the hill is on April 25.

## **6. New Business**

a. To discuss any future agenda items -

Dr. Ahern - At the next meeting April 24 will do a presentation on district improvement goals and my evaluation.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of Minutes - I recommend approval of the regular session minutes from the March 22, 2018 (snow date from 3/13/18) and March 27, 2018 School Committee meetings.

b. Executive Session Minutes - I recommend approval of the Executive Session minutes from the March 27, 2018 School Committee Meeting not to be released.

c. FHS Gift - I recommend acceptance of a check for \$200.00 from Anne LaPlante for FHS field trip as detailed.

d. FHS Senior Pilot - I recommend continued suspension of policy JH – Student Absences for the purposes of the late arrival/early release pilot for seniors at FHS on good standing during quarter 4.

e. Oak Street Gift - I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,700.00 from the Oak Street PCC for Field trips.

f. FHS Gift - I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from Robert & Sara Wayne for a FHS Field trip as detailed.

Motion for all: Mrs. Douglas  
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz  
Oppose: 0

**8. Payment of Bills** Dr. Bergen reviewed the bills and found them to be in order.

**9. Payroll** Mrs. Douglas reviewed payroll and found the same to be in order.

**10. Correspondence**

a. Budget to Actual - Miriam Goodman

**11. Adjournment**

Mrs. Douglas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Schultz

**Adjourned by 8:55 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda-4-10-18.pdf  
School Committee STEM and Digital 4\_10\_18.pdf  
School Safety Update.pdf  
Discussion ActionA-FY19 Budget.pdf  
Discussion ActionB-Oak St. Trip.pdf  
Consent ActionA-Minutes.pdf  
Consent ActionB-ES Minutes.pdf  
Consent ActionC-FHS Gift.pdf  
Consent ActionD-FHS Pilot.pdf  
Consent ActionE-Oak St Gift.pdf  
Consent ActionF-FHS Gift.pdf  
Budget2Actual.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #1820 summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #1820.pdf  
FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf  
SCWarrant032218.pdf  
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EnrollmentCompare-March2017-March2018.pdf

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