

**Franklin School Committee
Minutes
December 12, 2017
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

Pledge of Allegiance: Gabriel Terry is a 5th grader at Jefferson in Ms. Leary's class. Gabe plays on a soccer team and he plays the violin, which he says is "very fun." He started violin last year in 4th grade. Gabe's favorite subject is reading, and he enjoys A Series of Unfortunate Events and also books by author Gordon Korman. P.E. is his favorite special. Gabe exemplifies being "paws-itive" at Jefferson every day as he embodies all of our core values, particularly respectful and inclusive

Attendance: Ms. Dianne Feeley; Mrs. Cindy Douglas; Mrs. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Ms. 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.

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda - Dr. Bergen - no changes

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

c. FHS Student Representative Comments

Blaine – Some things that are going on is fundraisers, UNICEF is selling candy canes and it will go to children in underdeveloped countries. We raised over \$8000 for the Santa foundation. Also our community service club is doing more fundraising.

Claudia - Sports winter tryouts have ended. A lot have had their first games hockey and basketball this Friday

Blaine - We had Japanese students come to our school. The Spanish club met with them and they showed them around.

Dr. Bergen - Did the Spanish kids speak to the Japanese kids in Japanese?

Claudia - Most of the kids knew English but some of the Spanish kids did learn some Japanese words. We have a lot of performances happening this time of year and it showed the great talent that we have here at Franklin High. We will have open mic night here at Franklin High next week and any student can perform a song or anything they wish to do. Our theater club is putting on the play Fahrenheit 451.

Blaine - Our online school store has opened, this time we have all the schools being represented by using "F" for Franklin for all to enjoy as the logo on the apparel.

Claudia - There is only 8 school days until break. Many students are hearing back from colleges. After break during the first of the next few weeks of January, students will be preparing for midterms.

Dr. Bergen - We have a large number of community service groups and all the diversity we have with these groups. It is well rounded. Thank you both.

d. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern - I have a few things to share with you and the community this evening. The first thing I wanted to update you on is where are we with the Keller/Sullivan complex, a sprinkler burst at the Keller Elementary School from the main hallway, you turn left and in the classrooms on the top floor is where it burst. It was

contained but it headed down the hallway into some of the classrooms received water damage and seeped into the walls. It was contained to a portion of that school. So we closed both Keller and Sullivan to assess the damage and get the clean up done over the last two days. The schools will be open tomorrow, Wednesday, December 13th.

Today all drywall that was wet was removed. These areas have been temporarily sealed with barriers which will allow students to use the hallways. There are 8 classrooms that were affected. The workers will be Cori checked while working in the building for the rest of the week. The teachers came in to relocate their classes. They identified their instruction materials and student belongings that they will need. They did a remarkable job helping to set up their new classrooms. We will make sure the school is safe and ensure that the school is safe for all of the students to return and ensure that air quality is appropriate and all damaged items are being removed. Every measure is being taken to ensure the classrooms are safe. In terms of timeframe and next steps they will be displaced for a couple of weeks. The reconstruction of walls will occur over December break. This needs to be handled in here next step is that the classrooms won't be ready for a couple of weeks. We need to have the materials sent. We will have more updates as we go along. I want to be sure to recognize the leadership teamwork and communication of the school and staff there were many individuals who are remarkable over the past days. This issued happened a couple years ago at Annie Sullivan and it was more extensively damaged but I think with the communication we have done a lot in the past few days in order to open up tomorrow. I want to recognize Eric Stark and Amy Souls and the administrators from Annie Sullivan, our central office team, Mr. Light, Miriam Goodman, and Joyce Edwards and the town staff that we've been working with. We all want to make sure it is all safe for the students and staff. Any questions?

Mrs. Linden - I'm a parent at Keller and I am impressed with the communication. My daughter's classroom is one of the affected ones and the teacher sent a picture of the new classroom and we are happy.

Dr. Ahern - We will send more pictures out to show everyone.

Dr. Bergen - There is nothing worse than when the kids are on the way to school and you need to turn them around due to an emergency. This happened once before, will they inspect those more often?

Dr. Ahern - Yes, they will.

Dr. Ahern - Two other things, we have a couple of our staff members presenting at workshops and professional development days coming up this winter and I wanted to highlight the talent of our Educators. They will be presenting evening workshops in January and March. Paula Shagin, from HMMS will be presenting on compassion in the classroom understanding and responding to mental health needs which is targeted towards educators in grades 6 through 12. Jennifer Violet and Victoria Saldana, elementary math specialists, who work at Davis Thayer and Jefferson respectfully, are presenting on two topics, one is nurturing a growth mindset for K to 5 teachers and the anti-anxiety math class and how to alleviate math anxiety in elementary school. Ron DeBona From Franklin High School is going to be presenting on cultivating happiness within and around the Franklin 40% Club which is one of our co-curricular clubs promoting happiness and health and happiness and well-being. Then from Horace Mann Middle School, Mary Cotillo and Erin O'Leary will be presenting on books to build bridges using young adult literature to support social emotional learning in Middle School. I always like to highlight those Educators who are presenting and we look to other local Educators who will present also this winter.

I wanted to add onto what Claudia said, that this is a great opportunity and time for music events to celebrate the season and to showcase the student talent. I haven't had the chance to attend them all but I did have the opportunity to attend the high school winter concert last Wednesday evening and I want to commend Diane Plouffe and all the teachers for their work with students in preparation for the show. Best wishes to all the groups as they perform during the next few weeks.

2. Guests / Presentations

a. Snow Presentation – Robert Cantoreggi, DPW Director & Carlos Rebelo, Director of Highways/Parks

Mr. Cantoreggi - Thank you for having me. I like to get out information regarding snow removal. Carlos works with the schools and all the fields in town. It has been nine years since it was given to us to handle all the grounds and parking lots. We have an excellent relationship with the school. The snow removal program is the roadways first, the public buildings/schools and last the sidewalks. We have snow removal trucks for each school to help with the plowing. This was established with the Police Department. The cost is about \$1 million for this year. We spend \$400k on salt. We had around 48 inches of snow. We use only salt with no sand. If we use sand it picks up all the ground waste and it is expensive to remove. We have 14 sanders, 21 employees, 400 yards of salt and it costs about \$30k each time. To pretreat the roads it takes \$30k each time. The Five Truck Route is we use 6 sanders, 7 employees, and 120 yards of salt. We do the main roads only and hills.

We have over 35 miles of sidewalks. We have 5 machines to do all this. Our challenge is less than 6 inches we can get it done in a day, more than that it takes a few days.

Mr. Rebelo - The sidewalk crew is the same crew who has been plowing all night and we don't have another shift to get to the sidewalks

Mr. Cantoreggi - I give the previous Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, kudos that we had issues and we talked with her and did a bus policy to pick the kids up to be safe. The bus drivers will pick up all the kids they see on the road and help them get to school.

Our goals is to be prepared ensure emergency vehicles can respond, we provide safe passage of vehicle during the snow fall. All roadways cleared, showing some asphalt. Items that affect the response, the timing, duration of the storm, amount and type of precipitation, temperature during storm, weather pattern, warm to cold or cold to warm, frost in/on ground, month of storm, recent storm activity. There

are also traffic factors when people are trying to get to work hinder our progress, we have to share the roads and it slows us down.

We prepare for the storm by watching the weather, getting the trucks ready, we stay in contact with all the departments, we do training and learn what we did right and wrong and get ready for the next one. Do not push snow into the road or park in the road during a parking ban.

Please clear the fire hydrants, it is not the responsibility of the DPW, it is the homeowner's job or the neighborhood.

10 complaints heard often;

1. Plows push snow in driveway after I shovel.
2. My street is not down to asphalt but others are.
3. There is more snow on my side of the road.
4. The roadway is too narrow, there is only room for one car.
5. The snow banks are too high, I can't see oncoming traffic.
6. You hit my mailbox, I can not get to my mailbox.
7. I can't dig out/find the hydrant.
8. You pushed snow up on my property.
9. The plow trucks are driving like 40 miles per hour.
10. When is it going to stop snowing?

Mr. Rebelo - We don't hit the mailbox, it could be the force of the snow.

Mr. Cantoreggi - Finally, think Summer!!!

Dr. Bergen - Will the police check the parking lots for ice?

Mr. Cantoreggi - No, they don't specifically check, they just drive all over the town and can figure it out. We will check with them. We pay attention to the freezing.

Dr. Bergen - On the emergency busing, the kids would walk on the street to get the bus, they are not safe.

Mr Cantoreggi - I don't know.

Mrs. Goodman - We notify the buses to pick up students in the street or on snow banks or if they are standing at the closest stop, they will pick them up. We try to get the students safely and parents will call whether their student can take the bus even though they don't pay. The answer is yes.

Mrs. Zub - The emergency bus is in place, and parents should take the kids to a known bus stop and wait.

Mrs. Goodman - This is for the true walkers.

Mr. Cantoreggi - The emergency bussing works out great in the schools. It is a great policy.

b. Special Education Overview – Debbie Dixon, Director of Student Services; Paula Marano & Ellen White, Assistant Directors of Special Education

Dr. Ahern - We will now have Debbie Dixon, Paula Marano and Ellen White do a presentation about special education overview.

Ms. Dixon - I would like to introduce Paula Marano and Ellen White. One of the most important actions that Massachusetts has taken was Chapter 766 back in 1972. We were the first in the country to have this special education law. It is now called 603CMR28. We were the model for the Federal law. It was called the education for all handicapped children act. We have 504 based on children with disabilities to help them and provide them support. Lastly with have ADA to further help children against discrimination. Massachusetts is a forerunner in the country to help all students with disabilities. We have developed many laws to enhance these services. We also have laws protecting autism and children on that spectrum and we have individual education programs for students as well we have observation legislation anti-bullying legislation, school discipline reform law and pending right now is a dyslexia law. The law will be focused on early intervention for children with dyslexia.

The principals around these laws include parent and student participation. It provides individual plans and testing. The key terms that we use is Free

Appropriate Public Education - FAPE. Lastly, parents and students are offered procedural safeguards for their protection.

I am going to walk you through the IEP process. We must do this for each child recommended.

1. Recommendation must be from staff teachers or outside personnel
2. Within 5 days we must send a packet to the parents
3. After consent, we have 30 working days to complete the assessments and testing
4. In 45 days we meet to determine if eligible for special ed.
5. If eligible, then an IEP is developed for student
6. Written parent approved for services implemented must be received.

Progress reports are then written along with the report cards. Annually the IEPs are reviewed and rewritten and every three years the school re-evaluates the child and the process starts all over again.

Franklin is around 14 to 15 % so we are slightly below the State average of 16%.

A student is eligible when they are not getting the education they need. These are identified for the student and a plan is implemented.

What is the thing called SPED, it is designed instruction to meet the needs of the student or supply services for the student. We offer many services for the students. We offer a lot of support services for students.

This all starts from age 3 to 22, students can receive services. ECDC has screenings and some come from referrals from early intervention. The evaluation process can start at age 2.5 to 2.9 and IEPs must be ready. Based on the current head count at ECDC, we had 31 children on IEPs out of 104. We are below the State average. Our programs at ECDC are integrated.

The services at ECDC range from half day to full day extended day, two, three, four or five day.

Ms. Marano - This slide shows the elementary data in Franklin Public Schools. We collect the data three times per year. We are in the 14% range. The schools with the

specialized programs are a bit higher. The numbers don't tell the story because of the range of disabilities they have. Each school has different levels of teaching. We have inclusion services for some students with minimal support. We have specialized instruction outside the classroom. The most restrictive are the specialized programs who have intensive needs, we can develop a program for them. They are provided to go to general education when they can. We have different programs at each elementary school as well.

Each elementary school and middle school has different programs to help students with different needs. It allows us to be more specialized and service these students.

Middle schools are also below the average and each middle school has a special program in their building.

Ms. White - The next is the high school and the programs do change for them. We are at 13% for the SPED and below the State average. We wanted to let you know about the programs. We have students who have ESPs who help in the classroom, co-teaching classes at every grade level in general education, small group classrooms, REACH is a bit different and it is student driven and it is more decided how much they need and what academic support is needed. They collaborate with the teachers at all times. We want them to be independent as possible. We also have the STRIVE program, we have high school aged from grades 9 - 12 and we have students who are post grad program for students with intellectual disabilities, who will not get a diploma but a certificate. This program helps them work on activities for adult life.

We are always working towards post secondary schools. Colleges need to recognize so they can have these students and they will offer accommodations for them and academic support centers. Just the post grad class, the teachers are working hard to get the students out to visit job sites. There is a small apartment type classroom which helps them with laundry, cooking, budgeting, how to buy food. They have social groups with other towns to meet and develop friendships.

We also have out of district placements for students who exceed our capacity. There are students who need additional help that we cannot meet. We have 82 in out-of-district placements. We think hard and carefully of when it is time to go outside the district and to make that decision of whether they need services outside.

Our numbers have increased but this number changes. We have to sometimes send students to other public schools.

These collaboratives have been around for a number of years. They were developed for us to access for students who may need these. They are sometimes housed in schools. We have BICO and ACCEPT collaboratives. They offer specialized evaluations. They provide training for educators either on site or at their facility.

Ms. Dixon - So we are members of BICO and ACCEPT. The term inclusion is used often to help students and parents deal and function with schools and everyday function. It is used in literature and it is not found in any State or Federal law. If you google inclusion for SPED you will find many different meanings. Any of these programs provide us with psych evaluations and some evaluations that we are not able to do within our school department. They are very helpful in providing training in District are out there sites and it is a great resource for our community. The ultimate goal is to maintain high standards and expectations to give these students general ed curriculum.

So in the end we want to provide students to advocate for themselves, provide a safe environment and all students are accepted and they are gaining education and social skills.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you. This is so important for us to hear and find out all that we have to offer in this town and the caliber we offer for these students. We need to educate the public on the cost of these programs. We need to let everyone know how expensive the costs are. The cost to keep these programs open for the students of Franklin are very high and we need to make sure we not only keep these programs but can fund these programs. The cost to send children out of district is really high and it is less expensive to keep them in district.

Ms. Scofield - Over the years, what you have done is create a programs for these students to stay in the district and learn. Bringing the students back to the schools has been wonderful. The costs are high but what they get is amazing.

Ms. White - We are always looking for other ways to handle the costs. Sometimes it is less expensive to hire a teacher and to help a student than it is to send them out of District.

Ms. Dixon - We have an unfunded mandate, the costs are the two highest cost centers. The cost in district is twice as high as a regular student. The tuition and transportation costs are included in this. We want a strong program for them to access and all of the offerings.

Ms. Scofield - The cost of educating the students, what is in-district and out-of-district, what is the range?

Mrs. Goodman - The range is \$40K to \$200k plus transportation. Sometimes the transportation is higher.

Mrs. Dixon - Sometimes transportation is higher than the tuition.

Dr. Bergen - Now that I look over the bills I did have a question on that and it is a very high cost that we incur. It is eye-opening to see the amount of money we spend on out-of-district costs. We are not being frivolous we are doing what we need to do to help these students succeed.

Mrs. Linden - I teach at a college, training them to advocate for themselves is great for these students. They struggle but can help themselves to seek out help. Thank you.

Dr. Bergen - Anything else?

3. Discussion / Action Items

a. Concession Stand - Approval of Proposal – Michael Socci

Dr. Ahern - Since that last meeting we had a follow-up conversation with the Town Officials as well as Administration to talk about the next steps. I am asking for the School Committee to support the project. They could begin their fundraising efforts and start this process of getting the concession stand done. We will meet again in February before any construction is started to make sure it is on track. If you have questions, they will answer them.

Mrs. Schultz - I asked a question about a possible all gender access bathroom how is that handled.

Dr. Ahern - Yes, sorry about that and we did look at that. It would squeeze out some of the space needed. I did check with our attorney and we can have a boy and girl bathroom.

Mr. Socci - It was not architectural the site constraints on the property and how big the concession stand was going to be. We also needed to have utilities in this building.

I recommend approval of the Concession Stand Proposal as discussed.

Motion: Ms.Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

b. FY18 Capital Requests

I recommend approval of the FY18 Capital Requests as discussed.

Motion: Ms.Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

c. FAA Senior New York City Trip – Carol Anne Tebbets, Art Director

I recommend approval of the request to take FAA Seniors to New York City on March 24, 2018 to visit the MOMA and see School of Rock as detailed.

Motion: Ms.Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

d. FHS Select Chorus – Smith Center for the Arts at PC

I recommend approval of the request to take Select Chorus students to Smith Center for the Arts at Providence College, RI on February 23, 2018 to attend the PC Choral Festival as discussed.

Motion: Ms.Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

e. School Start Times Advisory Committee

I recommend approval of the establishment of a "School Start Times Advisory Committee" to the School Committee as discussed.

f. 2018 - 2019 School Calendar Draft

Dr. Ahern - I made one adjustment per your feedback, regarding the half days in February, March and April and moving one of the professional development days to one of the vacations. One of the concerns is attendance for that day. One of the thoughts was to adjust one of them before the vacation and comparing the attendance from this year and compare for next year. Put the April ½ day with the April vacation. Everything's the same with the exception of the conference days, we collected some data regarding this and it comes down to that the family might be able to schedule their conferences in one day and be able to meet with all of their children's teachers at the same time and only taking one day off from jobs. We would like to have the conference on Thursday the 25th and 26th of October and communicate to the families that teachers are always willing to meet with parents at any time that would be convenient for them.

I recommend adoption of the 2018-2019 School calendar as discussed.

Motion: Ms.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)

Dr. Bergen - I know policy sub committee didn't meet but you're planning on meeting in January?

Ms. Scofield - We will know the date after this meeting

Ms. Zub - We had our first Community Relations meeting. We have a couple of action items to come out. We are going to put our calendar together to reach out to the community and our draft of recommendations and we would like to have an educator award programs and recognizing our teachers and other professionals at the schools. We are looking at website redesign that is accessible and easy to use and looking at our public relations strategy. We are meeting January 3rd and we'll have some recommendations for the School Committee at our next meeting.

Mrs. Schultz - The Public Schools Advocacy committee has finalized a date with a forum with our representatives and that will be our February 13th School Committee meeting with representative Roy, Senator Spilka and Senator Ross; Congressman Kennedy would love to be there but is in session and we will bring him back towards the end of March to discuss education policies. We have our meeting will be next Thursday.

Dr. Bergen - The Budget Subcommittee met on Wednesday, December 6th and we reviewed the capital requests and were provided an overview of the budget and we will meet tomorrow with the joint subcommittees to go over budget. We also had our October workshop which was to come together to help us understand the needs and to get as much information in an open and transparent way out to the public about budgets.

Mrs. Douglas - The School Wellness Advisory Committee has not met but we will meet on January 9th.

Dr. Bergen - The Joint PCC sub committee, we met on the first Monday in December and Steve Sherlock came back to help with communication and the community calendar. The Joint PCC's would love to have workshops on social media. We followed up on the idea of getting data from the schools that are the experiences equitable. We wanted to know how the fundraising money was being used and what schools do with that money.

The Substance Abuse Task Force will be meeting on January 23rd and Mr. Light is doing an incredible job pulling that group together.

6. New Business

- a. To discuss any future agenda items - None

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the November 28, 2017 School Committee meeting.

Ms. Scofield placed a hold on this - the role call was missing at the end. It will be added by Mrs. Simon for approval at next meeting in January 2018.

- b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

I recommend approval of the Executive Session minutes from the November 28, 2017 School Committee meeting – not for release.

- c. I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$1,170.00 from the Parmenter PCC for field trips as detailed.

d. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$595.00 from the J.F. Kennedy PCC for field trips as detailed.

e. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$250.00 from Maura Schaeffer & Johanna Culloty Jobin for the Jacqueline A Schaeffer Theatre Arts Scholarship.

f. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$29.08 from Coca Cola Give for in-house enrichment at FHS.

g. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$325.00 from the Oak St. PCC for field trips.

h. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$255.78 from Follett School Solutions for supplemental curriculum materials for Keller Elementary School.

Motion for all (with exception for approval of minutes for November 28, 2107 - those will be revised and roll call will be added)

Motion: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

8. Correspondence: Budget to Actual – Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator - Budget to actual - Mrs. Goodman we don't have any transfers at this time due to the end of the year.

9. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen

10. Payroll Ms. Douglas

11. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

BEDGG-E Template for Sub Committee Minutes.pdf
new member workshop with DS Additions.pdf
SCAgenda 12-12-17.pdf
Enrollmentcompare-Nov16-Nov17.pdf
Snow Pres for School Comm Dec 17.ppt
Special Education Update for SC 12.12.17 Final.pdf
Discussion-ActionA-ConcessionStand.pdf
Discussion-ActionB-FY18Capital.pdf
Discussion-ActionC-FAA Trip.pdf
Discussion-ActionD-Chorus Trip.pdf
Discussion-ActionE-Advisory Committee.pdf
Discussion-ActionF-18-19School Calendar.pdf
Consent-ActionA.pdf
Consent-ActionB.pdf
Consent-ActionC.pdf
Consent-ActionD.pdf
Consent-ActionE.pdf
Consent-ActionF.pdf
Consent-ActionG.pdf
Consent-ActionH.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off.doc
School Committee Warrant 112217.pdf
SCWarrant113017.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1811 summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1811.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1811M.pdf
Payroll Warrant 1811M summary.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf

