

**Franklin School Committee  
Minutes  
January 9, 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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Devin Curley is an active thespian who has been in many local plays with FSPA. Devin and his family are always looking for ways to give back to the community. As a student he is inclusive of all members of the Davis Thayer community. He is always observed to be the first one to invite a child, who is alone, to play or sit with someone who is alone at lunch.

Devin's teacher, Mrs. Colahan shared that he is a very respectful student and a great role model for all of our core values. He does very well academically and has excellent study skills. Devin is an active member of the DT Goes Global Club.

**Attendance:** 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. Steve Sherlock from Franklin Matters.

Ms. Dianne Feeley was not present

**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- Coming off the break not much is happening. Thank you Dr. Ahern for the snow days.

Claudia - Our winter sport teams have been dominating. All are doing very well.

Blaine - Our online store has opened up at the high school. It has apparel for the whole town.

Claudia - This semester is coming to an end and we are preparing for midterms as well as the seniors are hearing from colleges.

**d. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ahern - A few things to share with you. Welcome back. The first thing is an update on the Keller building. Right before vacation all wet materials were removed and the classrooms were deemed safe. There was testing done and no mold or bad air quality was detected. All the walls and carpets have been replaced and repaired over the break. The classrooms were set and up and moved back in. There are a few items to be done but the majority of the work has been completed. The cubbies have been ordered and will be put in. The Keller community has been great through this process. The sprinkler heads will be inspected and we will let you know what we find.

Secondly, there is currently an application for the sub advisory committee for the school start times. It went out a few times and on January 17 we will have the group and at the next School Committee meeting we will will have that group ready to go. We had 40 applications for this committee. There is

a website for the school start time advisory committee. There is a link to the form there. I have been posting the Superintendent's report on the district news on the website.

As you heard from the high school students there were some snow days, I want to commend the DPW and all the staff that helped with the clean up. A lot of work went into keeping the town safe and opening up the schools.

The last update is that school and district report cards are being disseminated this week. This is a state report on schools. The school report cards were state provided reports and their requirements. The school reports will be distributed through the school email distribution lists. There will be a link on the websites for those as well.

## **2. Guests / Presentations**

### **a. Social Emotional Learning Presentation (DIP 1) – Peter Light, Deborah Dixon**

Dr. Ahern - The first is an update of the district improvement plan on the first goal of social emotional learning.

Mr. Light - This is an update on the social emotional learning of the district improvement plan. This will help us develop a consistent message and how we deal with SEL. A video was shown on this to help better understand this and offer time for questions. I thought that would be a nice overview. CASELE has identified five skills for social emotional learning and the State has adopted this.

In order to get there, we have four key components to this; to have equitable and responsive school cultures; expand our capacity for SEL; focus on classroom practices; and finally we want to have support for students and families. Those are the four key strategies.

Mrs. Dixon - We use the responsive classroom to help teachers with strategies and support children. This is a non-curricular approach to help teachers with strategies. The district has had all the K-5 teachers trained for many years and new teachers as they come onboard and we moved the program into the middle school. All teachers K-8 will all have been trained.

Mr. Light - We are rethinking the pilot program and making sure the middle schools are promoting this. The schools all have different approach to this program depending on the schools. The A World of Difference is now at the middle schools. The 7th grade students have been chosen and are now meeting and going to implement the lessons in the spring. This program will then roll into the high school. Discrimination and harassment has been an issue and a topic of discussion and we are addressing that and there has been an increase. We did some work to develop some administrative protocols on how to manage this and how to investigate it. All faculty and staff will have training on this tomorrow.

We will have a focus on classroom practices and how Social Emotional Learning is helping the teachers. We also want to form our new team for this.

Mrs. Dixon - The first one, Jessica Minehan, was a presenter who worked with everyone in the district on one of the professional days. She is a behaviorist. She worked with how to employ strategies to work with students with mental challenges and behaviors. Secondly, Sara Ward was another presenter who did special education staff, guidance and counselor and focused particularly on executive functioning skills.

Mr. Light - We have trained most of the faculty on responsive classroom and will continue to do this. The William James and Oak Street partnership has a program that they are participating in an 18 month program and the staff will earn a certificate in School Climate and Culture and SEL. This is a college of psychology.

Mrs. Dixon - We are members of Accept Collaborative. They offer a number of professional development programs that we will be using addressing SEL.

Mr. Light - We work with Lesley University to work with Davis Thayer and Parmenter to bring trauma sensitive training to those schools. This provides a consistent set of strategies for students who may have suffered from trauma. This is a great program.

Mrs. Dixon - The next professional development is called the good behavior game. This program invites school districts to do this at no cost and all the materials are provided. It is designed for K-2, and is embedded in those grades for students to learn the SEL skills they need. We have three schools that signed up for that. This is a game for the students to help them learn.

Mr. Light - We have a partnership for Middlesex Partnership for Youth and this was funded through a grant. This covers the mental health and awareness of students. The leadership framework that we have put in place is to help expand leadership. We wanted to expand this. We put in leadership framework for what SEL looks like in the community. We expanded that to all staff and not just teachers. So we formed a Pre-K team from all across the district. We have had six meetings. We have 25 on the committee and we take a small view of SEL and leadership, so we can implement this for the long term. See the website: [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)

Our third area of focus is students at risk, to help the counseling staff identify these students.

Mrs. Dixon - One of the programs is the tiered system of reporting and to identify the students and assess the students. This will help us develop systems and protocols for identification.

Mr. Lights - We had Craig Murphy come in and speak to the counselors. We are going to find out how to use assessment processes for students. This can be expensive so we need to be aware of that. Our final goal is to have a

support system in place for students. This will be for all the schools to implement. This will take about a year and we want the faculty to have the knowledge ahead of time.

Finally, the third aspect is to develop community partnerships for the schools to help them. We are having discussions with a couple of agencies for students who are unable to get to counseling sessions. How they can help students access the curriculum. That is in discussions and not ready at this time. Are there any questions?

Mrs. Linden - How this works with the technology the students are using and social media and the fact that students are affected?

Mr. Light - Dr. Edwards has been involved with this through the Digital Learning Committee and we have a School Wellness Advisory Council and we are looking into that and the impact that social media has on kids mental health. We want to talk about the impact of screen time and how that fits in with SEL.

Mrs. Schultz - Thank you for this work. It is a great investment. This work is so important for our students.

Mrs. Zub - In the corporate world, we are doing the exact same thing regarding discrimination so it is great to see that we are also doing this for the staff and students at Franklin Public Schools.

Dr. Bergen - You have done so much research on social media and impulse control, are you sharing this with parents, the toll that this takes on students and how it affects them?

Mr. Light - We are. We want to make clear how information is to be communicated and to whom. Our schools have been taking this on this family communication and they are constantly sending home information on

SEL. The counselors are sending information home. There is a lot of family engagement going on.

Mrs. Zub - Remington started a book club and the book is Distracted to help the students talk about that. It is a great book.

Dr. Bergen - Questions or comments? Thank you.

**b. FHS Program of Studies Update/ School Improvement Plan Update – Paul Peri,Principal; William Klements, Deputy Principal**

Dr. Ahern - The department heads and district heads all joined us today for this presentation. I would like to introduce them.

John Menard  
Ron Taylor  
Bill Bobrowski  
Kevin McCarthy  
Cathy Klein  
CarolAnn Tebbetts  
Kristen Letendre  
Dianne Plouffe  
Laura Evans

Mr. Klements - We have two presentations tonight. The program of studies, we are involved in a multi-year journey which ties to accreditation. We have an incredible staff. This year we are tightening up the prerequisites for the classes so families see common language and can plan their student's courses of studies. We have a new list of some new courses and here they are; ceramics III, team sports II, speed and strength II, AP physics C, music theater workshop, cooperative art, art and narrative through podcasts and race in American society.

Mr. Peri - We just are highlighting some the new courses for you and saw that as a focus.

Mr. Klements - The department heads work hard and help to get these new courses for the students. They work hard to make this happen.

Mrs. Liden - Is the physics C mechanics or both?

Mr. Bobrowski - We teach C mechanics and the juniors can take AP physics one and the best students can take AP physics C and this is a combination of mechanics and electricity.

Dr. Bergen - To fit all these courses, do you have to drop others?

Mr. Perri - We look at enrollment and sometimes we drop classes that are not working. It is a large puzzle. We are moving with the times.

Dr. Bergen - Any questions or comments?

Mr. Peri - Our school improvement plan, there is a lot of information here. We want students to make connections so they know what to do and how to get information. We have the advisory groups and this has been tremendous for them. We have class meetings and they can communicate with their class and keep them informed. The guidance department is working with students on all different subjects. Dr. Ahern sat with the students and she heard them say they wanted more advisory and how it has helped them. We wanted class officers to present and share with their classes what is going on.

There was a brief overview on what is being done to help students connect with staff. Mental health awareness week will be done this year again. It has been outstanding. We want to continue on working with mental health, physical activity and nutrition and how much this falls on the health department. We will have more faculty meetings. Social emotional learning is a large part of our goal.



Mr. Klements - This is personalized learning and meeting individual needs, and is driven by the results. The big topic is our continued programs on grading practices. We have a pilot program that continues to grow. We have some work to be done. One focus is inclusion, and we are working on that and curriculum.

Mr. Peri - We are working on a collaborative culture for learning. We meet regularly and work with administration on professional development. We will continue to seek feedback and look for way to increase two-way communication. We want to engage and dialog.

Mr. Klements - Another goal is continuing the two-way communication. We have a very active twitter page. We have bi-weekly communication to the parents. We have weekly communications with the staff. We have some work to be done and work on community partnerships, task force and we will have coffee sessions coming up as well. Our school council meetings are up and running.

Mr. Peri - Our challenges from last year and what we have been doing.

Mr. Klements - At this time in the year, the substance abuse and under age drinking numbers are down. We work on this to help students make the right choices.

Mr. Peri - We are looking to improve the inclusive school environment. I had a magical moment with two students who wanted a new club an African American Cultural Club --- and we started a new club which is student driven and we had a meeting about this. It was great to have the students drive this. I am excited about this.

Grading assessment and feedback, we are continuing this. Our concern is the one percent, that we have students with struggles and we are working on

that. We have students helping us solve these issues. The student's have a voice in this.

Dr. Bergen - Are there any questions or comments? We need to make sure that we have staffing levels up so we can have these courses. These are budget implications and we want you to include this and keep pushing for this.

Mr. Peri - We are happy that you have recognized that. It is really on our minds, staffing has not increased but class size has.

Mr. Klements - Our staff will be happy to know the conversations are happening regarding staffing.

two minute break

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

#### **a. Policy – First Reading**

**I recommend moving Policy BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee to a second reading at the next meeting.**

Motion: Mrs. Douglas  
Approve: 6

Second: Mrs. Schultz  
Oppose: 0

### **4. Discussion Only Items -**

Dr. Ahern - You have documents about two collaboratives that we are part of. This is the annual report. We have 34 students at ACCEPT. BICO is a regional collaborative that is more south and the headquarters are here in Franklin. We have 14 students in BICO.

Dr. Bergen - I want to let people know how comprehensive these programs are and how they work.

Dr. Ahern - Typically, part of the team will get together to discuss what the students need to succeed. We try to create programs with similar needs but sometimes we cannot create those programs due to their needs. We may need to place them somewhere else to get help and services they need.

## **5. Information Matters**

### **Budget - Dr. Bergen**

We put together a budget fact sheet, that we will be submitting. We will be open and transparent about this process. The town is under pressure and our goal is to work together with them. The brochure has all the upcoming meetings.

### **Community Relations - Mrs. Zub**

Our meeting was moved to this Saturday, January 13. We will talk about an educator reward program. We will talk about our coffee house calendar and we will look at the website. We will have an overall strategy. We may go onto the local TV station. On January 23 we will have more information to present.

Ms. Scofield - Which website?

Mrs. Zub - The school committee.

### **Policy - Ms. Scofield**

We had a really exciting meeting last night. We reviewed a lot of policies and we will have them at the next meeting for first reading. Our next meeting is Monday, January 22 in the conference room.

### **Public School Advocacy - Mrs. Schultz**

We have a funding forum coming up at the February meeting in the lecture hall at the high school and the press release will go out. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16.

**Joint PCC - Dr. Bergen**

We shared the advocacy information and budget brochure to them. We discussed gathering data about equity funding of schools.

**SWAC - Mr. Light**

We completed a revision of the wellness policy. On January 23, it will come forward to Policy Sub Committee. We are looking at the BOKS program and how it is working.

Mrs. Douglas - Did anyone take advantage of the emergency bus policy?

Dr. Ahern - I am not sure but I would like to know that. We can find that out.

**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 and December 12, 2017 School Committee Meetings.

- b. I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$4,802.65 for FHS as detailed:

- i. \$832.65 from All-American Publishing
  - ii. \$3,970.00 from Vicario Studios

- c. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$800.00 from the Hockomock Area YMCA for in-house enrichment at Parmenter Elementary School.

- d. I recommend acceptance of the donation of 125 Science eye goggles valued at \$216.25 from the Keller PCC.

e. I recommend acceptance of the donation of an iPad with case and a communication App for a non-verbal child valued at \$707.98 from Linda Bishop.

f. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$50.00 from Lueders Environmental, Inc. for Davis Thayer Elementary School.

g. I recommend acceptance of the donation of an area rug, valued at \$409.47, from the Parmenter PCC for supplemental supplies.

h. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,550.00 from Franklin Music Parents for in house enrichment for the Music Department.

i. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$5,000.00 from Thomas A Wagner III for a FHS Scholarship.

j. I recommend approval of the request of Brian Wildeman to declare the attached list of books as surplus from RMS.

k. I recommend approval of the request of Dr. Joyce Edwards to declare the attached list of books as surplus from Central Office.

Motion for all: Ms. Scofield  
Approve: 6

Second: Mrs. Schultz  
Oppose: 0

**8. Correspondence: Budget to Actual** – Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator - Budget to actual - Mrs. Goodman - I will have the transfers for you to approve at the next meeting.

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

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

### **11. Adjournment**

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

**Adjourned by 8:37 pm.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 1-9-18.pdf  
Discussion Action - Policy BDF.pdf  
Accept Collaborative Annual\_Report\_FY17.pdf  
BICO 12 07 2017 annual report.pdf  
2018 SEL School Committee Presentation.pdf  
2018-19 Program of Studies - WORKING DRAFT  
School Committee FHS SIP-17\_18.pdf  
Consent-ActionA.pdf  
Consent-ActionB.pdf  
Consent-ActionC.pdf  
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Payroll Warrant #1813 summary (1).pdf  
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Enrollmentcompare-Dec.2016-Dec2017.pdf  
Pledge Student