

Franklin School Committee
Minutes
March 22, 2018
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
This meeting was not televised.

Chris Sterns of Franklin TV was not present
No one present from the Milford Daily News

Call to order: 7:02 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:

Brendan O’Leary An 8th grader from Annie Sullivan Middle School

Brendan consistently demonstrates kindness, compassion, and humility in class and in the hallways. He easily works with any group in class, making great contributions and eliciting responses from his peers. He does well academically, but never brags to his peers. He was nominated for and received the “Inclusive” student of the month by his peers. Brendan is very strong academically and is a quiet leader who leads by example. He is focused, on task, asks meaningful questions, and is often smiling as he interacts with teachers and his peers. He is a role-model to other students and has a contagious positive attitude. He is currently a member of our school’s Student Council and is just starting to discover his leadership capabilities

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda -

Dr. Ahern - We will not have the executive session at the end of this meeting

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 - It is the end of the winter sports season and the sports teams did great. Boys basketball lost in their championship. Rattle City showed so much support for the sports and outshined the other schools. Spring sports have started.

Claudia - Banquet season has started. Senior banquet is at Lake Pearl. Science night was last week.

Blaine - On the 14th, we participated in the walk out for the victims of FL. It was organized by the students.

Claudia - Peace Takes Practice took place. Over 100 students attended Senior project has started.

Blaine - Best Buddies prom was last Friday. Held at the Elks Club.

Claudia - The Student government is working on a scholarship for Mr. K.

Dr. Bergen - How did the walkout go?

Blaine - It went better than I thought.

Claudia - It was done so we all knew what was happening, not a way to get out of class.

Dr. Bergen - Do you get a sense of how you can make an impact?

Claudia - They had pamphlets on how to register to vote.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you.

d. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern - Several things, first update on the concession stand and where we are. On December 12 you voted to approve this pending funding. We had a follow up meeting about the fundraising, they secured \$122,000 in labor and cash of \$19,000 to \$175,000 with about \$37,000 to fundraise.

They also had a plan to close that gap. I feel comfortable with the project and it will move forward in the coming weeks. We have a great team and I want to thank everyone for helping. We will bring in the Principals from the surrounding schools as we move forward.

Next, I want to commend the food service program, Director Colin Boisvert and Suzanne Sherrin and the cafeteria staff for preparing for the recent audit. The reviewer noted she was pleased with her findings. We did very well. No errors in free lunch, meals are compliant and good communications in place. A fantastic catering program. Any findings have been corrected and we cannot use a single use codes within a categorical listing of programs and water needs to be available. I would like to thank the food services department.

The third thing is that Jefferson received a grant called Bridge Builder grant for the school and it will be promoted in the next meeting. It is for \$500. They will paint murals in the school hallways. The students were presented this and what they would like and voted on the idea for murals. They will choose quotes or pictures about kindness and do this in the spring.

I wanted to note family science night at the high school was great. They did a wonderful job setting up activities and demonstrations. There were many families who attended.

The last thing we had some kindergarten events. Kelty Kelly hosted the event and it went well. She created a welcoming environment. It was great for the parents to see and meet everyone. This will be the class of 2031.

2. Guests/Presentations

a. Project 351 Student Representative from ASMS

Brendan O'Leary will share his experience with Project 351

It is a statewide youth organization and there are 8th grade ambassadors and we have a rep from each middle school and Brendan was chosen from ASMS.

Brendan - I am in the 8th grade from ASMS. This is a project for a one-day event that Deval Patrick formed. More than 400 8th graders attend this project and we learn to lead others. They are an unstoppable force. It is an innovative drive by youths all over Massachusetts for leadership development and impact. We gathered in the Fall at the JFK library for Cradles to Crayon and donate gloves to Puerto Rico.

I will be doing clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons this Spring. I will be collecting clothing for children who need them. I am glad to be able to help with this cause. I would like to thank everyone who nominated me.

Dr. Bergen - For the clothing drive, is there a date?

Brendan - It will be a one-day drop off on Tuesday, April 3, at my house 16 Cranberry Drive.

Mrs. Feeley - Where is the main chapter of 351?

Brendan - We meet at the JFK Library and the state house, no real meeting place.

Brendan - I get the supplies and it will be dropped off regionally and ship to the factory and organize the clothes and package them out to those in need.

Mrs. Witcoff - I would like him to tell you what this project is like. I would like to have Brendan tell you about the day they went into Boston.

Brendan - Everyone was dropped off at a regional spot and got on a bus, no parents and met at JFK library in Boston and met with other kids. It was fun and exciting.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you.

b. Update on Homework (District Improvement Plan – Goal 2) – Dr. Joyce Edwards

Dr. Ahern - As it relates to the district improvement plan and it will be split up into two presentations and in the first Dr. Edwards is going to give you an update on the Homework Committee in light of the school district policy.

Dr. Edwards - Thank you. I wanted to acknowledge the policy change as it relates and generates the plan. As you know, we highlighted homework-free vacations and we have information on that. The School Committee's emphasis was on the needs of the child and families and the policy to be contemporary with today and the homework. It should be appropriate with the classroom and what is being taught, it should be structured and that it is consistent. It needs to be aligned with current research and current policies. It was generated as a piece of the district improvement plan and the homework ensures all students are challenged and meet their potential. It shows an objective that created a study group to make recommendation for K-12 policies. We developed a forum for parents and guardians for best practices. I wanted to talk about the study group of teachers across all the levels and how they are working on this together. We also have administrators as well in the group. They came from a wide range of beliefs

and practices. This cross-section has generated great discussions. We wanted to develop some recommendations, gather parent and student voice and have the School Committee review the policy to ensure they match all the way around. There was a parent forum about homework research and practices and any proposed/recommended changes. We have become more like minded as a group and we want to hold a parent forum in the Fall. We are looking to come back to you with an update later this Spring. It should be completed in the next year.

Initially we asked why we were forming a group? It is a good question and there are some conclusions as to why we have it and what we determined as to what we believe in what homework stands for if that still holds true. We wanted to rethink homework and make sure it is not mindless. We did some research on this and did this for all grades, K-12. The policy needs to be grade level specific. There is a difference between policy and practice that we need to look at to ensure we have the consistency. We need to prepare each grade for the amount of homework given grade by grade. We want the students to use critical thinking, have study skills and spend time developing soft skills. We went about this with an open minds with respectful interactions about their differences.

We are looking at identifying current practices in Franklin. They only knew what happened in their school and their classroom. We will be developing surveys to secure input on what the homework is and current practices. We will be doing this at the end of this school year to get ready for the next school year. We need to develop preliminary recommendations for any proposed changes to homework practice. We will be seeking input about proposed changes from all stakeholders. We would be looking for teacher, student and parent feedback. Do we need to tweak the policy? We are looking for it to be reasonable and understanding that families today don't have the same support to their learners.

The next steps will be family forums to educate the community. We want to make sure all the changes will work and continue to work. We will need to review this on a regular basis

We did a homework free vacation and did a survey afterwards and waited a week after to see if the students got more homework.

We found the positive response and endorsed vacations as homework free. The FHS teachers had the most concerns about losing time, 70% endorsed homework-free vacation. We went and did this again at February vacation, did another survey and the responses were fairly similar and followed the December vacation. Many comments were thanking us for taking this approach. Some FHS teachers who teach AP were concerned about this homework policy. We will do this survey again after April vacation. Then we can compare the results after three surveys taken after each vacation. Do you have any questions?

Mrs. Schultz - Thank you. The homework issues stemmed from the community coffees, two other areas were projects and weekend homework.

Dr. Edwards - We are looking at that too and it will be part of the survey as well. We will be looking at that and the weekend homework again. We need to capture what we are doing and to what degree is that true. Our job is to look at it in a more quantitative way and develop recommendations from that.

Mrs. Schultz - That is interesting to have this group and how complex it is. The whole of Franklin will be better for it. What were the questions you posed to the students?

Dr. Edwards - I can share those with you. Did you have homework over vacation? Did it impact your family time? Etc. Our middle school students were articulate and high school were mixed because some did have homework.

Mrs. Schultz - Our next update will be in the Fall.

Dr. Edwards - Yes. We would like to do the parent forum. We need to take all that data and come back with a final policy.

Mrs. Douglas - Is the survey online?

Dr. Edwards - I can share it.

Dr. Linden - I wanted to commend you. I like that it is research and equity based. How are you defining homework? Is general study time included for a test?

Dr. Edwards - What is homework? What we did was we were clear that reading to your child or with your child is not homework. It is written output and one of those is the study piece and how that it is active study and proof of study. That comes as homework. To say to a student, just go study and what is that? We need to clearly define that.

Dr. Linden - You will capture that in time expectations?

Dr. Edwards - Yes, in elementary.

Ms. Scofield - Thank you. When the students came back after the homework-free break, did the teachers say they came back refreshed?

Dr. Edwards - There were comments from the teachers that they came back refreshed but may not have been current. The teachers needed to activate refreshing.

Mrs. Zub - The critical thinking it is great for higher ed and for corporate. Did you get any comments from middle school students who had homework?

Dr. Edwards - I wasn't sure if it was a project that needed to be completed. We asked the teachers to take time off as well.

Mrs. Zub - How do we help the IEP students who may need to do homework?

Dr. Edwards - That is a conversation to have with the family on how to help the student with support.

Dr. Bergen - The higher performing groups that most needs time away is this group, it is something that we need to look at.

Dr. Edwards - I think it is important that families look at the AP courses student are taking.

Dr. Bergen - they need to look at the number of AP courses, they need to take so many of these and what does it do to them. Any questions or comments?

3. Discussion / Action Items

a. Policy – Second Reading

I recommend adoption of the following policies as discussed. Policy CBD – Superintendent's Contract Policy ADF – Wellness Policy

Motion: Mrs. Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

b. Proposal for FHS Seniors late arrival or early release during study hall pilot

I recommend temporary suspension of policy JH – Student Absences for the purpose of piloting late arrival/early release for FHS Seniors during quarter 4 as discussed.

Motion: Mrs. Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

c. School Start Times Advisory Committee Appointment

I recommend approval of the remaining School Start Times Advisory Committee appointment as discussed

Motion: Mrs. Douglas
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

4. Discussion Only Items -

a. Budget Discussion

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 looked at the percentage of salaries, and how does that compare to other towns?

COMMUNITY RELATIONS Mrs. Zub - Our meeting was cancelled, so we will have a meeting April 4 at Franklin TV. We will have budget and elementary school topics. We will have the next planning meeting that day right before.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Mrs. Schultz - We met on March 15 to plan forum with Mr. Kennedy, have a discussion on federal policy. We also discussed representation on the hill in Boston. And then we want to take away from our forum and tone of what we are trying to accomplish and put out in a newsletter to get the message out.

AD HOC Dr. Bergen - We will meet after April 2

POLICY Mrs. Scofield - We met on March 6, we talked about social media policy that is being put together. Dr. Ahern and Mr. Light will have it sent to legal and coming back to us at the next meeting April 3 at 7:00.

JOINT PCC Dr. Bergen and Mrs. Douglas met on March 5, we talked about the Parkland incident and parents raised that School Committee should talk about school safety and reassure the public and get something set up.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE Mr. Light - We meet next Tuesday, March 27. Looking at substance abuse at the school level and how we can work together.

SWAC Mrs. Douglas - Cancelled due to snow, next meeting in May.

SCHOOL START TIMES Dr. Linden - We met on March 20 and it was a large group and all 20 members were there. Dr. Ahern led us on an activities which lead to define the themes and sub committees. Next meeting is April 3 at 6:00 pm, and May 2.

MASC Mrs. Schultz - We had a summit on poverty and Dr. Ahern was a presenter. It was a great presentation about equity through schools. Dr. Ahern did a wonderful job.

6. New Business

a. To discuss any future agenda items -

Dr. Ahern - On March 27, we will discuss budget hearing action items to school choice and the School Committee meeting schedule.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes I recommend approval of the minutes from the February 27, 2018 School Committee meeting.

b. Parmenter Gifts I recommend acceptance of four checks totaling \$518.67 as detailed:

\$340.72 Parmenter PCC for Supplemental Supplies
\$50.00 Parmenter Parent for Supplemental Supplies
\$77.95 Parmenter PCC for Supplemental Supplies
\$50.00 Parmenter Parent for Supplemental Supplies

- c. Music Parents Gift I recommend acceptance of \$240.00 from Franklin Music Parents for in-house enrichment as detailed.
- d. FHS scholarship I recommend acceptance of a check for \$5,000.00 from the Digital Federal Credit Union for a FHS Scholarship.
- e. Davis Thayer Gift I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000.00 from the Davis Thayer PCC for Library books.
- f. Remington Middle School Gift I recommend acceptance of a check for \$594.00 from the RMS PCC for in-house enrichment.
- g. Jefferson Gift I recommend acceptance of a check for \$4,159.00 from the Jefferson PCC for field trips.
- h. HMMS Grade 6 recurring Field Trip I recommend approval of the request to take HMMS 6th graders to Save the Bay, in Providence, RI on 5/30; 5/31; and 6/1/2018 (approximately 52 students each day) 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. Executive Session

- a. Strategy with respect to litigation - CANCELLED

11. Adjournment

Adjourned by 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 3-22-18.pdf
Proj351.pdf
SC Homework Presentation March 22
Superintendent's Report 3-22-18
Discussion ActionA-Policy.pdf
Discussion ActionB-FHS Senior Study Hall Pilot.pdf
Discussion ActionC-School Start Times Advisory Committee.pdf
Discussion ActionD-DECA Trip.pdf
Discussion ActionE-NETechTrip.pdf
FY 19 Superintendent's Recommended Budget (1).pdf
FY 19 Supt recommended budget cover sc (1).pdf
FY 19 Supt recommended budget overview sc.pdf
FY19 supt recommended budget sc.pdf
Revolving Detail sc.pdf
Special Revenue FY19 sc.pdf
Consent ActionA-Minutes.pdf
Consent ActionB-Parm.Gift.pdf
Consent ActionC-Music Gift.pdf
Consent ActionD-Scholarship.pdf
Consent ActionE-DT Gift.pdf
Consent ActionF-RMS Gift.pdf
Consent ActionG-Jefferson Gift.pdf
Consent ActionH-HMMS Trip.pdf
Consent ActionI-Keller Gift.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1818 summary.pdf
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