

**Franklin School Committee**  
**September 12, 2023**  
**Municipal Building – Council Chambers**  
**7:00 P.M.**

*Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29  
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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, citizens will be able to continue to view the public meeting using Zoom. We will use the Zoom Webinar feature. You may view the meeting with the link or phone numbers below. Participants wishing to speak during the Citizen's Comments portion of the agenda will be able to raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair. The webinar host will invite the attendee to unmute for comment.*

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81198973946?pwd=ZGhicVBsSEwwMkFvU2V5N215WWdBZz09>

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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.”

**At 7:00pm, Ms. Spencer called the meeting to order.**

In attendance was: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Absent; Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes

Also in attendance was: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Dr. Tina Rogers; Dr. Robert Dutch

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Ahan Shetty, Grade 12**

Ahan Shetty is the FHS senior class president, member of DECA, and captain of the Mock Trial team. In his spare time he volunteers and mentors middle school band students. Ahan enjoys learning and problem solving. Ahan's teachers describe as hardworking, creative, responsible, intelligent and respectful! Ahan has been instrumental in the positive start to the year that FHS has had! Ahan is looking forward to enjoying his friends during his last year at FHS!

## **Moment of Silence**

### **I. Routine Business**

- A. Review of Agenda** - reviewed and in order
- B. Payment of Bills** - reviewed and in order
- C. Payroll** - reviewed and in order

### **D. FHS Student Representative Comments**

Siddharth Chandra spoke about the upcoming club fair at FHS on 9/21/23 during the lunch blocks. He said Mock Trial is hosting an open meeting to any interested students from 6:30-8:00 on 9/14/23. Picture day at FHS will be on Sept 20 and 21. He added that Curriculum Night will be 9/28/23 from 6:00-8:00. Jazz band auditions will be held soon and to contact Band Director, Ms. Rudsit for more information.

Class officer elections will be held soon for the Class of 2027 and nomination forms can be found in their house office.

The Homecoming Dance will be held on 10/6/23 and will be outside on the field.

The Homecoming game vs. Taunton will be held on 10/5/23 at 7pm.

Finally, he said Legally Blonde tickets will go on sale 10/1 for the mid-November productions.

Mr. Ahan Shetty spoke about fall sports being off to a great start.

He noted that graduation was changed to 5/31/24.

He said senior photos and baby photos need to be submitted for the yearbook by 10/6/23 with senior quotes due by 11/1/23.

He noted that the Class of 2025 prom will be held on 5/3/24 at Lakeview Pavillion. Lastly, he said the PSAT will be held at FHS on 10/14/23.

### **E. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Giguere said two juniors will also be joining as reps throughout the year, they are Ella Mahoney and Sawyer Whitmore.

He said they welcomed back 4600 students and 800 faculty with the staff working hard to ensure everything was ready for the students. He expressed his gratitude to everyone for their hard work.

He provided a hiring update with currently all teacher vacancies filled and 11 ESP vacancies which is down from 21. He said they are still in search of an AP at Keller and there are currently 2 Interventionist openings.

He provided a migrant housing update. He said Franklin was a community asked to provide long term aid. DESE has provided long term temporary housing and currently 35 units are occupied. There are 25 school age children, and the district is currently collaborating to enroll and register children. He said the state will be providing funding assistance. He added as with any other Franklin student, they will not publicly say which schools the students are enrolled at.

He also gave an update to the clubs and activity cuts at the middle level. He said Lifelong Learning has been able to acquire some of the middle school clubs and activities like Ski Club, World of Difference Peer Leaders, Unified Basketball, Jazz Club, etc. There will be more information to come.

**Ms. Spencer asked the committee for any questions/comments?**

Mr. Callaghan noted about the hiring update and praised the administrative team for filling so many open positions.

Mr. Callaghan noted about middle school clubs. He appreciates the work going into trying to save some of the clubs.

Mr. Charles asked how they are balancing the needs of students with the lack of ESP's.

Mr. Giguere noted that Mrs. Marano stepped in today as an ESP in one of the programs.

Mrs. Marano said they are doing the best they can to make sure the students are supported. She said they will continue to post the positions and hire.

Mr. Charles asked what levels the migrant students are?

Mr. Giguere said it is across all of the levels.

Mr. McNeill said thank you for all of the updates

Ms. Stokes asked whether the Interventionists and ESP's are positions that can be flexible in hours?

Mr. Giguere and Mrs. Marano said they can be flexible.

Ms. Stokes said she is disappointed about clubs as a parent but understands as a school committee member.

Ms. Whitmore said thank you for the report and she is glad they are able to help the migrant families.

## **II. Guests/Presentations**

### **A. Introduce new Administrators**

*Andrew Bernabei - Principal, ECDC*

*Corey Cox - Assistant Principal, Annie Sullivan Middle School*

*Sam Duffy Protentis - Assistant Principal, Kennedy Elementary School*

*Janaina Vasconcelos-Melotti - Assistant School Business Administrator*

*Keri Busavage - Principal, Helen Keller Elementary School*

*Evan Chelman - Principal, Parmenter School*

*Michael Walsh - Assistant Principal, Franklin High School*

*Kris Jeffers - Assistant Principal, Horace Mann Middle School*

*Eric Stark - PreK-12 Director of STEM*

The committee members welcomed everyone to Franklin and in their new roles.

### **B. District Improvement Plan - Mr. Lucas Giguere, Mrs. Paula Marano, Dr. Tina Rogers**

**\*See Presentation Slides for more detailed information**

Mr. Giguere spoke about the Strategic Planning Process.

Mrs. Marano spoke about Strategic Objective 1: Social-Emotional Well-Being of Students and Staff.

Dr. Rogers spoke about Strategic Objective 2: Engaging and Rigorous Curriculum and 3: High-Quality Instruction to Meet the Academic and SEL Needs of Each Learner

Mr. Giguere presented on Strategic Objective 4: Effective Two-Way Communication to Support Student Learning. He also mentioned that Ken Storlazzi is working to modernize some of the Human Resource processes.

Dr. Tina Rogers spoke about Strategic Objective 5: Affirm Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for All Students.

Mr. Giguere spoke about next steps and they will begin to dive into level based goals.

Mr. Callaghan asked if the DLI's were still ensuring the proper safeguards are in place given the cuts in the budget to the positions?

Mr. Giguere said they are doing prioritized work such as safety, adding new programs, and troubleshooting. He said DECA, DESSA and Panorama have all been vetted and verified.

Mr. Callaghan noted that it is a challenge to the administration to not be able to offer middle school clubs.

Mr. Giguere replied that it is a goal to prioritize doing what they can to restore services that have been provided in the past. He said cuts are not something that they take lightly.

Mr. Charles asked where they see themselves in the rebuilding process versus where they initially envisioned it?

Dr. Rogers and Mr. Giguere cited Panorama and its phased implementation.

Mr. McNeill asked if the team could highlight the work done last year, how they got to the present, and how it sets them up for progress in the future?

Mr. Giguere re-shared the slide from the presentation called District Strategic Initiatives. He also said the upcoming level based presentations will speak to certain specific areas. Mrs. Marano said they look for feedback from teachers and try to not add too much on their plates.

Ms. Stokes noted Strategic Objective #1 and Restorative Practices but she said wasn't able to locate it.

Mrs. Marano said she would see it at the SIP presentations.

Ms. Whitmore said thank you and she appreciates the district's culture of learning and improving.

### **III. Discussion/Action Items**

#### **A. Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand Trip - Mr. Chris Penza; Mr. Michael Walsh**

I recommend approval of the request of Chris Penza and Chris Kelley to take FHS students to Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand in April, 2025 as detailed.

Mr. Penza said the trip, if approved, will be in April, 2025 around April vacation. He shared the itinerary for the proposed trip and what is included in the trip.

Mr. Walsh spoke about the safety of the trip and the strength of EF tours safety.

Mr. Penza spoke about donation pages the students can set up as well as possible fundraisers to help alleviate costs.

Mr. Charles asked about college credits mentioned in the presentation?

Mr. Penza replied that this is through EF and there is additional course work. The credits can be used towards colleges and universities.

Mr. Charles asked if it was specific colleges and universities?

Mr. Walsh said he could find an answer for him.

Mr. Gigeure replied that it probably falls into the category of transfer credits and would be at the college's discretion whether to accept the credits.

Mr. Charles asked who would be eligible to go on this trip?

Mr. Penza replied it would ideally be 10th-12th and students who have had access to the World History curriculum in school. He added that ideally it would be students who have had the Vietnam curriculum, as well.

Mr. Charles asked if there was a projection of how many students they would like to see on the trip?

Mr. Penza replied that based on the feedback from students they are receiving, there seems to be a lot of interest in this trip.

Ms. Stokes noted the cost and has concerns about the students who will not be able to access this trip even with fundraising. She said she encourages them to think creatively with fundraising.

Ms. Spencer asked about any students who have disabilities who want to attend?

Mr. Penza noted that EF does their best to ensure this but also added that transportation in SE Asia is very different from home. He noted rough terrain and rocky roads.

Ms. Spencer noted the current travel advisory in Cambodia right now and asked if this is something they watch.

Mr. Penza replied that EF has a piece of mind program and won't let the group go if the travel advisory is high. EF will offer an alternative trip.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6 Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0; with 1 absent**

**B. 23-24 District Improvement Plan**

I recommend approval of the 23-24 District Improvement Plan as presented.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6 Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0; with 1 absent**

**IV. Discussion Only Items - there were none**

**V. Information Matters**

**A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports**

1. **Superintendent Evaluation** - can expect drafted Superintendent goals in October.
2. **Budget** - next meeting 9/26/23
3. **Policy** - next meeting 9/20/23
4. **Community Relations** - met on 9/11/23 to discuss Harvest Festival.

**B. School Committee Liaison Reports**

1. **Joint PCC** - met on 9/11/23 and discussed back to school items, field trips, and the CORI process.
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting 10/3/23.
3. **SEPAC** - running a calendar raffle fundraiser that starts in October.
4. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - 10/10/23
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - 9/14/23
6. **Comprehensive School Facilities Planning Committee** - met last week, talked about the scope of this committee, next meeting is 10/4/23.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

I recommend approval of the minutes from your August 22, 2023 meeting as detailed.

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6 Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0; with 1 absent**

**VII. Good of the Order** - there was none

**VIII. Citizen's Comments** - there was none

**IX. New Business**

**To discuss any future agenda items**

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 9/26/23 meeting:

- School Improvement Plans

**X. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill**

**Approve: 6 Oppose: 0**

**Motion Carries 6-0; with 1 absent**

**XI: Adjournment at 8:41pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 9-12-23

Payroll Warrant #2405 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2405.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign Off 091223.pdf

SC Warrant 081723.pdf

SC Warrant 082423.pdf

SC Warrant 083123.pdf

FPS District Improvement Plan 2023-24 DIP

Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand - April 2025.pdf

Discussion Action A - Vietnam-Cambodia-Thailand Trip.pdf

Discussion Action B - DIP.pdf

Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf

Budget to Actual.pdf

Pledge Student.pdf