

Franklin School Committee
September 14, 2021
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29

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 and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to continue to access the public meeting using the Zoom link or phone numbers below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83036991583?pwd=MlVNbytkODRHTGhiRDk0b0U4N0NOUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 3699 1583

Passcode: 378523

One tap mobile

*+16465588656,,83036991583#,,,,*378523# US (New York)*

*+13017158592,,83036991583#,,,,*378523# US (Washington DC)*

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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.”

Dr. Bergen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call Attendance were: Ms. Jennifer D’Angelo-Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan-Yes; Atty. Judith Pond-Pfeffer-Absent; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield-Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen-Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes

Also in attendance were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman

Pledge of Allegiance

Gia Hamani

Gia is in Mrs. Lyons’ 5th grade class and has had a wonderful start to the school year. She demonstrates perseverance and determination regularly and her fun and outgoing personality

adds so much to the school community. Gia is excited about being a 5th grade role model at Parmenter this year and plans to demonstrate our core value of leadership throughout the year. She's off to a great start! In her free time, Gia loves to take gymnastics classes, play outside with friends, and watch movies.

Shady Saleib

Shady is in Mrs. Grinley's 5th grade class and has had a great start to the school year. He feels honored to represent Parmenter School tonight. Shady puts a lot of effort into his work and enjoys seeing the results of his hard work. His favorite subject is math because group work and games can be fun, and math is a strength of his. Shady demonstrates Parmenter's core values on a regular basis, especially caring, respect, and courage. When not at school Shady likes hanging out with his friends, playing basketball and football, and would like to learn to play the guitar.

Jameson Langevin

Jameson is in Mrs. Cronin's 5th grade class and has had a successful start to the school year. He returned to in-person learning with joy and enthusiasm and his smile is contagious! This year, Jameson is excited to learn more about history and science, his favorite subjects. He is already demonstrating role model behavior in just the first few days of school, demonstrating all of Parmenter's core values, especially leadership, effort, and respect. Like many fifth graders, Jameson enjoys playing video games. He also enjoys showing his artistic side by drawing.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - all is fine

B. Citizen's Comments - Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments - there are none

In the spirit of open communication, "the Committee will hold a public participation segment (also called Citizen's Comments) about matters 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.... The Committee will hear public comments related to an agenda item when the Chair deems appropriate during the Committee meeting. Topics for discussion during the meeting must be limited to those items listed on the Committee meeting agenda for that evening...." - from Policy BEDH

C. FHS Student Representative Comments - there are none

D. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern noted that Mr. Hanna and his team are putting together the FHS student representatives and will begin at the next meeting.

Dr. Ahern shared a back to school recap. She noted school has been in session now for three weeks.

She said the administration is doing a tremendous job in their buildings, noting that we are in a different place this fall than we thought we'd be in regards to the pandemic. She said they continue to wait for guidance from the Department of Education.

Dr. Ahern said that every system has been affected by the pandemic and has had to be rethought.

Dr. Ahern said there has been some flux with student enrollment and that there will be a full update in the 10/1/21 report. She said current enrollment at the elementary level is higher than pre-pandemic, noting McKibben's forecast. She added that 217 single family homes turned over by the middle of August and this is on pace for over 300 by the end of this year.

Dr. Ahern noted some highlights happening: administrators have been hosting grade level and school meetings, school picture days, fire drills, visits from emotional support dog Ben Franklin, spirit days, high school sports teams competing, PCC's are hosting events and fundraisers.

Dr. Ahern added the first PDD was 9/3/21 and shared some highlights:

ECDC - Pediatric CPR/AED training and discussed DECA implementation and school improvement goals.

K-5 - Illustrative Math implementation program and MAP growth assessments in ELA and Math. K-5 Unified Arts collaborated on the Arts Explorations Block.

Middle Schools - Advisory focus and PD facilitated by the MS principals/asst. principals.

High School - Curriculum instruction and assessment

Guidance, School Adjustment Counselors and School Psychologists - Sessions by school level with Jen Knight from the SAFE Coalition.

Speech and OT - Webinar about the Autism Spectrum and new skills.

Nurses - back to school COVID protocol with Patty Elias, Paula Marano, and Lisa Trainor and school physician, Sharon Mullane, M.D., and Cathy Liberty from the Town's DPH.

ELA - Illustrative math and their specific content of the ESL curriculum.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Ms. Spencer asked about the outcome from the ECDC job fair?

Mrs. Marano replied that 15 people attended and hired 3-4 people for ESP positions as well as substitutes but positions like special education long term subs and ESP's still remain open.

Mr. Giguere added if anyone in the community is interested in applying to visit the FPS website.

Ms. Spencer asked if Test and Stay is up and running?

Mrs. Marano replied it is close but not yet due to delays from CIC Health and hopefully by 9/13/21.

Ms. Spencer asked if the Kindergarteners will be getting assistance in using a chromebook for their math assessment?

Dr. Ahern replied that they'll be assisted but also deferred this question to Dr. Rogers and Dr. Ashley later in the DIP presentation.

Ms. Stokes asked if the Test and Stay delay was a statewide issue?

Mrs. Marano replied it is a commonwealth problem, not just Franklin and DESE is fully aware. She added CIC was overwhelmed with the amount of districts participating.

Ms. Stokes also said thank you for the PDD descriptions, this is very helpful for families.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Administrator Introductions

Dr. Ahern shared the following administrators who are new to the district or in a different role for the 2021-2022 school year:

Dr. Linda Ashley - Interim Director of ELA and Social Studies

Dr. Sarrahy Connolly - Interim Principal at Kennedy

Mr. Craig Williams - Principal at Remington

Ms. Patti Gay - Interim Director of Lifelong Learning

Dr. Tina Rogers - PreK-12 Director for STEM

Ms. Jennifer Graveline - Student Services: Assistant Director for Special Education at the secondary level

Mr. Kenneth Haynes - Interim Assistant Principal at Kennedy

Mr. Brendan Healy - Assistant Principal at HMMS

Mr. Thomas Houle - Food Services Director

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Dr. Bergen thanked everyone on behalf of the School Committee for choosing Franklin.

B. 2021-2022 District and School improvement Plans

**See presentation slides for detailed information*

Dr. Ahern introduced the following administrators who will be presenting and began the presentation:

Jefferson: Principal Sarah Klim/Assistant Principal Kim Booth

Keller: Principal Eric Stark/Assistant Principal Jesse Craddock

Oak: Principal Brad Hendrixson/Assistant Principal Donna Krikorian

Parmenter: Principal Shannon Barca/Assistant Principal Tanya Lamoureaux

Kennedy: Principal Sarravy Connolly/Assistant Principal Kenneth Haynes

ECDC: Kelty Kelly

Annie Sullivan: Principal Lizzie Morrison/Assistant Principal Mike Procacini

HMMS: Principal Becky Motte/Assistant Principal Brendan Healy

Remington: Principal Craig Willams/Assistant Principal Danielle Champagne

FHS: Principal Josh Hanna/Assistant Principal's Maria Webber, Jennifer Santosuosso, Ryan Augusta, Cathy Klein

Also from Central Office - Paula Marano; Miriam Goodman; Asst. Superintendent, Lucas Giguere; Ellen White, Assistant Director for Special Education for Elementary Services.

Dr. Ahern spoke about Strategic Objectives. She stated how they came together in her first year (2017/2018) as Superintendent of Franklin as part of an entry plan process. She noted there were focus groups as well as conversations with faculty and staff, administrators, the School Committee, and members of the community.

Mrs. Marano spoke about the PD day and the counseling staff who met with Jen Knight from the SAFE Coalition. There will be a PD needs assessment for this staff. She noted the work with building-based teams to make meetings more efficient as well as remote options for teams. She noted that You, Inc. will be returning to Parmenter to provide counseling services as well as reestablishing the DCF roundtable meetings. Also, counseling interns will be starting in the next two weeks.

Mr. Giguere spoke about SWAC and Franklin being selected to be a part of the School Wellness Coaches Program. He will be coordinating with them to host the meetings with the first step looking at Policy and then implementation and planning. He also spoke on the Substance Abuse Task Force's primary focus on engaging with the community and public participation. Finally, SEL will be moved to a more level-based approach this year.

Dr. Tina Rogers presented on Engaging and Rigorous Curriculum and keeping the Portrait of a Graduate central. She spoke about Illustrative Mathematics being a problem-based curriculum that works to elevate student voice to explore math, construct arguments, and foster mathematical skills.

Dr. Linda Ashley said there will be a total review of the ELA curriculum in grades K-12. She added that they are beginning full implementation of the 2018 Social Studies curriculum and the 8th grade Civics project will also be taking place and are so important. There will be workshops for teachers to go along with the project along the way. She stated there is also a six-year curriculum review process in place starting with ELA this year, then a process and a cycle to look at other areas of curriculum.

Dr. Ahern introduced the topic of High Quality Instruction and Dr. Rogers spoke on the tiered system of support for students academically and socially. Academically this includes the K-8 MAP Growth Assessments. She noted that in response to Ms. Spencer's question, she met with the Math Specialists who will be fully supporting the K students with their assessments along with various other staff and administrators.

Mr. Giguere noted the behavioral and social emotional sides of the tiered system of support and said each school level will be sharing how that will look in action.

Dr. Ashley spoke about culturally responsive instructional strategies and finding out as much about the student's cultures and backgrounds as possible.

Mr. Giguere said there is a presentation at the 9/28/21 School Committee meeting from the Digital Learning Integrationalists. He added they are building a digital learning framework.

Dr. Ahern spoke about strategic initiatives for 2021-2022.

Level and School Improvement Focus Areas:

Ms. Kelley (ECDC)

Ms. Kelley spoke about the core values and mission at ECDC and how they align with Franklin's Portrait of a Graduate.

She said that ECDC uses eDECA while DESA is used in Kindergarten.

She also spoke about the implementation of **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** to create 125-150 bags of 10 books for students to take home.

Elementary Level Specifics:

Mr. Hendrixson (Oak Street) spoke about Illustrative Mathematics and the belief that all students are mathematicians and capable of learning math. He said they can see a difference in the student's thinking only after a couple of weeks and they are eager to see how it progresses.

Ms. Barca (Parmenter) shared information about level-based assessment tools. She spoke about math assessments and starting at a baseline and measuring their achievement and growth. She also added that DESA is ready to roll out to all the elementary schools after being piloted at Parmenter and Kennedy the past two years.

Mr. Stark (Keller) expanded on what Ms. Barca shared. He said based on the student's levels, the teachers will design a level of high-quality instruction. This will take into account learning acceleration and intervention.

Dr. Connolly (Kennedy) spoke about the schools being able to offer a new two-year learning block to grades 3-5. The areas include chorus, art, and STEM. Ms Klim (Jefferson) spoke about the expansion of culturally proficient practices through curriculum, books used, SpeakUp! resources.

School Specifics:

Jefferson: Ms. Klim spoke about the initiatives at Jefferson and how they plan to revisit the school's mission and vision statements this year with Jefferson stakeholders.

Keller: Mr. Stark acknowledged the significant transition this year with Davis Thayer closing and it's student's transitioning to Keller. He stated that 260 Keller kids have returned, 166 DT students have transitioned to Keller, 10 from other elementary schools in Franklin, 23 new from other towns, and 83 Kindergarteners began.

Mr. Craddock spoke about the 6+ months of work transitioning DT kids to Keller and this has been largely successful but the work is just beginning.

Mr. Stark added that relationships are being developed from the blending of two schools and two staffs with two strong cultures and the work is just beginning. He also shared what multi-tiered support looks like when blending two staffs and how together they are forming a system they believe in and support.

Kennedy: Dr. Connolly shared that administrators, a team of teachers, and with student council input all collaborated on the implementation of core values. She said the hope is to bring back their all school meetings this year that were on hold due to the pandemic. She also spoke about establishing and promoting positive community partnership through PCC, school council, and community.

Oak: Mr. Hendrixson said he primary focus this year is that all students deserve equitable access to grade-level content. He added after last year there will be some unfinished learning and that will be addressed and students supported. He added there is a new school adjustment counselor this year at Oak.

Parmenter: Ms. Barca spoke about the pride she has for all the Parmenter staff. She said this year they will expand on the student mentor program for students of color that was introduced last year for grades 3-5 female students. This program is looking to expand to a new boy's group.

Ms. Lamoureux spoke about this being the sixth year following the UbD approach for planning units of study.

Middle School Specifics:

Annie Sullivan: Mr. Procacini and Ms. Morrison spoke about expanding the multi tiered system of support and equitable grading practices.

HMMS: Ms. Motte and Mr. Healy spoke about building high functioning leadership teams and effective communication as they build a new leadership team at HMMS.

Remington: Mr. Williams and Ms. Champagne spoke about the goal of this new team is to build trust through 1 to 1 staff meetings, present to parents, and be as visible as possible. Also, the utilization of teams and address areas of growth.

High School Specifics:

Mr. Hanna said they will be infusing SEL, DEI, and Portrait of a Graduate into the daily lessons. He also spoke on the collection of data to drive curriculum decisions.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Ms. D'Angelo said she was happy to hear about the six-year cycle for curriculum review. She also was happy to hear about the SEL support at the high school. She also spoke about the mentoring program at Parmenter and feels concerned about other kids not being included and it not being inclusive.

Mr. Keenan said this is amazing information with the level of coordination and depth of thinking.

Ms. Scofield echoed what Mr. Keenan said. She added it is nice to see the administration and welcome back.

Ms. Spencer asked if there is a way to see Jennifer Knight's presentation?

Mrs. Marano replied that they are looking to expand the presentation to school based staff possibly through PDD and it would be great to have her present at the School Committee.

Ms. Spencer asked if there could be more information provided on what exactly the Illustrative math program is?

Dr. Ahern replied that yes there has been communication about putting together something family friendly on this topic and can be highlighted at a meeting.

Mrs. Spencer said she is still interested in seeing the 8th grade civics project at a future meeting.

Ms. Spencer referenced slide 11 of the digital learning plan and asked if there will be a focus on digital literacy instruction at the elementary level?

Mr. Giguere replied that they are developing a program that can be used across all schools.

Dr. Ahern added that this is an area for future consideration of resources.

Ms. Spencer said she loved hearing about Parmenter's mentor program, and asked if this can be at all elementary schools?

Mr. Barca replied here to Ms. Spencer and Ms. D'Angelo's comment. She gave a background of how and why this program came to be and how recent events in our country and community of racial injustice combined with females of color in grades 3-5, a sense of their self awareness and self esteem started to drop.

Dr. Ahern added that this group has been positive for the girls and that there was a need for a group like this in response to a disciplinary situation.

Ms. Stokes said the presentation flowed so well. She added that it's great to see some actions for the strategic initiatives incorporate recommendations from the Superintendent's evaluation.

She added it was inspiring to see the tier levels of support which is a main area of focus for her.

Dr. Bergen said it's great to see the consistency across all schools along with the allowance for autonomy for each school to develop its own culture. She added the success of Illustrative math throughout the country.

Dr. Bergen asked the progress of curriculum units around backward design and essential understandings?

Dr. Ahern replied that before the pandemic there had been some professional development which was finished virtually, and now is being picked up where it was left off. She added that different buildings/teachers are in different places.

Mr. Giguere added any new curriculum being generated is using the UbD model as a focus.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. 2021-2022 District and School Improvement Plans Approval

I recommend approval of the 2021-2022 District and School Improvement plans as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Absent; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0

B. Franklin TV Board Appointment

I recommend the appointment of Dr. Anne Bergen and Rose Turco to the Franklin TV Board of Directors.

This vote was put on hold while determining the number of appointments the School Committee can have.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation

The chair recommends approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation as discussed.

Dr. Bergen thanked everyone who completed the evaluation. She shared an overview, ratings, and recommendation for growth and focus.

Ms. Scofield thanked Dr. Ahern and said the document says it all and thanked the subcommittee for their hard work.

Ms. Stokes said Dr. Ahern went above and beyond in the last year.

Dr. Ahern thanked the administrative team and the district. She added this is an acknowledgment of all of their work. She acknowledged the input and the feedback and said thank you to the subcommittee.

Dr. Bergen noted how Dr. Ahern takes feedback and responds to it and thanked her for everything she does.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Absent; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0

IV. Discussion Only Items

A. Back to School Status Update 9-10-21

Dr. Ahern shared some health metrics and anticipates sharing to a graph in the future. She said there was a peak in Franklin around August 20-27, and has come down slightly in cases and positivity. She added that Norfolk County level is still high but there has been an increase in vaccinations, up 1% each week for students 12 and up.

She said they have started to publish cases in the schools. From Aug 30-Sept 10 there were 15 students/staff cases. 5 of those were present in the schools therefore initiating contact tracing. The schools where the cases occurred have also been published. She added that 33 students have been in quarantine with less than 5 staff members in quarantine due to themselves or children.

She noted the delay for Test and Stay with an anticipation date of Monday Sept 13, 2021. She added that Test and Stay is sponsored by DESE and noted that this program is only for exposure in school, not outside of school exposure.

She noted the ESSER III grant survey that went out there for stakeholders and Mr. Giguere also shared with SWAC.

Finally, she said they are still in need of staffing. They are looking for LPN's and substitutes with the greatest need being Paraprofessionals. Also, there are openings in the Solutions after school program.

Dr. Bergen asked the committee for any questions/comments?

Ms. Stokes asked about the CDC transmission status table, can there be the two previous weeks to see a trend?

Dr. Ahern replied yes, it can be added.

V. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Budget** - meeting not scheduled.
2. **Community Relations** - Harvest Festival is 10/2/21. MASC annual meeting is Nov 3-6. Ms. Spencer will get resolutions to Dr. Ahern to include for the next meeting.
3. **Policy** - have not met. Ms. Scofield asked if DESE released any new mask info? Dr. Ahern hasn't heard anything and suggested a sub-committee meeting before 10/1/21.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. **Joint PCC** - hybrid meeting 9/13/21
2. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - meeting on Friday to plan.
Dr. Bergen shared a pamphlet put together called The Ride Home: Conversations with our Kids. Athletic Director Tom Angelo came up with the concept.
3. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - meeting on Friday to plan.

VI. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items for the 9/28/21 meeting:

- Superintendent goals
- Digital Learning Integrationists presentation
- ESSER III
- MASC Resolutions
- Lily Rivera, Marketing and Communications Specialist

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the August 24, 2021 School Committee meeting as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Absent; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0

VIII. Payment of Bills

IX. Payroll

Dr. Bergen

Atty. Pond-Pfeffer

- X. **Dr. Bergen asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session.**
- a. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Non-Union Personnel as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares.

Motion: Ms. Spencer; Second: Ms. Scofield

Roll Call Vote: Ms. D'Angelo-Yes; Mr. Keenan-Yes; Atty. Pond-Pfeffer-Absent; Ms. Scofield-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Dr. Bergen-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0

XI. **Adjournment at 9:22pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 9-14-21
DIP-2021-22.pdf
Copy of DIP_SIP Initiatives to SC 2021-2022.pdf
Discussion Action A - 21-22 DIP and SIP's.pdf
Discussion Action B - Franklin TV BOD.pdf
Discussion Action C - Supt Eval.pdf
Back to School Status Update September 10, 2021.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2205 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2205.pdf
SC Warrant 081921.xlsx
SC Warrant 082621.xlsx
SC Warrant 090221.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf
SC Warrant 081921.pdf
SC Warrant 082621.pdf
SC Warrant 090221.pdf
Budget to actual.pdf
Pledge student.pdf