

Franklin School Committee
September 27, 2022
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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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 zoom webinar:

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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.”

Ms. Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll call attendance: Ms. Camille Bernstein-Yes(zoom); Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Mr. David McNeill-Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes-Yes; Ms. Meghan Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer-Yes

Also in attendance were: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Dr. Tina Rogers; Mrs. Paula Marano; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Mr. Brad Hendrixson; Mr. Eric Stark; Ms. Kelty Kelley; Dr. Sarravy Connolly; Ms. Shannon Barca

Pledge of Allegiance

Ally Preto is a fifth grader representing Oak Street School this evening to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Ally is the daughter of Armindo and Ginette Preto and the sister of older brothers Nicholas, a seventh grader at Horace Mann, and Santino, a ninth grader at Franklin High School. Ally's teachers have asked her to represent Oak Street this evening because of how well she represents the school's ACORNS values. Ally has demonstrated particular strengths in the core values of Caring and Never give up. She regularly checks in on her friends to see how they are doing and she is quick to scoop up a classmate who may not have someone to talk to or work with in class. Oak Street students gravitate to Ally, and you can see them brighten up as she includes them in her activities. This is evident when Ally volunteers to support Kindergarteners in the library during her own recess time.

Ally's work ethic is unmatched. She faces academic challenges head on and works diligently to learn new concepts. Science and social studies are her favorite subjects because she likes to learn facts about the world around her. Ally is an all around Oak Street Scholar who understands her responsibility to work hard on her own goals and look out for the people around her. At home Ally enjoys playing soccer, listening to music and completing arts and crafts. She also likes to play board games and watch movies with her family. When she grows up Ally would like to be a teacher.

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

Siddhanth Chandra; Vice-President, Junior Class. Mr. Chandra said that Homecoming is coming up on 10/22/22 and the Homecoming game is 10/21/22. He said all sports teams are doing well, he noted a tough loss for the football team last Friday. He said there was a club fair last week with over 50 clubs there, he said clubs starting up this week. He added that school picture days are Wednesday and Thursday and Open House is Thursday night.

Ahan Shetty; President, Junior Class. Mr. Shetty said that PSAT's are 10/15/22 from 7am-12pm. He said there has been a prom committee formed with over 20 students and there is a meeting on 9/30/22. He said there will be an upcoming fundraiser to help budget the cost of prom tickets. He said the prom will take place on May 5, 2023 at Lombardos. He said seniors are currently working on college applications with early decision and early action deadlines coming up in November.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere also said the early decision process is underway and noted the classes Lifelong Learning offers in Spring and Summer for writing college essays. He noted that 9/21/22 was an early release PD day.

PreK-5: 2nd session ADL anti-bias education.

Middle and high school: keys to literacy professional development for new staff and other staff participated in new curriculum resources.

There was also MAP growth training.

He said they are preparing for an early release day PD day on 10/7/22 and a full day of PD on 11/8/22. On 11/8/22, the morning will kick off year 2 of PreK-5 the Science of Reading PD and secondary level will focus on building based initiatives. He said the afternoon will have a menu of choices. He said the Office of Teaching and Learning reached out request for proposals to staff last week to host sessions. There were 27 responses. There will also outside providers facilitating PD.

Mr. Giguere said that MCAS 2022 accountability results will be released at noon on 9/29/22. There will be a MCAS presentation to the school committee in November.

Mr. Giguere spoke about school safety training. He said there was a school safety meeting in the summer where they reviewed current practices and procedures and scheduled drills such as bus evacuations, fire drills, and lockdowns. Each school principal conducted in person school training with all staff. He said there is also mandated training for staff where policies and procedures are reviewed. He said this year they are using the ArxEd online system. He said topics include copyright, 504, FERPA, bullying, etc., and there is a feedback survey in the final module.

Mr. Giguere said he sent out an email last week on website communication and an update to the website. He said they are renewing and cleaning up the website and practices. He said they have also added a school safety page and a communication guideline, and bullying/harassment non-discrimination.

Finally, Mr. Giguere gave a staffing update. He said as of 9/27/22, there are 3 teaching vacancies (down from 6) and 13 ESP's (down from 16). He said they will provide staffing reports until all are filled.

Ms. Spencer asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan asked about the difference between lockdown drills at the different levels.

Mr. Giguere said they do all planned lockdown drills. They make sure kids and staff know to barricade themselves and stay away from open areas. He added that different acronyms are used. They plan and will train on open spaces. Mr. Giguere gave credit to the principals who lead daily.

Mr. Charles asked about the new online training program and what was in its place before.

Mr. Giguere replied they used Google Classroom to house Policies and Procedures. He said they have a good opportunity with ArxEd which is a Massachusetts based company. He said it creates a dashboard and an account and they can see where people are in their progression.

Mr. McNeill said thank you for the updates.

Ms. Stokes asked for clarification that October 7th is a ½ day PDD?

Mr. Giguere replied yes, it is an early release day.

Ms. Stokes said she likes the addition of who to contact for a particular issue on the website.

Ms. Whitmore said it sounds like things are being streamlined and thank you for the update.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. District Improvement Plan

**See presentation slides for detailed information.*

Mr. Giguere said the strategic planning cycle started in May, 2022 and all the elementary schools collaborated on this. He gave a breakdown of key dates within the strategic planning cycle.

Mr. Giguere spoke about aligning our systems in the district, by level, and by school. Mr. Giguere spoke about the vision and core values, the vision, core values, and the theory of action.

Mrs. Marano spoke about 5 strategic objectives, strategic initiatives, goals and outcomes.

Mrs. Marano, Dr. Rogers, and Mr. Giguere presented on the 5 objectives.

1. The Social-Emotional Well-Being of Students and Staff
2. Provide Engaging and Rigorous Curriculum
3. Deliver High-Quality Instruction to Meet the Academic and SEL Needs of Each Learner
4. Engage in Effective Two-Way Communication to Support Student Learning
5. Affirm Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for All Students

Ms. Spencer asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Ms. Bernstein asked what is a literacy review?

Dr. Rogers replied that they have partnered with HILL for Literacy and are gathering educator feedback. This will help guide the process for curriculum review. On the secondary level, there will be a multi year phased plan.

Ms. Bernstein asked about the standards based learning?

Dr. Rogers replied that the standards based report card at the elementary level has not been reviewed in a few years and they are looking to put a committee together for a multi-year plan.

Mr. Callaghan said he was impressed with the work of the team and asked about the Panorama contract?

Mrs. Marano said it's a one year contract and they will look to renew it again.

Mr. Callaghan asked about the term stakeholder and who they mean when they talk about that word?

Mr. Giguere mentioned families, guardians, caregivers, staff, leadership, central office, school committee, facilities, transportation, business manager, etc.

Mr. Charles said Panorama is going to be phenomenal and asked if it was mostly for administration?

Mrs. Marano replied that is correct and it is mostly for administration.

Mr. Charles asked about the frequency of updates?

Mr. Giguere mentioned actionable steps within the School Improvement Plans and being clear what the expectations are for sharing out.

Mr. McNeill said thank you for the overview and for the constant improvement of MTTS.

Ms. Stokes said this is all phenomenal and would like to know if there are teacher voices included in this vision?

Mr. Giguere said there are systems in place and trying to stay consistent with resources and support for all teachers.

Ms. Whitmore said thanks for the presentation and all the adjustments and assessments.

B. Pre-K School Improvement Plan

**See presentation slides for detailed information*

Ms. Kelty Kelley (ECDC) presented on the social and emotional wellbeing of staff and students. She spoke about high-quality instruction to meet the academic and SEL needs of each learner. She said they are seeking out a new curriculum as the one they were using has ended.

She spoke about effective two way communication to support student learning. She said they are looking to increase family engagement which was impacted by Covid.

She also noted that there is an opening for an ESP still at ECDC.

Ms. Spencer asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan noted take home math as a great additional resource. He said it's good to have an eye on recruitment and enhancing that area.

Mr. McNeill asked for clarification on the targeted interventions.

Ms. Kelley replied that the staff and families work together to intervene with a particular child. He said thank you for the clarification.

Ms Stokes said she is happy to see that e-DECA is more than a screener and has built in supports.

She added that a round table with specialists that was noted could be very helpful.

Ms. Whitmore said her children have gone through ECDC and have benefited greatly.

K-5 Elementary School Improvement Plan

**See presentation slides for detailed information*

Ms. Barca said Jefferson Elementary School is also represented here even though Ms. Stefanie Wasik was not present at the meeting.

She said all five elementary schools will be assessing the DESSA screening tool. One is in November and one is in April. She said they triangulate data with other assessment tools.

Ms. Barca spoke about Strategic Objective #1: Social-Emotional Well-being of Students and Staff

Mr. Hendrixson spoke about Strategic Objective #2: Engaging and Rigorous Curriculum. He said this is year 2 of the Illustrative Math curriculum and all students will have access to this curriculum daily. He noted that the Math Specialists will work with teachers during common planning time. He also spoke about the Literacy review and partnering with HILL for Literacy and the Literacy Specialists to go through this process.

Dr. Connolly presented on Strategic Objective #3: High-Quality Instruction to Meet the Academic and SEL Needs of Each Learner. She said the goal this year is to have a common understanding of MTSS and UDL and the action steps to come.

Mr. Stark spoke on Strategic Objective #4: Effective Two-Way Communication to Support Student Learning. He said the focus is on bringing a physical connection back. He noted the recent back to school nights included families.

Ms. Bernstein left the meeting at 8:26pm and did not return and therefore was absent for all remaining votes in this meeting.

Ms. Spencer asked for any questions or comments from the committee?

Mr. Callaghan said he liked having a column listing the person responsible. He asked if Panorama was already in effect?

Ms. Barca said that it is not rolled out yet but close. However, they are not waiting on the rollout to track students.

Mr. Callaghan said he went to the family night at Kennedy and it was a wonderful opportunity to be back in the schools.

Mr. Charles spoke about Illustrative Math and the way it's being taught now gives students a great understanding of why and not just getting an answer.

He spoke about two-way communication and support and being critical.

Mr. McNeill said the use of data is very encouraging for academic plans. He asked about social emotional learning and if plans are in place for when goals are updated?

Ms. Barca replied they typically have plans in place for 6-8 weeks, reviewing progress or lack thereof. She said this is targeted and more fluid and flexible.

Ms. Stokes said she appreciates the elementary school improvement plan and working together as a team. She noted she likes seeing all the school's mascots together on the presentation.

She asked if students' needs and progress will be communicated on report cards?

Mr. Stark replied they are analyzing the MAP data and continued communication on tiered instruction.

Ms. Stokes asked about 1B in the presentation and said she doesn't see a reference to restorative practices.

Mr. Giguere replied it is included as part of some of their interventions but the process is a pretty large model that requires dedication to PD.

Ms. Barca noted when a student misbehaves there is always education tied to it along with core values.

Mr. Hendrixson said it is noted in the code of conduct. Mr. Stark added the language talks about loss of privilege and the restorative piece.

Ms. Stokes asked about Panorama and if it is able to be broken down to compare and contrast.

Mrs. Marano replied that the data is reported and believes that can happen.

Ms. Stokes asked if the DEI Director will be involved in the Panorama conversations?

Mr. Giguere replied yes and those discussions will begin to unfold even more.

Ms. Stokes asked why UDL and MTSS are grouped together?

Mr. Giguere said they go hand in hand and you can't have one without the other.

Ms. Stokes said she was happy to see family engagement and involvement listed and asked for examples between the two.

Mr. Stark said volunteers this year would be labeled involvement while the hope is to engage families in the course of the year.

Mrs. Barca said engagement would be when they surveyed families for feedback on the open house.

Ms. Whitmore and Ms. Spencer said thank you very much.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. District Improvement Plan

I recommend approval of the District Improvement Plan as presented.

Mr. Callaghan said he is hesitant to vote on this as a whole when additional information won't be presented until 10/25/22.

Mr Giguere replied that approving the DIP will be approving the strategic objectives and initiatives. He said at each of the next two meetings Middle/High School and DEI plans will be brought for approval.

Ms. Stokes said Mr. Callaghan brought up a good point and she understands what Mr. Giguere is saying as well. The part that she holds her back is the Equity Action plan where there is more information to come.

Mr. Giguere said the equity action plan will be developed throughout the year as a multi-year strategy.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Absent; Mr. Callaghan-No; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms.Spencer-Yes**

Motion Carries 5-1 with 1 absent

B. PK-5 School Improvement Plans

I recommend approval of the PK-5 School Improvement Plans as presented.

Ms. Stokes asked if there will be DEI goals for each grade level?

Mr. Giguere said the goals will articulate the grade spans and many of the goals across DEI are shared.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Absent; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms.Spencer-Yes**

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

C. Approval of Redistricting Consultation Contract

I recommend approval of awarding a contract in the amount of \$49,815 to Applied Geographics, Inc for consulting services in accordance with the RFP issued on July 26, 2022, for School Redistricting Services as discussed.

Mr. Giguere said this is the outcome of the recommendation of the Space, Needs, and Facilities Subcommittee. The subcommittee received 3 proposals this past summer and chose one.

Mr. Callaghan asked if the contract amount is the final cost?

Mrs. Goodman said this proposal is a flat price and this will be the final cost.

Mr. Charles said this company provided a flat fee with no other surprises.

Mrs. Goodman added that the other vendors were not as local as the one they chose and would have needed some meetings to be virtual.

Mr. Callaghan said he read about another district who went through the redistricting process and used this vendor.

Mr. Giguere added that in recent years they have worked with 13 Massachusetts communities. He said they would put together a committee of stakeholders and come to a recommendation by the end of the school year.

Ms. Spencer said she also reached out to some school committee chairpersons that this vendor worked with and all had great things to say.

Ms. Stokes said that on the last page of the report, the ratings show how high Applied Geographics scored over the other vendors.

Ms. Whitmore said this vendor sounds promising.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Absent; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

D. MASC Delegate

I recommend the committee appoint Denise Spencer to serve as the Committee's delegate to the annual MASC meeting of delegates as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Absent; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

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** - next meeting at the end of October and will review the Superintendent's new goals.
2. **Budget** - has not met.
3. **Policy** - next meeting 9/28/22 at 6pm.
4. **Community Relations** - Harvest Festival is on 10/1/22, SC booth is in front of the post office.
5. **Space, Needs, and Facilities Assessment** - voted on moving forward with AppGeo. Next meeting 10/3/22.

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. **Joint PCC** - next meeting 10/17/22.
2. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - first meeting is next week.
3. **SEPAC** - meet the SEPAC event on 10/12/22. Book Club event at Escape into Fiction on 11/16/22. They are also hoping to host a Trunk or Treat.
4. **Substance Abuse Task Force** - next meeting 10/11/22
5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** - sent out letters to staff to apply for the committee.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your September 13, 2022 meeting as detailed.

B. Transfers

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

C. FHS Gifts

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$461.76 for FHS as detailed:

\$ 14.76	Ohio Pyle Prints, Inc.	Supplemental Supplies
\$447.00	Cesar's Barber Shop	In-house enrichment

D. JFK Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$925.00 from the JFK PCC for field trips as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

**Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Absent; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes**

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

VII. Citizen's Comments

Kyle Thompson, 8 Mercer Lane

Mr. Thompson said he is hearing a lot of talk at the meetings about DEI, SEL, MTTS, UDL, restorative practices, anti-bias training, kids values, equity, collecting data through Panorama, marginalized people, and victims. He said there were no challenges from the school committee to any of the ideas presented about the elementary school improvement plan. He said this shows a lack of diversity of thought on the school committee or a fear of not agreeing with the crowd. He said he is recommending they return to just teaching students the basics. He added that not everyone agrees with the viewpoints they are pushing on the children. He also recommends eliminating the DEI Director position and said the DEI committee needs to be open to the public.

Meaghan Bensen, 19 Winthrop Drive

Ms. Bensen said she agrees with everything that Mr. Thompson said. She is looking for an opt out form for parents according to Massachusetts General Law. She said there should be another option and kids should not be subjected to this curriculum.

VIII. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items:

Mr. Giguere shared the anticipated items for the 10/11/22 meeting:

- SIP Middle and High School
- MASC Resolutions

IX. Ms. Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Stokes; Second: Mr. McNeill

Roll call vote: Ms. Bernstein-Absent; Mr. Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;

Mr. McNeill-Yes; Ms. Stokes-Yes; Ms. Whitmore-Yes; Ms. Spencer-Yes

Motion Carries 6-0 with 1 absent

X. Adjournment at 9:32pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SCAgenda 9-27-22

Payroll Warrant #2305 Void.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2306 Summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2306.pdf

FPS Summary & Sign Off 092722.pdf

SC Warrant 090822.pdf

SC Warrant 091522.pdf

FPS District Improvement Plan 2022-23.pdf

ECDC School Improvement Plan 2022-23.pdf

FPS Elementary School Improvement Plan 2022-23.pdf

Discussion Action A - DIP.pdf

Discussion Action B PK-5 SIP's.pdf

September 27, 2022 School Committee Minutes - FINAL

Discussion Action C - contract with Consultant.pdf
Discussion Action D - MASC Delegate.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf
Consent Action C - FHS Gift.pdf
Consent Action D - JFK Gift.pdf
Pledge Student