

Franklin School Committee
Minutes
December 10, 2019
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

Attendance: Ms. Jennifer D’Angelo, Mr. Timothy Keenan, Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Mary Jane Scofield, Dr. Anne Bergen, Ms. Denise Spencer, Ms. Elise Stokes, Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mr. Lucas Giguere, were all present. Franklin High School representatives; Dan Harrington, Ally Ivers and Chorr-Kin Chin were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Oak Street Elementary School
5th Grader

Caydence Canavan is a fifth-grader at Oak Street School. She is the daughter of Nick and Laura Canavan, and older sister to brother Colin who is a 4th-grade student at Oak Street. Caydence enjoys math, but her favorite school activity is PE class, and you can see her giving her best effort daily in all subjects. As a fifth-grader Caydence enjoys the responsibility of being a leader in our school. She understands the importance of working hard and always giving 100%. Her teachers would describe her as kindhearted, hard-working and a pleasure to spend the day with. Outside of school Caydence enjoys sports of all kinds as well as crafts. When she grows up Caydence plans to use the skills she is developing now to be a detective. Caydence is a scholar who makes the whole Oak Street community proud.

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda - Okay.

b. Citizen’s Comments - none

i. 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

Dan - We recently had the art showcase in grades K - 12. Tonight is a mandatory meeting for students who want to go to Germany. Winter concert is on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm.

Ally - Spanish Honor Society is having a can drive. This Friday is a half day due to professional development.

Chin Korr- Girl Up is hosting the winter fundraiser on Monday after school, gingerbread house contest, raffles and more. On December 20, the student government will have a pep rally with many events. Lastly, we wish the best of luck to all winter sports.

Dr. Bergen- Sometime down the line, the clubs all have meetings and we would like to hear about them as well and the social connections. Thank you.

d. Superintendent Report

Dr. Ahern - Senator Spilka is having a SEL forum on January 14, this is the third annual and will have parents meet in Ashland. She asked that we share some resources as well. We will share our portrait of a graduate, we had a small but engaged group and our vision for all grades. Over December and January, we will share with the community, faculty and staff. We look forward to more feedback.

We will have a professional development day for staff this Friday. It is building based and school and district goals and lead by principals.

ECDC will be instructional technology and philosophy on this.

ELEMENTARY schools have a variety of topics; personalized learning experiences in reading, cultural proficiency, connected to physical and earth science, SEL and DESA analysis.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS will have exploring more around SEL and core values, expansion of middle school advisory and behavior intervention.

NURSES will have meetings on best practices.

A special thanks to the Department of Public Works and facilities for all their efforts for last week. Their communication is outstanding.

Ms. Stokes - The SEL night, will more information go home to the families?

Dr. Ahern - We can make it available.

Ms Stokes - It sounds like a valuable evening. Thank you.

2. Guests / Presentations - none

A. MCAS Presentation – Dr. Joyce Edwards

Dr. Edwards - I want to take a look at the MCAS results as well as the accountability system. You may know that the state began testing over 20 years ago. In 2019, our students took MCAS 2.0 in grades 3 - 8. Students in Grad 5 8 9 took science as well in grade 9 they took MCAS 2.0 too Legacy mcas HS biology current grade 11

Prior to 2019, there were a bunch of trial districts and we participated in the pilot testing. All students participate in MCAS. The next generation of computer testing is constructed differently. 2.0 focuses on critical thinking applying knowledge and

making connections. It one data point we use in the district and we take it seriously and use the data to the extent that we can. It is also one data point that we look at. We also have SAT and AP scores. The legacy MCAS were so different. You can't compare these results.

The State provides us with data for state's and school's accountability. Based on test achievement and growth. Calculation is based on two years of data. Our data from 2019 is weighted at 60%. Achievement is reported as scaled scores as student percentile.

Accountability is a complex formula. I am not a statistician. DESE has a whole bunch of tools that help us to look at this data. You can look at the formula through the link. We are assigned a percentile from 1 to 99 and compared to all similar schools across the state. Middle schools that are configured 6 to 8 are compared. It is done based on what grades. The Criterion measure a schools and districts to meet their targets. But the value ranges from 1 to 99 and a score of 75 means we are meeting all of our targets.

There are a number of factors. All students must participate, the ELL proficiency, chronic absenteeism, the student growth percentile.

The sub groups are counted and students are counted as the all but then students with disabilities and ELL learners. They also isolate the lowest performers in a school and are counted in the aggregate, the sub group, and the lowest 25%.

Our ELL results are not reported. We have 80 active ELL students. At elementary absenteeism is unchanged from last year. Our ELL students are doing really well.

The HS changes a bit and has the same factors but now we add high completion and advanced courses. All our students participate. The science is an older legacy calculation. The HS completion rate is calculated at 4 and 5 year graduation rates and dropout rate.

Our graduation increased by 1.5%. We did meet our target. There were no ELL high school students that took the test. We met our target absenteeism. The advanced

coursework declines this year and did have a small impact. We had an error in our data but has been fixed. Last year was the first year that these were reported and they weren't as crisp. Part of the accountability is assigned by DESE for achievement and for growth, by subject in school and district.

This is a complex formula.

The accountability ratings is that schools are assigned categories. We, as Franklin was calculated at 56% so we don't need any assistance. Our subgroup is 56%. We have made progress towards our targets and we have no intervention. Kennedy is exceeding all of the targets. Davis Thayer has been recognized as high growth.

Dr. Bergen - Can we stop here and ask questions?

Ms. D'Angelo - APP, we didn't get any points for that?

Dr. Edwards - This is correct We are locked into that.

Ms. D'Angelo - Looking at the achievement, we gained 4 points for ELA?

Dr. Edwards - I will get to that in the later part of the presentation.

Mr. Keenan - Some of things in the test, how does that factor into growth?

Dr. Edwards - It can be difficult. In the early years of doing this the State drew comparisons into 2.0 and the legacy. It can be hard to assess.

Mr. Keenan - Related to that, when the targets are created how much is impacted of the prior test, is that a valid comparison?

Dr. Edwards - That would be a great question for the State. It is the same process. It is based on our own data it is not based so much on past performance. It is not perfect.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - This is a standardized test, it concentrates on math. science and ELA, how does that work with the portrait of a graduate?

Dr. Edwards - This is only a piece of this. We are teaching how to learn and to test them on critical thinking. It is directly to POG, communicating, critical thinking it falls short of problem solving. Kids are not standard.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - They should learn how to add, subtract. It has none of the critical thinking.

Dr. Edwards - Right. There has never been a sole computation, it is a word problems. They use computers to further their learning or demonstrate their learning.

Ms. Stokes - About the numbers, the Franklin accountability the 56% is that here?

Dr. Edwards - Yes. Some schools are in the meeting category but the district is 56%.

Dr. Bergen - Just curious, chronic absenteeism, do we have baseline data at the HS?

Dr. Edward - Yes.

Dr. Bergen - What is the percentage?

Dr. Edwards - It declined 1.5%

Dr. Edwards - Moving on to MCAS achievement. We can determine that they meet expectations, partially meet expectations or not meeting expectations. The results include achievement and we are able to look by student, school and district and sub groups. We can slice and dice the data. I can ask how many students who are economically challenged in grade 3 and how they did in self constructed responses. But every school looks at the data by school and grade level.

See chart in packet for more information

We can look at SPG, it is not the same students from grade to grade, these are like students with similar profiles. We had a growth of 51.6%. We aim for 40% to 60%. Our kids did meet the growth target. When we think about elementary we had some great results. We had above average scores.

We implemented STEM scopes in K-8 and the science results showed that. Sometimes you have an implantation dip but we did not experience that. Our sub group performance, it is not just Franklin, students with disabilities, ELL and economically challenges students typically do not do well on the scores.

I will stop at elementary.

Dr. Bergen - Any questions?

Mr. Keenan - That page where you showed the difference of points, do you have data to show where we are compared to other districts?

Dr. Edwards - We don't have ranks from the State. We can pull like districts and pull that data. Andover is similar and in ELA we are at 67%, they were at 71%. We can do that comparison but the State will not rank it.

Mr. Keenan - Those are helpful.

Dr. Edwards - Now we will go to middle school. We are 64% in ELA for grade 6. Grade 8 was strong in all three subjects. Science did very well. We also implemented Illustrative Math and again our math results did show that. All of the middle schools showed above and beyond for meeting expectations. The growth percentile our students performed in the targeted growth range; 40% to 60%. Our students are making up ground with growth. Grade 8 had a higher percent in the M+ standard.

When we look at opportunity, grade 6 & 7 were stagnant. Grade 8 was higher.

Moving onto high school. This is the first year for MCAS 2.0 and you see here the old legacy biology results. These results will be different next year with MCAS 2.0 results for both years.

The Grade 10 students were in the desired range for growth. We have some strengths, we were ahead. We have an opportunity to improve and standardized tests are not the best for their math strength.

The next steps for us are to look at the data and where it falls under our district improvement plan. We look at intervention and enrichment for students. Absenteeism we started talking about a few years ago and will work on that, and curriculum alignment will help and we'll see that with science and Illustrative Math. We will look at social studies next. There is not a formal test in social studies, it is coming in 2023.

Any questions?

Ms. Scofield - Absenteeism as far as that goes, how do absences due to family vacations play into this?

Dr. Edwards - There are no distinctions between any of these.

Ms. Scofield - Excused versus not excused?

Mr. Keenan - Back to the comparables, you mentioned that this identified the districts that are comparable.

Dr. Edwards - They can be different, but they look at all the different factors.

Ms. D'Angelo - The number of students who were absent, do we have those numbers?

Dr. Edwards - I don't have that number. We have well over 100.

Ms. D'Angelo - Is it comparable to last year?

Dr. Edwards - Yes.

Dr. Bergen - We as a committee, will see the interventions, that is where they will show up?

Dr. Edwards - Yes, and also in budget development.

Ms. D'Angelo - The categories were different, are we looking at those?

Dr. Edwards - All of our students need to have a passing score to graduate, that is meeting expectations. We look at students at risk and try to determine interventions.

Ms. D'Angelo - My concern that students are not meeting, and not on a retake, do we look at that now?

Dr. Edwards - We have to look at it for reporting for the State.

3. Discussion / Action Items

A. None

4. Discussion Only Items

A. 2020-2021 Proposed School Year Calendar

Dr. Ahern - I have a draft of the 2020-2021 school calendar for you. We left the half day professional days and conference days out. Typically, Tuesday would be the first day but that is primary day. We will use that as a professional day. We have some religious holidays as well.

Any questions and welcome your feedback.

Ms. Stokes - Have we always had February and April vacations, why can't we do one in March?

Ms. Scofield - We did a town wide meeting on this many years ago and we spoke about changing the calendar. There was not enough support to move it forward back then.

Dr. Bergen - Changes can be hard and you get used to the vacation weeks.

Ms. D'Angelo - The half-day professional development days those are disruptive for all parties, why did we do those?

Dr. Ahern - It comes to time of learning. We value the professional development that we provide. It accomplishes to have instruction in the morning and have professional development in an ongoing way.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - If you had full days would you not save on the bus?

Dr. Ahern- We can take a look at that.

Mrs. Goodman - We pay per day. We pay the 180 days.

Dr. Ahern - The teacher day would expand but the cost would be the same.

Ms. Stokes - I share your view on the PD days by dispersing throughout the year, I do hear that parents are frustrated with child care. They don't know what the teachers are doing. Is there a way to get out what the schools are doing for the professional days? That would be helpful.

Dr. Ahern - I appreciate that comment and would welcome the opportunity to work with the community relations sub committee to get the word out.

Ms. Stokes - From what I know, there is great professional development going on.

Dr. Ahern - Thank you.

B. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Dr. Ahern - This is for your information as the superintendent who reports to you as the committee. I just consulted with the ethics commission and need to disclose that I am a board member.

Ms. Stokes also works here so I will disclose there is no conflict of interest.

5. Information Matters

a. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports (e.g. Budget; Community Relations; Policy; Transportation; Public Schools Advocacy)

b. School Committee Liaison Reports (e.g. Joint PCC; Substance Abuse Task Force; School Wellness Advisory Council [SWAC]; , MASC)

BUDGET Dr. Bergen, Mr. Keenan and Ms. D'Angelo - We will meet December 18.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen - We will set up a meeting soon.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen - No report

POLICY Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes- No meetings set as of yet.

JOINT PCC - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - Next meeting is Monday, December 16.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Giguere - Met on December 10. Vaping presentation January 6.

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - January 14 is the next meeting.

TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Keenan will be the only member of this committee. It meets only twice per year.

6. New Business

- a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern - We will have a budget workshop on January 14 to share budget needs and on the 28 we will have a presentation from the student services department.

A second draft of the calendar and some policy.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your November 26, 2019 School Committee meeting as detailed.

-corrections made for the committees and the chairs-

B. Transfers

I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed

C. Best Buddies Grant

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from the Franklin Lodge of Elks for in-house enrichment for the Best Buddies Program as detailed.

D. FHS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$51.74 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. for supplemental supplies at FHS as detailed.

E. Recurring NY City Trip

I recommend approval of the (recurring) request of Renee Hersee to take MS Chorus Students to New York City for a Broadway Show on May 9, 2020 as detailed.

F. Recurring DECA State Competition trip

I recommend approval of the request of Miguel Carmo to take FHS DECA student to Boston, MA from 2/27/20 to 2/29/20 for the State competition as detailed.

Motion for all: Ms. D'Angelo
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills - Dr. Bergen - correct

9. Payroll correct - Ms. D'Angelo - correct

10. Adjournment at 8:40 pm

Ms. D'Angelo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Pond-F-Pfeffer. All were in favor. (7-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 12-10-19.pdf
MCAS 2019 Presentation.pdf
20-21Calendar-Draft.pdf
Conflict of Interest -- Accept.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Transfers.pdf
Consent Action C - BB Gift.pdf
Consent Action D - FHS Gift.pdf
Consent Action E - Recurring NY Trip.pdf
Consent Action F - DECA State Competition Trip.pdf
SC Warrant112119.xlsx
SC Warrant112719.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf
SCWarrant112119.pdf
SCWarrant112719.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2010 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2010.pdf

Payroll Warrant #2011 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2011.pdf
Enrollmentcompare-Nov2018-Nov2019.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf