

**Franklin School Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**February 25, 2020**  
**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, 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 and Chorr-Kin Chin were present. Mr. Timothy Keenan, was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Nate Walsh of Oak Street School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nate is the youngest son of Matthew and Rebecca Walsh. His older brothers are Colin who is a sophomore at Franklin High School, and Danny who is in 8th grade at Horace Mann. Nate is an avid football, basketball and lacrosse player in Franklin with his favorite sport being lacrosse. As a fifth grader, Nate particularly enjoys the projects as part of the curriculum, like birds of prey, as well as all the special books they read such as Wonder and Small Steps. Nate was chosen by his teachers to recite the Pledge of Allegiance because it is always easy to catch Nate doing something good. He gets along well with classmates and teachers. He pays attention, works hard and is a role model for other students. Nate is soft spoken but has a good heart and because of this has been volunteering as a fifth grade buddy to a kindergarten student at Oak Street since early this year. When he grows up Nate wants to either be in the Army or the Marines.

**1. Routine Business**

**a. Review of Agenda**

Dr. Bergen reviewed the agenda with the Committee.

## **b. Citizen's Comments**

Dr. Bergen invited citizen's comments. There were 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**

The student representatives shared their comments.

Dan Harrington announced that Six Rounds of Vengeance this Friday and Chicago is coming up. FHS has MICCA on March 10 and the Senior Banquet is next Friday and as of tomorrow there are 100 days to graduation.

Chorr-Kin Chin announced that the Best Buddies prom is on March 20. DECA goes to Boston this weekend. The Diversity Awareness Club is holding an upcoming fashion show. The models are from all backgrounds. FHS sports continue to dominate. The girls Basketball are favorite to win the state. Ali Brigham is the captain. Boys hockey is moving along in the playoffs.

## **d. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Ahern shared the Superintendent's Report. She announced next Tuesday, March 3 is the state primary and a full professional day. It is a district wide professional day as directed by the central office and building administration. One of the workshops that all of the staff will participate in will be in Trauma Informed

Elementary Care. They will learn strategies in working with students with known and unknown trauma.

There will be curriculum teams meeting about integration of science standards as well as the incorporating of the new social studies frameworks. Secondary curriculum teams will be learned by content area. All staff will have time to have technology training regarding cyber security risks.

Dr. Ahern thanked the Facilities Department, specifically Rich Gaskin. Over February vacation, they take extra care in cleaning our schools.

She shared that FPS will follow guidance from agencies and protocols for deep cleaning with the outbreak of the coronavirus.

She shared that several administrators went to the SAFE Coalition's open house in Dedham.

There were questions about the meetings. FPS had web outages. The agenda was posted in time. But we needed to get advice from the Town Clerk. We were able to hold tonight's meeting because web services were restored within 6 business hours.

## **2. Guests / Presentations**

### **A. Franklin Demographic Presentation – Jerome McKibben, McKibben Associates**

Dr. Ahern introduced Dr. Jerry McKibben, of McKibben Demographics. He asked that the Committee hold any questions until the end.

The presenter pointed out that these are forecasts and they created an algorithm to project into the future. He shared the following points:

- They produced a forecast on all elementary schools, middle schools and high school

- Assuming that the assumptions are not violated, there should be a 2% margin of error in the forecast.
- It is assumed that Franklin will have on average 275 existing home sales each year for the next 10 years
- He included data on what is being built or approved for building in Franklin
- He predicted a turnover of existing homes with empty nesters and that Franklin will see these increase in sales
- There are 19 assumptions, some will be more critical than others; interest rates for mortgages staying at 5% is important.

Dr. McKibben then shared the forecast for enrollments by each school area.

The Committee asked questions.

Ms. Stokes asked about the judgement factors. She wondered if they are assumptions too.

Dr. McKibben responded that they use Zillow, Realtytrac and the census.

Ms. Stokes asked about the very top row of the enrollment chart and why it was constant.

Dr. McKibben explained that FPS has 111 pre k students but is full.

Ms. Stokes followed up about providing special ed for those students.

Dr. McKibben responded that only if you have space for that.

Dr. Ahern explained that we have a little more capacity at our preschool. She clarified that FPS meets the special ed requirements.

Ms. Stokes asked about what would happen if the data is plotted on a graph. She wondered if there would be a curve.

Dr. McKibben responded, "Yes. It would be easier".

Ms. D'Angelo asked a question wondering if the most concerning data point is the housing sales of 275 sold per year. She asked about the impact on the forecast if this deviated.

Dr. McKibben responded that Franklin needs this to go up this year and the following years. He explained if Franklin goes down to about 200 sold then the forecast will be way too high; if 310 sold or more, the forecast will be too low.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about if the census data being 10 years old makes a difference.

Dr. McKibben shared that it does not.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked about K-5 enrollment. She pointed out that on page 14, we have 6 elementary schools. She wondered if McKibben saw anything based on those figures that we need more than 6 schools.

Dr. McKibben responded that he doesn't have the capacity to do that.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer further asked if 5 schools can handle the enrollment.

Dr. McKibben responded that he has no idea without the capacities of the schools.

Dr. Bergen shared that this data is what the School Committee will be looking at to make decisions.

Ms. Stokes followed up and asked if looking at patterns in this data if this gives a clear message or if there are too many factors that are uncertain.

Dr. McKibben clarified FPS will see a drop in the high school. He confirmed that there are a lot of factors that will need to be considered.

Ms. Spencer asked about the fertility rate. She wondered about how it compares with other towns.

Dr. McKibben said they look at residents. He clarified the fact that because Franklin has a college here, 1.63 is good for birthrate.

Ms. Spencer asked about the effect of increase in taxes, and senior citizens.

Dr. McKibben noted that they would have to look at a myriad of factors.

Dr. Ahren shared that the next step is a community information night on March 5 and the architect's facility analysis will be reported on later in the spring.

### **B. FY21 Superintendent's Recommended Budget**

Miriam Goodman and Dr. Ahern presented the FY 2021 budget

They summarized that the process starts in the fall.

They shared the following points:

- There were budget subcommittee meetings
- There were school committee workshops
- In Jan/Feb, administrators work with different departments and principals to get the proposed budget
- The Governor's budget came out January 22 and house and senate budgets will be later this spring

Budget Assumptions:

- No town allocation as of yet

- 8% range for health insurance rate increase
- Out of district budgeted at a 5% increase
- Transportation budgeted at a 1.5% increase
- Proposing a reduced use of revolving funds
- Town administrator will do a presentation March 4

They discussed budget drivers:

- Salaries
- Health and Medicare cost
- Out of District tuition
- Other expenses
- Transportation

The recommended budget took a level service budget and added approximately \$500,000 related to student services. These included:

- Expansion of the NECC Partner program
- Expansion of the GOALS program to middle school
- Expansion of speech and language services
- Registered behavior technicians
- Transition services for students at FHS - transition coordinator
- REACH program coordinator
- STRIVE ESPs - two
- GOALS ESP - one

The amount required for level service is \$68,231,057 or a \$3,372,557 (5.2%) increase. The Superintendent's Recommended budget is \$68,767,863 or a \$3.9 million (6.03%) increase.

Mrs. Goodman summarized the proposed use of revolving accounts.

Dr. Ahern shared unmet needs and critical needs not included in the budget:

- Classroom teachers to reduce class size for high school
- Adjustment counselor for middle schools

- Technology replenishment
- Curriculum leadership
- Digital integration specials

They presented additional opportunities including revenue from the Community Impact Agreement related to marijuana

The District is exploring:

- Positive alternative to school suspension
- Secondary counselors with substance abuse expertise
- Bolster the health and wellness curriculum

They discussed remaining variables:

- Allocation from the Town
- Collective bargaining
- Actual health insurance rate increase
- Other revenue streams
- Remaining FY 20 expenditures

There is an expected budget gap, magnitude is TBD.

They presented the next steps:

- Budget Subcommittee meeting on March 4
- Schoolcommittee budget discussion on March 10
- School committee public hearing on March 24
- School committee vote on FY21 budget on April 14
- Finance committee and town council budget meetings April and May

### **3. Discussion / Action Items**

#### **A. Policy – First Reading**

Mr. Giguere shaed that a sentence was added at the suggestion of the School Committee's Attorney.

Dr. Ahern recommended moving Policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee meetings to a second reading as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Scofield  
Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Stokes  
Oppose: 0

#### B. Establish New Student Activities Club

Dr. Ahern explained that four new activities are proposed to be established so that they may begin student activity fund accounts.

Dr. Ahern recommended approval of the establishment of new student activities as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Stokes  
Approve: 6

Second: Ms. Scofield  
Oppose: 0

#### 4. Discussion Only Items - None

#### 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, Ms. D'Angelo - Dr. Bergen shared they met on February 12, and the next meeting is March 4

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY** Ms. Spencer, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - Ms. Spencer announced the next meeting is on March 5.

**POLICY** Ms. Scofield, Ms. Stokes, Ms. Spencer - Ms. Scofield announced the next meeting for March. Mr. Giguere suggested that the group confirm the date after the meeting.

**JOINT PCC** Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer said there had been no meetings since the last school committee meeting.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** Mr. Giguere, Dr. Bergen - Dr. Bergen shared the next meeting is March 31.

**SCHOOL WELLNESS** - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - Ms. Spencer shared the next meeting is March 26.

**AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY** Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield Ms. Stokes shared the next meeting is February 27.

**TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE** - Mr. Keenan, Dr. Bergen - Dr. Bergen shared that there are no meetings scheduled.

## **6. New Business**

a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern shared the anticipated items:

- Budget discussion
- Joined by elementary principals for school improvement updates
- A student presentation

## **7. Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the February 11, 2020 school committee meeting as detailed.

Ms. D'Angelo inquired about the format for minutes. After a brief discussion Dr. Ahern recommended items B, C, D be approved. Dr. Ahern suggested that revised minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

(These minutes were not approved - corrected version will be submitted)

#### B. Executive Session Minutes

I recommend approval of the executive session minutes from the February 11, 2020 school committee meeting as detailed to be released.

#### C. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$30.00 from music parents for in-house enrichment for the music department as detailed.

#### D. Keller Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$851.00 from Keller PCC for field trips as detailed.

Motion to approve items B, C and D only

Motion to approve: Ms. Scofield      Second: Ms. Stokes  
Approve: 6                                      Oppose: 0

### **8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen noted that the bills were correct**

### **9. Payroll - Ms. D'Angelo noted that the payroll were correct**

**10.** Ms. Pond-Pfeffer made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the FEA as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the chair so declares and not to return to open session from which the Committee would not return. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion.

**The motion was approved on a roll call vote:** Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

### **10. Adjournment at 9:14 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 2-25-20.pdf  
2-25-20 Demographics Presentation.pdf  
Population and enrollment forecasts.pdf  
01. FY21 Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation.pdf  
02. Executive SummaryRevised.pdf  
03. DIP.pdf  
04 District achievement Profile FY21.pdf  
05. Enrollment.pdf  
06. Overview-Revised.pdf  
07. ECDC.pdf  
08. Davis Thayer.pdf  
09. Jefferson.pdf  
10. Kennedy.pdf  
11. Oak St.pdf  
12. Parmenter.pdf  
13. Keller.pdf  
14. ASMS.pdf  
15. RMS.pdf  
16. HMMS.pdf  
17. FHS.pdf  
18. Central Office.pdf  
19. Teaching & Learning.pdf  
20.. Student Services.pdf  
21. Special Revenue FY21.pdf  
22. Revolving Detail FY21.pdf  
23. Glossary and FAQs FY21.pdf  
CURRENT - BEDH - Public Participation at SC Meetings.pdf  
Discussion Action A - Policy.pdf  
Discussion Action B - New Student Activities.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - ES Minutes for Release.pdf  
Consent Action C - Music Gift.pdf  
Consent Action D - Keller Gift.pdf  
SCWarranto20620.xlsx  
SCWarranto21320.xlsx  
FPS Summary & Sign Off 0225210 (1).pdf

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FINAL

SCWarranto20620.pdf  
SCWarranto21320.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2017 Summary.pdf  
Payroll Warrant #2017.pdf  
Pledge Student.pdf