

Franklin School Committee

Minutes

January 28, 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: 7:04 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 were all present. Mr. Lucas Giguere was not present. Franklin High School representatives; Brianna Atwood and Chorr-Kin Chin were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Tonight we have TWO very special students who we are proud to recognize for all of their exemplary efforts at Franklin High School.

Adriana Newman plays field hockey, and was captain of the JV team this past year. She is a member of the French National Honor Society and is currently taking 5 honors classes and two AP classes, with a 4.2 gpa. She is a member of the FHS Connect for Cancer Club, which focuses on community service and fundraisers to benefit cancer patients. She babysits for multiple families in Franklin, works at a daycare 4 days a week, a local cafe once a week, and hopes to enter the field of nursing where she can embrace her love of kids and helping others.

Alex Newman is a member of the varsity basketball team at FHS (IF PRESENT...he is currently joining us during halftime of a game being played at the high school IF ABSENT...he is unable to join us right now due to a game that is being played as we speak). In addition to playing for Franklin, Alex also helps to coach a summer camp known as Tomorrow's Stars for aspiring basketball players. Additionally he works at a local day care and at Ichigo Ichie. He has a love of art, which he is able to use to his advantage when working with our Best Buddies and in our cooperative art classes. In his free time, he plays and takes classes on the guitar. Both Adriana and Alex stand out for their enthusiasm and the passion they bring to everything they

do. But most impressive is their kindness that is on display every day that makes them such fine examples of what it means to be a Panther.

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda -

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

Chorr-Kin - Happy New Year. These are some updates. Winter sports continue to dominate. Quarter 3 began and seniors are almost there.

Brianna Atwood - The rehearsals for Chicago are beginning and Dan Harrington is the lead. We are putting on 6 Runs of Vengeance at Norwood High school on February 29 and at FHS on February 28. FHS was able to respond to the viral video and express their opinion.

Chorr-Kin - Thank Mr. Peri and Mr. Klements for allowing us to heal and have the proper time to digest the video and what was happening.

d. Superintendent Report

Dr. Ahern - I wanted to recap the professional development day on January 17. It was across the district and done by the principals.

ECDC did a review on their new report card. FHS worked on SEL and cultural proficiency, middle schools looked at portrait of a graduate, discipline practices, and one school looked at professional growth in Keys to Literacy. At the elementary level we had a variety of things happening, SEL, cultural proficiency, math, literacy, curriculum planning.

Nurses shared office practices and schools need to provide consistency.

Friday, February 7 is the next professional development day.

Franklin educators are providing professional development throughout the district. Kate Merten and Ann Williams will lead a workshop on "I Do Readers". Jaime Hulbig, Jennifer Violet, and Jennifer Young will lead a workshop titled "Beyond Pizza and Pies: Teaching Fractions and Decimals for True Understanding".

MASS holds two meetings during the school year to provide professional development to its members. The mid-winter meeting was held last week on January 23, 2020 and Mr. Giguere, Assistant Superintendent, and I attended. We joined various districts to develop personalized development to model for staff personal experiences. We shared our steps in this direction and we learned from other districts.

Jeff Lawrence was the keynote speaker. It was focused on leadership and education today. The session concluded where Jeff Reilly shared developing the details of the requirement implementation plans. The SOA is requiring districts to submit plans soon.

The details are still emerging.

Dr. Edwards and I will attend the MASS meeting in the Spring.

I wanted to share some thoughts on grant funding. I wanted to convey that we pursue grant funding. They come from govt grants and public grants. We were awarded a school safety grant. ECDC secured a grant from Big Y for a chill zone. We

do have to take the opportunities and consider them carefully and we may not be able to meet all those expectations.

Lastly, a highlight from today at the FHS and I attended a chorus workshop. Renee Hersee hosted James Burton from the Boston Symphony. He worked with her students in small groups and they did workshops for their festival. He worked with the students on all different techniques. He also worked with the director on her technique as well. He helped to develop their sound. He also worked with SEL with the students.

Dr. Bergen - You hear about the athletic accomplishments and today the students spoke about the drama club and now we hear about the music program. That is wonderful.

2. Guests / Presentations

A. FHS Program of Study Update

Mr. Peri - Thank you very much. I have to give a shout to Mr. Bill Klements helping out and Dr. Edwards who is an incredible asset and Heather McVay as well. We will highlight some new courses and will introduce them to you.

Mr. Klements - This is a chance to introduce a story here and for the first time we reschedule our meeting with department heads and met with the guidance department and they went over and helped us on how we can help the students to see what is going to happen and how we can meet the needs of the students.

Mr. Peri - We wanted to celebrate SEAL of Literacy. We are thankful for Laura Evans.

Mr. Klements - We are happy to go through the new courses.

ART will have three new courses: AP 2D design course; illustrations and murals; multicultural arts.

Art one is still being offered

English will have two new classes: life and literature course; AP language and literature for the 11th grade

Not a new course but some health and PE electives are not being run, that is a staffing issue because we don't have the people to run them.

Math two new courses: trigonometry and precalculus;

Social Studies: AP economics course

World language: latin 5 will be added for seniors

We have AP physics, that is exciting.

We are adding AP courses in the art department.

Any questions?

Ms. Scofield - The new classes, those will be taught by current teachers?

Mr. Peri - Yes.

Dr. Bergen - I like that you have included both staff and students.

Mr. Klements - I hope the excitement holds true. We like to hear the passion from the staff and students.

Dr. Bergen - This is so exciting.

Mr. Peri - The students show their passion in courses. We are looking to create pathways for students to help them learn more about what they want to do.

Mr. Keenan - Latin 5, when you get the ideas for new courses, how do you determine that it is a present need?

Mr. Klements - We are hoping that it is a need that will grow and if it goes to plan the next step is based on enrollment. Some courses may not run due to lack of demand. The math teachers are plugging statistics and we will have to wait to see the need.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you.

B. Homework Update

Dr. Edwards - This is a scheduled update of our homework policy. I will give a brief update of the history of this policy. We found there was an inconsistency throughout the schools and even classrooms. We decided to do some work on getting consistency. We created a new school policy on homework. The guidelines were published last summer. Teachers still have the ability to meet the needs of their students.

We are monitoring and changing the guidelines as needed. We meet to monitor feedback from staff and surveys. We sent out a survey after the holiday break. The focus is to take a look at the inconsistencies in the data. There was a cross section that we got. We did collect demographics as well. We had 349 from elementary families; elementary teachers - 147 responded; middle schools had 257 responses; middle school students 758 surveys; high school - 300 family responses and 421 from the students.

There were some universal themes that were made. Overall were supportive, helped with home lives, positive feedback about homework-free vacations.

A lot of middle school families were unsure and the staff indicated that homework was done during their flex block.

A disconnect that teachers said they didn't assign homework but the numbers were not consistent with the survey.

As we move forward our next steps are to address the inconsistencies by school and our administrative team and we will revisit this. We will monitor this during the

year. We have some revisions that we are considering. Elementary would like no homework.

On March 18 we will have a parent education night at FHS at 6:30pm. Parents are invited to ask any questions or make any suggestions. One last survey will be after April break. The questions will be different from the last one.

Any questions?

Ms. Scofield -Thank you. I would like to encourage parents to attend March 18. We had a group last time when we started. I appreciate the fact that this is ongoing.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - As the oldest one here I find it difficult to think that we want to give less and less homework to students who are going out to the world and other countries are increasing homework. I think that this is the wrong way to do this. All homework should be done before school ends?

Dr. Edwards - We followed some research in the role of student impact and findings. Our families are different and many students don't have support at home that they used to have. Families have trouble managing homework.

We structured the school day differently as well.

There is a place for homework. They need to reinforce their skills at home. We do encourage students to take some work home and do the work they may need to do for any AP classes.

Mr. Keenan - You made a statement there is need for homework and I throw out as to why that is so definitive?

Dr. Edwards - Because of a decrease and added expectations.

Mr. Keenan - I get the consistency. How do they get that?

Dr. Edwards - That there is consistency of expectations such as so many minutes for reading. We are setting guidelines for age groups.

Your question is homework necessary?

Mr. Keenan - My assumption is that there is a decrease in homework, do we look at test scores, what is the impact of homework? Do homework adjustments get made?

Dr. Edwards - The research is that homework for young children there is little benefit, but reading is one of the skills they need.

Students are not doing homework and not turning it in. Homework has no impact on MCAS scores. There is a rampant part of sharing in text and online. Homework needs to be personalized so it can't be shared with others.

Mr. Keenan - If that is the case, then it defeats the purpose of homework?

Dr. Edwards - As long as it is not busy work. If it is personalized and relevant, then it works.

Mr. Keenan - It is interesting that I got a CNN article on this today about homework.

Dr. Edwards - We dove deep into this and the research. I find it interesting that CNN validated this.

Ms. Stokes - Who are the members?

Dr. Edwards - Teachers and administrators across the district. There is no parent component. The group did the legwork and brought the information back.

Ms. Stokes - It is tricky, the outliers are the loudest ones.

Dr. Edwards - There are some urban legends that schools provide such a different homework policy.

Ms. Stokes - For those families, it affects their lives and those who have too much it is hard to balance. It is a tricky balance with the SEL piece. What could those parents on the polar opposites do?

Dr. Edwards - Contact the teachers and see what they can do. See if the child needs more practice and for students who need more help and for those who don't that they don't need more homework. Parents can advocate for their students.

Ms. Stokes - The teacher may not know about the blood sweat and tears that took place. Is SEL going to trickle into that as well.

Dr. Edwards - Yes it will.

Mr. Keenan - Are there examples of other districts that have this similar policy?

Dr. Edwards - At the end, we did give credit to some of the towns that helped with this research. Weston and Brookline as well as 30 other districts.

Dr. Bergen - When you do the presentation in March, please share the research. The number of teachers responses were low, can we address that?

Dr. Edwards - We can encourage that. A less response can be a status quo.

Dr. Bergen - They say no there zero that there was homework.

Dr. Edwards - I want the Principals to speak with some of the teachers. In some cases there was a percentage that they assigned homework but it was one teacher.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you.

Jen DeBaggis - I am glad you are looking into this. Please do work on consistency. Our family is getting 3 to 4 hours for 7th grade is too much. It is too much for some students. He likes to read and do well.

Dr. Edwards - Let the principal know they work on teams. Teachers assign homework and think it will take less time but it was inaccurate.

Jen Debaggis - There is consistently that much. Thank you.

3. Discussion / Action Items

A. 2020-2021 School Calendar I recommend adoption of the proposed 2020-2021 School Calendar as discussed.

Ms. D'Angelo - Purple days are student half days?

Dr. Ahern - Yes.

Ms. D'Angelo - Can we break that up?

Dr. Ahern - History is that parent conferences were in December, and we felt that was late. We wanted to move it up earlier, at the end of October. So we looked at November. You could look at October 21 and 22. Later in November is tricky because of the high school.

Dr. Bergen - Do we want more conversation over changing the conference days? We could look at that. We have a say in that.

Ms. D'Angelo - I would like the October dates. It is taxing for families

Ms. Spencer - As a working mom that is taxing, the school year is starting a week later, on October 22 and 23, it would have a shorter time frame for teachers.

Ms. Stokes - Mine is that it is hard for all, I wonder if that is full week, is it less choppy for either? They need to know in advance and take care of what they need.

Ms. Scofield - So many times we hear from the teachers and how difficult it is to have another day off. I agree with Jen. I would like the 22 and 23 of October.

Dr. Bergen - This is after evaluation. Goals are due October 21. And plans are set.

Mr. Keenan - I was looking at the math and thinking about what Denise said, the difference is seven teaching days. Are the extra days going to make a difference?

Dr. Bergen - I do feel, too, that there is an alternative to not breaking up a week?

Dr. Ahern - It seems like we recommend the adoption as discussed with the conferences on October 22 and October 23.

Dr. Bergen - Would you revise the motion before we vote?

Dr. Ahern - Motion made to change the date to October 22 and 23.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Stokes
Oppose: 0

B. Policy - First Reading I recommend moving Policy EEAE – School Bus Safety to a second reading as discussed.

Mr. Giguere - We are at the E policies now. This is the first read, a school bus policy for safety.

Highlights the procedures that we have and refer to an actual policy.

Motion: Ms.Scofield
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Oppose: 0

4. Discussion Only Items

A. ACCEPT Annual Report

B. BICO Annual Report

Dr. Ahern - The two annual reports from ACCEPT and BICO collaboratives. We have students attending both schools. We use their services for our students at other

schools. ACCEPT is for medicaid billing. I am on the Board of Directors for both. I also serve on the budget committee for BICO.

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 - Meeting on January 30 at 4:00 pm

COMMUNITY RELATIONS Ms. Spencer, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer Met on January 23 and the next meeting is to be determined - looking at questions for the February 4 meeting at FHS at 6:30 pm

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY

POLICY Ms. Scofield, Ms. Stokes, Ms. Spencer - Next meeting is February 12 and March 19

JOINT PCC Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen Meeting held on Portrait of a Graduate Next meeting February 4

SUBSTANCE ABUSE Mr. Giguere, Dr. Bergen Next meeting in March 31

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes Had a meeting on January 13 and the next meeting is February 11

AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield First meeting in January 28

6. New Business

- a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern - I will have an update on improvement on SEL, we will have Jefferson students. We will have DECA Students come and present and our Technology Director, Tim Rapoza will talk about technology.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

- a. I recommend approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2019 School Committee meeting as detailed.

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

B. FHS Scholarship

I recommend acceptance of three checks totaling \$250.00 for the Jacqueline Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship as follows: Shanna Culloty Jobin \$100.00 Sean S. Jobin \$100.00 Maura C. Schaeffer \$ 50.00

C. Davis Thayer Gift I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$375.00 as detailed: \$75.00 Leuders Environmental, Inc. for in-house enrichment \$300.00 Anonymous donation to pay off lunch balances

D. FHS Gifts

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$3,798.15 as detailed: \$2,798.15 from Lifetouch National School Studio for in-house enrichment \$1,000.00 from Patriot's Foundation for Athletic supplies

E. Music Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,500.00 from music parents for inhouse enrichment as detailed.

F. Remington Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,535.00 from Lifetouch for in-house enrichment at Remington Middle School as detailed.

G. JFK Gifts 8:10-8:15 8:15-8:25 8:30

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$2,574.00 from the JFK PCC as follows: \$775.00 – Field Trips \$1,799.00 – Supplemental Supplies

H. Parmenter Donations

I recommend acceptance of the following donations totaling \$6,902.34 for Parmenter Elementary School: \$3,000.00 worth of Furniture from Cardi's \$992.34 from PCC for In-house enrichment \$1,800.00 Anonymous donation to pay off lunch balances \$1,110.00 from Hockomock Area YMCA for in-house enrichment

I. UNH Jazz Festival Recurring Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Leighanne Rudsit and Matthew Geisinger to take 2 jazz bands and 2 jazz combos to the University of New Hampshire on Saturday, March 14, 2020 for the annual Jazz Festival as detailed.

J. Jefferson Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of a Keurig Coffee Machine from Brody Nunley for the Jefferson teacher's dining room as detailed.

Motion for all: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen - correct

9. Payroll Ms. D'Angelo - correct

10. Adjournment at 8:40 pm

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Ms. Scofield and seconded by Ms. Pond-Pfeffer (7-0-0).
All were in favor.

Executive Session a. Pursuant to M.G.L.C. 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Roll call vote: Ms. Jennifer D'Angelo - Yes; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Mary Jane Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 1-28-20.pdf
World Language Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Social Studies Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Senior Project 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Science Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Music Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Mathematics Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Health/Physical Education Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Franklin Arts Academy Program & Pathway 2020-21 SC DRAFT
English Language Education 2020-21 SC DRAFT
English Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Business Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
Art, Design, and Media Department 2020-21 SC DRAFT
2020-21 Program of Studies - SC DRAFT
Homework SC 1_28_2020.pdf
Discussion ActionA - 2020-21 School Calendar.pdf
Discussion ActionB - Policy.pdf
ACCEPT Collaborative Annual_Report_FY19.pdf
FY19 BICO.Annual Report (1).pdf
Consent ActionA - Minutes.pdf
Consent ActionB - FHS Scholarship.pdf
Consent ActionC - DT Gifts.pdf
Consent ActionD - FHS Gifts.pdf
Consent ActionE - Music Gift.pdf
Consent ActionF - RMS Gift.pdf
Consent ActionG - JFK Gift.pdf
Consent ActionH - Parmenter Gifts.pdf
Consent ActionI - UNH Jazz Festival Recurring Field Trip.pdf
Consent ActionJ - Jefferson Donation.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2014 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2014.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2014M Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2014M.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2015 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2015.pdf
SCWarrant010220.xlsx
SCWarrant010920.xlsx

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SCWarrant011620.xlsx
SCWarrant120519.xlsx
SCWarrant121219.xlsx
SCWarrant121919.xlsx
SCWarrant122619.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off 012820.pdf
SCWarrant010220.pdf
SCWarrant010920.pdf
SCWarrant011620.pdf
SCWarrant120519.pdf
SCWarrant121219.pdf
SCWarrant121919.pdf
SCWarrant122619.pdf
Budget to Actual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf