

**Franklin School Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**March 10, 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, Mr. Timothy Keenan, Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. 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 were present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

These 6 Parmenter students (grades 3-5) will be leading the Pledge as well as presenting information about Parmenter’s Passion Projects (after the quick video slideshow).

Their Passion Project presentations will focus on: What Passion Project they are involved in and why they love it? What they have accomplished so far this year. What their plans are for the remainder of the year (including their community service components). \* This is just a small sampling of the Passion Project clubs currently happening at Parmenter.

Abigail Schmellick is a great example of a 5th grade role model. She is a hard worker who perseveres through new challenges making her a high achieving student. Just as importantly, she is consistently kind and caring toward everyone she meets. I truly look forward to her smile and greeting every morning when she arrives.

Daphne Johnson-Smith is one of the most enthusiastic 5th graders we have come across. She brings her exuberance to all she does by giving her best effort consistently. Daphne is “all in”, whether it is a writing assignment or a character education project. Her positive attitude is contagious, making her a great student leader.

Logan Weir is a 4th grade role model. He is an engaging, enthusiastic, and very creative learner. He has so many bright ideas that he contributes to every conversation. He is a great friend who always supports the learners around him. Overall, Logan is an asset to any classroom or discussion he is a member of.

Cameron Fusi is an energetic and enthusiastic 3rd grader. She is a voracious reader who enjoys reading various genres of literature. She is a very curious learner who shares her enthusiasm with her classmates and is respectful of her teachers and peers. Cameron is consistently cheerful each morning and greets many with a good morning.

Vincent Bertone is a compassionate 3rd grade student. He is a respectful student who is very collaborative with both his teachers and peers. Vincent is a great friend who always includes others. He cares about the Parmenter Community and works hard to be the best student he can be.

Gia Hamani-Dantzler is a passionate and helpful 3rd grade student at Parmenter. She is friendly, kind and always the first to volunteer to help students and teachers in the school. Gia always perseveres through challenging tasks and takes great pride in her accomplishments. Her enthusiasm and smile is quite contagious.

## **Moment of Silence**

### **1. Routine Business**

**a. Review of Agenda** - All is fine.

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

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**

Ally spoke about:

- Peer leaders and peace takes practice at Dean College
- Best Buddies prom on March 20
- April 2, Diversity Awareness has a fashion show coming up
- Go girls basketball, they have another game tonight
- 87 days until graduation

Dan spoke about:

- Six Rounds of Vengeance this Friday
- On March 20, Chicago will start
- Chorus has MICCA showcase today
- Senior banquet is coming up
- Students were talking about the coronavirus and asked about the outlook.

Dr. Ahern explained that we are on top of all the latest news related to the Coronavirus concerns and more guidance will be coming. She went on to say ,we need to practice good hygiene and if you have symptoms of being ill to stay home. We are working with the public health for guidance. She spoke about a portal on the town website.

Dan thanked Dr. Ahern

### **d. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Ahern explained about what the schools are doing with disinfecting the schools and explained about what they are spraying. She explained this is not a deep scrub down. She explained that hand washing should be done on a regular basis. She spoke about large gatherings and events.

She spoke about telelearning and the Department of Education will not be authorizing this at this time.

She explained about the State of Emergency and how it creates flexibility for the State.

Dr. Ahern provided an update on a safety item, the FDP and FFD posted that the individual who entered the Kennedy school went to the wrong school in error.

Dr. Ahern congratulated the winter athletes.

Dr. Ahern highlighted that staff and some town members along with Jeff Roy participated in the Reading across America for Dr. Suess's birthday at Oak Street School.

She told us about how Live Arts allowed us to bring in a duo who played with string instruments and taught lessons to students on Monday March 2 and thanked Dianne Plouffe.

## **2. Guests / Presentations**

### **A. Student Passion Project Presentation (Parmenter students)**

Dr. Ahern introduced students and staff from Parmenter regarding the Passion Project.

Mrs. Barca pointed out that the bios for the Pledge of Allegiance were done by the classroom teachers and she thanked the parents and students.

The Passion Project is a community experience which allows students and families to explore their passions. She explained that they meet monthly with teachers and parents/guardians.

A brief presentation was shown by Parmenter.

There were five different projects presented each with a brief description:

- French Club
- Animal Rescue Club
- Hometown Heroes Club

- Character Ed
- Best Buddies

The students prepared their own blurbs for their clubs.

Dr. Bergen asked about how excited they are to do these projects. She thanked the students for coming to speak.

### **B. Elementary School Improvement Plan Updates**

The principals introduced themselves as well as their assistant principals.

Each of the principals gave a brief description of the improvement plans.

Ms. Ashely spoke about SEL of students and staff. She explained about how attendance matters and how the DEPT OF ED handles absenteeism. She explained how staff uses the website for support from CASEL 5. She explained some examples on how to self manage. She explained how the staff integrate the SEL into the curriculum.

Ms. Wasnik explained about how SEL looks in the schools and what it looks like for both students and staff. She talked about the DESSA program which is a pilot program for DT, Parmenter and Kennedy which is a rating scale. She explained that this is the second year for these three schools. She spoke about DT and how they implemented recess clubs.

Ms. Barca explained what YOU Inc is and how YOU Inc provides outside counseling to parents and students. She explained there is a waiting list and working out insurance issues. This is also a YOU Inc. pilot as well. She spoke expanding YOU Inc and what can be done to do that..

Mr. Keenan asked about DESSA and the criteria.

Mr. Giguere spoke to that and explained that we want to be committed to this tool before introducing it to other schools.

Mr. Keenan followed up with the data and how there was a discrepancy from year to year.

Ms. Stark explained that the calibration was a big part of that and how they are rated and are in the process to provide more training regarding calibration.

Mr. Guguere gave a final note that they will begin to look into that data.

Ms. D'Angelo wanted to know who administers this.

Mr. Hendrixson responded that classroom teachers and some administration.

Dr. Bergen inquired about how you monitor the attendance.

Ms. Ashley explained that it is a big enough problem which needed to be addressed.

Mr. Stark cited that it has increased communication with parents and helping the parents.

Dr. Bergen spoke about retaining staff and the pressures staff are experiencing and wanted to know how you gauge that.

Mr. Stary shared that they did an end of year survey to staff to gain knowledge regarding staff and how they feel.

Ms. D'Angelo asked whether there will be a district wide culture survey.

Dr. Ahern replied it was part of the plan.

Mr. Hendrixson talked about engaging and rigorous learning and the first is curriculum alignment; the second is the new social studies standards; and lastly teachers shared across schools how this is working. He spoke about cohorts and that they are being facilitated throughout the schools.

Ms. Barca explained about the maker space area that Parmenter uses and how that works.

Mr. Hendrixson spoke about backwards planning regarding the portrait of a graduate and how to reach those goals and change the curriculum.

Mr. Stark went on to discuss how they use best practices at Keller. He explained how they attend cohorts and then teach their staff on how to use it in their classrooms.

Dr. Bergen spoke about meeting the needs of all the students and has just started and how they are doing.

Mr. Hendrixson spoke about Oak Street just started and how they want it to be meaningful.

Ms. Barca talked about all of the schools having different support teams focusing on individual students. She went on to explain how they analyze the results and identify the support the student may need. We provide more targeted services for students.

Ms. Wasik explained that genius hour allows students to choose their own activities to do and it is for grades 3 - 5.

Ms. Ashley spoke about how academic interventionists have been hired with site based funds. They work with math and literacy specialists to assist them to serve more students. She explained how valuable this position has been for the students.

Mr. Stark spoke how at Keller there were 25 students supported by the interventionists and some have left the program.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked about what the interventionists do and who they are.

Ms. Ashley mentioned it could be a teacher who works part time.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer inquired if they were licensed and available to all students.

Ms. Ashley responded, yes they are licensed. For availability, it will vary throughout the different schools.

Ms. Barca explained it is the same position but the name changes with the different schools.

Ms. Klim spoke about two way communication and how we partner with PCCs and other groups and are looking to continue. She spoke about the new marketing person and how she has worked getting the websites updated and has coordinated getting pictures done for each school.

Went onto to talk about cultural proficiency and how six high school students came to the school and talked about their experiences sharing positives as well as negatives.

Mr. Hendrixson spoke about what Oak Street started by engaging stakeholders, parents, students and did a lot of listening and wanted to engage parents who are not as vocal. We invited new families from the past year to share information and tell us about their experience.

Mr. Keenan asked about school improvement. Are there areas you could benefit with a greater investment.

Mr. Keenan asked where we can look to invest.

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

A. Policy – 2nd Reading / Adoption I recommend adoption of policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee meetings as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Scofield  
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Stokes  
Oppose: 0

### **4. Discussion Only Items**



## A. FY21 Budget Discussion

Dr. Ahern began by framing a conversation on March 4 for discussion regarding the budget - spoke about history of budget development included last year's budget; went on to talk about the budget reduction; Town Administration forecasted the budget gap for next year

She explained an accurate picture for FY 20 budget is that we needed to address the budget and how they were able to look at resources differently. This included adding counselors and Kindergarten ESPs to have an adequate staff for SEL.

She provided information regarding secondary support through different revenue services including the Community Impact Agreement monies.

Interesting in hearing your thoughts on the budget

Budget areas we are looking t:

- Apply additional revolving funds to apply to 2021
- Looking at line items individually - enrollment in particular
- Transportation may reduce a bus
- Health insurance budget is 8%

Risks

- Reduction in staff
- Program reductions

Dr. Ahern shared some plans that we are working on having interventionists for next year and provide the schools with the same amount of hours.

## B. Student Opportunities Act Plan

Dr. Ahern presented a draft of the Student Opportunities Act accountability plan. She noted that additional Chapter 70 funding is proposed to be applied towards the expansion of specialized programs.

## **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 - Met on March 4. Next meeting is March 12

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS** - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen - Met on March 5. Next meeting is March 25. Meet the School Committee at Franklin Library

**POLICY** Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes- Next meetings is March 26

**JOINT PCC** - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - Met on March 10 but was cancelled due to low RSVPs

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Giguere - Next meeting is March 31

**SCHOOL WELLNESS** - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - Next meeting is March 24

**AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY** Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield - Next meeting is April 1

**TRANSPORTATION** - Mr. Keenan, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Scofield - No meetings scheduled

## 6. New Business

a. To discuss any future agenda items

Budget hearing  
ECDC and Middle Schools Improvement plans

## 7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the February 25, 2020 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

B. ASMS Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$650.00 from the Franklin Cultural Council for in-house enrichment at Annie Sullivan Middle School as detailed.

C. Oak Street Gifts

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$8,336.25 from the Oak Street PCC for in-house enrichment and field trips for Oak Street Elementary School as detailed.

### **REMOVED:**

D. Oak Street Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Allison Fuller to take 3rd grade students to The Veteran's Auditorium in Providence, RI on May 19, 2020 for a performance as detailed.

E. SATF - Hidden in Plain Sight Grant Award

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from the Norfolk District Attorney for in-house enrichment as detailed.

Motion for all with the exception of D - that was removed

First: Ms. Scofield

Second: Ms. D'Angelo

Approve: 7

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. Executive Session**

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 an 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; Mr. Timothy Keenan - Yes; Ms. Judith Pond-Pfeffer - Yes; Ms. Scofield - Yes; Dr. Anne Bergen - Yes; Ms. Denise Spencer - Yes; Ms. Elise Stokes - Yes

## **11. Adjournment at 9:17 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 3-10-20.pdf  
2019-20 SIP Mid-Year Update Presentation 3-10-20.pdf  
Passion Projects Parmenter.mp4  
Current - BEDH - Public Participation at SC Meetings.pdf  
Discussion Action A - Policy.pdf  
Memo re\_March 10 Budget Discussion.pdf  
SOA Accountability Plan Draft.pdf  
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf  
Consent Action B - ASMS Gift.pdf  
Consent Action C - Oak St. Gift.pdf  
Consent Action D - Oak Trip.pdf  
Consent Action E - SATF Grant.pdf  
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Pledge Students.pdf