

Revised 1/28/2020

**Franklin School Committee
Minutes
November 26, 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 were all present. Mr. Lucas Giguere was not present. Franklin High School representatives; Tyler Vining, Ally Ivers and Chorr-Kin Chin were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Madison Jennings

Madison Jennings is new to Parmenter this year and has made a seamless transition. Her ability to show Parmenter's core values of respect, caring, and inclusion every day has allowed her to make many positive relationships and new friendships. Both in the classroom and with her after school sports teams, Madison shows qualities of perseverance and leadership which make her shine. She is a positive role model and this especially comes through with her support with younger students. Parmenter is very lucky to have her this year!

Ryan Dolloff (was not present)

Ryan Dolloff is a 5th grader at Parmenter and consistently shows enthusiasm and perseverance in all that he does. He demonstrates this month's SEL competency of self-awareness on a daily basis. Ryan is reflective of his strengths and consistently works hard to combine Parmenter's core values of respect, effort, and caring in order to achieve his goals. He often does so with a smile on his face. Ryan is truly a pleasure to work with each day! (he was not present during the Pledge of Allegiance)

Page 1 of 19

Franklin School Committee
November 26, 2019
Final

Elizabeth Kriz

Elizabeth Kriz stands out in an outstanding class. She sets a great example for her peers in her approach to her work. It is an understatement to say she is a hard worker. It is Elizabeth's kindness and willingness to help and support her classmates that make her so deserving of acknowledgment. She never fails to volunteer whenever help is needed - Elizabeth visits a second grade classroom three times per week to help younger students. Best of all, she does all of this with a consistently cheerful smile and positive attitude!

Moment of Silence

1. Routine Business

a. Review of Agenda - All is fine.

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

Kit Brady - FEF just stopped by to thank the community for the Harlem Wizards game this past Friday. I would like to thank everyone past and present who helped make this a great event. We had the unified basketball team play as well. The mid game fire alarm evacuation was great. We are adding it to the event!!!! We have 28 applications requesting \$55,000. We will begin the process. Thank you all.

Dr. Bergen - The work that the FEF does is extraordinary. Thank you.

c. FHS Student Representative Comments

Chorr-Kin - We have a new person, Tyler, Vice President of student government. We only have 3 spots so Tyler filled in. Today we have Ms. Weber and Mrs. Santosuosso from the FHS. The PCC hosted a community night where members talked about vaping.

Tyler - We finished our spirit week. The grades competed in volleyball and dodgeball. We had two nights of Almost Maine. The students would like to thank Dr. Edwards and the School Committee for homework-free break

Ally - Good luck to all trying out for winter sports. Happy Thanksgiving.

d. Superintendent Report

Dr. Ahern - I am going to lead off to thank to the FEF for all the work they do. The Harlem Wizards game is a major fundraiser. We are grateful for them to support our educators. It was a very energetic crowd. Thank the faculty, staff and high school students who played against the Harlem Wizards. The applications are going through the approval process in December.

I would like to announce to you and the community that the Student Opportunity Act has been signed into law. It is for additional funding for public education. The bill will proceed to help in the areas of funding for health care, special education, ELL learners and low income households. There will be reform in charter school reimbursement, and lift the cap on school building spending. Trust fund for creative approaches to student learning, developing plans for opportunity gaps. We can talk more about this tonight. Some support for the charter school reimbursement and has not been fully funded during the past years.

I want to recap the sleep research night. Dr. Owens did the presentation spoke to the audience about sleep deprivation. She spoke about start times and how to promote a healthy sleep environment.

I also want to share with the School Committee that last Wednesday I had the pleasure of going to the Newcomers meeting. We had a great meeting and I spoke with them about educating students and how that has changed over the years. I talked about the rapid advancement of technology and how we need to prepare students for that. We talked about social media. There were about 20 people. We spoke about enrollment projections. Interest in MCAS, how we are planning to educate our parents.

Lastly, an update on Davis Thayer and the analysis. I will give monthly updates. The demographics study is underway. I will have more information at the end of December.

Dr. Bergen - Any questions?

2. Guests / Presentations - none

A. Roles & Responsibilities of the School Committee

Dr. Bergen - We realized after the brief meeting we need to go over the details of how the meetings are run. We need to go over some of the things such as how to make a motion. It will be good for all of us to go over.

Dr. Bergen read a statement regarding what the School Committee should do and their roles.

The most important is the key goals to keep in mind.

Dr. Ahern's goal is that we have that responsibility to measure her goals and she has outlined the six goals. We are the ones who will do it in a thoughtful way for her.

I thought it would be helpful to go over the roles.

We measure our success by the superintendent's success. We evaluate her and her effectiveness. We forward issues to the Superintendent and we don't as a school committee make independent decisions. We want to make sure concerns have gone through the proper channels.

Ms. Scofield - On roles and responsibility, there is an entire section in the School Committee manual. It outlines what we can and cannot do. As a School Committee member, we have Dr. Ahern address issues and work with how the chain of command works in the schools. Please read that section.

Dr. Bergen - You can also have something put on the agenda, as well. The other thing is the sub chairs and you need to set up times and meetings 48 hours in advance, all minutes need to be taken and have an agenda. We need to set these up too. We are at a public meeting and we cannot engage in public dialogue and the public can bring up subjects during the Citizen's Comments. Finally, to speak on an issue you need to be recognized by the Chair.

Ms. Scofield - If the committee takes a vote and it is 4 to 3, the decision of the committee, that is the decision that leaves this room. It is not up for discussion. It is the committee, not individual decisions. In the past, when big decisions were made and weren't unanimous, there was a motion to agree on the motion.

Dr. Bergen - Does this sound good?

Mr. Keenan - Can you reiterate the last one?

Ms. Scofield - If something is voted on, say 4 to 3, you ask the other committee members to agree with the decision that was made and to not talk about it.

Mr. Keenan - In that instance, the committee wants to understand the rationale as to why things are passed. When we come up with a new policy, and it is agreed upon, how can that information get to the community?

Dr. Bergen - All of our deliberations are done in the public and have outlined how it was made. We make it all available.

Dr. Ahern - Sometimes it get funneled through the Superintendent's office. The homework policy was done through my office.

Dr. Bergen - Any questions?

B. School Finance Presentation

Dr. Ahern - This is an advanced preview of the school budget for FY21.

Mrs. Goodman - We are here to talk about school finance and the town's financial picture. Plus our state funding source is chapter 70.

Dr. Ahern - In terms of Franklin's budget climate, there was a memo about the financial picture for both school and town side sent out last year. It was sent to all Franklin residents.

Mrs. Goodman - Where does the money come from for the budgets? We have an operational budget that was done by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee and then approved finally by the Town Council. Amount not spent reverts back to the town's free cash. The department of revenue uses that for revenue versus expenses. We also have a capital budget as well. This funding is an allocation done annually based on free cash that is available. There are one time use money that we will spend the money on.

Dr. Ahern - This is a preview of the capital requests, curriculum resources, technology and transportation needs and food service equipment. Facilities will have capital requests and that is a separate request.

Mrs. Goodman - State revenue is chapter 70, which establishes a minimum requirement. It determines what our students will have as an adequate. Three steps;

1. foundation budget

2. what the community can afford to pay
3. they backfill the rest.

FY20 Chapter 70 was 43.8% part of the budget.

It looks at enrollment and assigns a cost grade for certain levels add on incremental costs and then take the rate categories and apply rate and inflation to those numbers. They have a formula that they use with the information we provide them. FY '20 was \$10,720 per student

Dr. Ahern - I wanted to recognize that Jan Turner who has done a wonderful job getting this information to the State. I mentioned the Student Opportunities Act and this is legislation to help town's with budgets. We will get support for financial support of charter schools and transportation for out of district. We don't expect to see a huge change due to student enrollment decreasing.

Mrs. Goodman - Step two is setting what the community can pay, based on property values and income of residents.

You can see where our local contribution has increased over the years. Then step 3 is back filling with Chapter 70 aid. They fund the difference so we spend the required amount per student. When we look at actual school spending, this is from FY19. We spent 11.5% more than required on education and school spending.

Dr. Ahern - This is the backstory and showing such a discrepancy over the requirements. We are low compared to others.

Mrs. Goodman - So that was the revenue source from the State. We have some grants that we received. As well as some on vaping and substance abuse task force. So we also get federal revenue. We get entitlement grants. We received \$1.4 million. This is supplemental towards education.

Breakdown with rounded numbers

\$149k to DT and Parmenter
\$76k for middle school coordinators, prof dev
\$10K for SEL work
\$1.1 million is for students with disabilities
\$40k for pre school

We have local revenue through revolving account through fees.

The practice has been to keep a year in the bank and be used for next year's budget.

We have used \$4.8 million to offset our budget through the revolving account.

Smaller sources: gift account, scholarship accounts, student activity account

Dr. Ahern - The 11 categories that we report to the Department of Education.

- Administration
- Instructional leadership
- Classroom teacher and special education teachers
- Other teaching services
- Professional Development
- Instruction Material
- Guidance counseling
- Pupil Services
- Operation and maintenance
- Insurance and retirement programs

Comparing ourselves with BICO and Accept districts, we are 26 out of 31. We are on the low side.

Dr. Ahern - We had to close a \$2.2 million gap. We employed strategies to help fill the gaps. We added to our specialized programs, increased in-house specialized transportation, reduced positions based on declining enrollment, built community

partnerships to leverage resources, strategically paid down revolving fund, increased fees.

Mrs. Goodman - As we look to put together the FY21 budget, you will see collective bargaining, healthcare special education and transportation

Dr. Ahern - This is last year's budget process to give you an idea of a timeframe. The new committee can use this to base their schedule.

Mrs. Goodman - Any questions?

Ms. Stokes - None at this time.

Mr. Keenan - I noticed on page 17, the chart of foundational budget, it was on a consistent trend then it flattens out in '09, why is that?

Mrs. Goodman - The reason is that the time when the recession hit, our Chapter 70 funding was reduced.

Mr. Keenan - It wasn't the dip, it was the blue bars which are flat.

Dr. Ahern - That is because of the decrease of enrollment. But we don't lose much money. The net spending continues to increase based on town's growth.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - I have sat on the Town Council side, there is only so much money that comes in. Can we reduce costs or at a more reasonable cost?

Dr. Ahern - There is a whole list that we can share with you. The first two that are big are specialized transportation as well as in-house programs.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - We been here two weeks, but each meeting I look at what you spend out. \$75K per month for special schools. Can't we build them to have these programs in-house?

Dr. Ahern - Some students the team decides this is not the right place and we are bound by law to provide them with education. Another savings is by the use of the collaboratives are some other opportunities for students to have. That is a lower cost. There are other strategies in the past and bringing food services in house and not having a private vendor.

Mrs. Goodman - Back in 2011 we outsourced our food service, we did not have the capability to meet those regulations and we needed to be up to speed. That contract could be easily brought in house and we hired Colin. We are feeding kids, we have a staff, we purchase food and feed 3,000 kids on a daily basis. It was best to have this all brought in-house and have cut the costs.

Ms. Scofield - For the out of district placements, can you give us the range?

Mrs. Goodman - The collaborative is low \$40k per year and the high end is residential treatment which could be \$225k per year. That is a team based decision.

Ms. Scofield - How many students do we have in these programs?

Mrs. Goodman - 80 or 90.

Ms. Spencer- How was the security money spent?

Mrs. Goodman - That was spent at the HMMS Complex. Vaping prevention and substance abuse. We will have vaping detections coming to the middle schools. These were grants.

Mr. Giguere - We have a vaping presentation on January 6 at night and they will visit all the middle schools and high school and the faculty will get a vaping program. The substance abuse on ways we can consult with licensed drug experts to improve our programming and education.

Ms. D'Angelo- Can we review the grants?

Dr. Ahern - Yes.

Ms. D'Angelo - The comparisons, is there any chance of getting a more comparable of towns?

Mrs. Goodman - I can send that to you.

Mr. Keenan - The data on page 29, is that from the Department of Education?

Mrs. Goodman - Yes, it is. You can choose a community you can look at.

Mr. Keenan - A follow up on this, the category and sub categories are collected all over the districts. How do we supply this information?

Mrs. Goodman - The Department of Education sends out what we need to send to them, then within these categories and what will fall into each of these categories it gets pulled from our financial system into an end of year report. It breaks it down as to where we can put these items and what categories they would go in.

 Showed a summary of the report and how it is broken down by categories and subcategories.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - No more questions.

Ms. Scofield - No more questions.

Ms. Spencer - No more questions.

Ms. D'Angelo - No more questions.

Dr. Bergen - What the State and DESE is telling us because of the wealth of our community, we are making too much and they won't give us more money. Tim, did you have more questions?

Mr. Keenan - I do have more questions. I would like a working session on this.

3. Discussion / Action Items

A. FHS Overseas Field Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Emily Ayers & Rosanne Achin-Housman to take FHS Students to Germany & Switzerland from June 29 – July 8, 2020 as detailed.

Ms. Scofield - The cost is high.

Ms. Weber- We will have some scholarships for students who need that.

Dr. Ahern - We are thinking of how to make it more predictable for families and allow parents a longer time to plan. There are some creative things happening in districts that we can look at.

Ms. Scofield - It is nice that they are going Does this travel company offer any tours in the US?

Dr. Ahern - They do offer some within the US. Many times schools will send middle schoolers on those. We can look into that.

Mr. Keenan - Just relating to the tour company, have we used them before?

Ms. Weber - This is an established tour company. They have a great reputation. We are looking to use this for students to get global opportunities.

Ms. D'Angelo - The medical piece, is there a nurse on the trip?

Dr. Ahern - There is not a nurse.

Ms. D'Angelo - The liability piece, who covers that?

Dr. Ahern - Our insurance company would support the overseas travel with our education guidelines.

Ms. D'Angelo - We don't need a nurse?

Dr. Ahern - For student's specific needs, we will look into it.

Motion: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Oppose: 0

B. FY20 Capital Requests Proposed

I recommend approval of the FY20 Capital Requests at detailed.

Mr. Keenan - The curriculum was to align with Department of Education for social studies, do they assume we have the funds?

Dr. Ahern - Yes, it would fall into unfunded or underfunded mandates. It is not completely unfunded and we assign money for this but we have to support the materials and we are expected to comply with that.

Ms. Scofield - Great question. How often do they change the curriculum and why?

Dr. Edwards - The social studies frameworks was done in the late 90s. It was controversial and they needed to get approval. It is the first time in 20 years. It helps support the portrait of a graduate. We are current with some of the other subjects.

Mr. Keenan - On the instructional technology, can we look at looking into using chromebooks for teachers and calculating the cost per laptop and software?

Dr. Ahern - We certainly looked at this and will look into migrating teachers into chromebooks. We did a survey at the high school level and there is a lot of software that needs to be loaded. That limits their use. We don't want the teachers to have the same chromebooks at the students. We would have to get a better grade of chromebooks.

Mr. Keenan - I am lacking information on this but I don't have the understanding of the software across the board if the \$1000 average is good or not.

Dr. Ahern - I don't have that with me tonight.

Mr. Keenan - Is there somebody?

Dr. Ahern - Tim Rapoza is the director of technology.

Dr. Bergen - Could we have Tim come to a meeting?

Dr. Ahern - Sure.

Ms. D'Angelo - The replacement for art curriculum, what is that?

Dr. Ahern - That is an important point that the committee is aware of. The high school is 5 years old and we are anticipating for need of replacement of some of the technology for the initial build of the high school

Dr. Edwards - It is for graphic design, sound recording , TV studio, are all MAC driven. They need this to be updated and we are reaching the end of usefulness.

Dr. Ahern - That is the TV studio, art.

Ms. D'Angelo - Are the part of depreciation scale?

Dr. Ahern - Yes, Tim has that.

There is a component in there that there are some that are not up for replacement but will have updates done.

Ms. D'Angelo - Is this one item we are voting on, we can't separate them?

Dr. Ahern - That is my request, not to separate them.

Mr. Keenan - I will be abstaining because it is not separated. I am lacking information on one of them.

Motion: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 4
Abstain: 1

Second: Ms. Spencer
Oppose: 2

C. DECA Nationals Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Miguel Carmo to take FHS Students to Nashville, TN for the DECA National's Competition from April 29 – May 1, 2020 as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

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 and Ms. D'Angelo will be the members of this committee.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen will be the members of this committee.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen will represent this committee.

POLICY Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes will be the members of this committee.

JOINT PCC - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer will represent this committee.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo will be members of this committee.

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes will be members of this committee.

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

AD HOC SUPERINTENDENT - Dr. Bergen, Ms. Stokes, Ms. D'Angelo will be the members of this committee.

DAVIS THAYER - Ms. Scofield, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Stokes will be the members of this committee.

6. New Business

- a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern - Next meeting you will have a presentation from Dr. Edwards with MCAS results and I will bring forward a draft calendar for the next school year.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your November 12, 2019 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Franklin Music Gifts

I recommend acceptance of the following donations/grants totaling \$11,595.86 for the purchase of concert attire for FPS musicians as detailed:
Franklin Cultural Council \$2,000.00 grant

Regency Transportation \$ 500.00 donation
Franklin Music Boosters \$9,095.86 donation

C. Districtwide Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$395.00 from BJ's Wholesale Club for inhouse enrichment district wide.

D. Jefferson Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of 100 tulip bulbs (valued at \$22.00) from Wicked Tulips for the Buddy Garden at Jefferson Elementary School.

E. Davis Thayer Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$923.82 from O'Connor Studios for inhouse enrichment at Davis Thayer Elementary School.

F. Parmenter Gifts

I recommend acceptance of three checks totaling \$2,402.28 from the Parmenter PCC for in house enrichment at Parmenter Elementary School.

G. Jefferson Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$4,500.00 from the Jefferson PCC for field trips as detailed.

H. Remington Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$494.65 from the Remington PCC for supplemental curriculum materials as detailed.

I. Oak Street Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$250.00 from Fidelity Charitable Donor advised fund for supplemental supplies as detailed.

J. FHS/Athletics Gifts

I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$1,734.30 as detailed:
\$1,000.00 Walmart / Supplemental Curriculum Materials \$734.30 All
American Publishing (Athletics)/ Supplemental Supplies

K. Districtwide Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$34.83 from Lisa & Christopher Brady for supplemental supplies districtwide as detailed.

L. Music Donation

I recommend acceptance of the donation of an electric guitar and 2 amplifiers (valued at \$800.00) from Mr. Ramlal to the Franklin Music Department as detailed.

Motion for all: Ms. Scofield
Approve:7

Second: Ms. Stokes
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen - correct

9. Payroll - Ms. D'Angelo will review for next meeting

10. Adjournment at 9:08 pm

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jennifer D'Angelo and seconded by Tim Keenan (7-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 11-26-19.pdf
School Finance Presentation to SC 11_26_2019.pdf
Discussion Action A - Overseas Trip.pdf
Capital Budget FY20 Memo for Packet.pdf
Discussion Action B - Capital.pdf
Discussion Action C - DECA Trip.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Music Gifts.pdf
Consent Action C - Districtwide Gift.pdf
Consent Action D - Jefferson Donation.pdf
Consent Action E - DT Gift.pdf
Consent Action F - Parmenter Gift.pdf
Consent Action G - Jefferson Gift.pdf
Consent Action H - RMS Gift.pdf
Consent Action I - Oak St. Gift.pdf
Consent Action J - FHS Athletics Gifts.pdf
Consent Action K - Districtwide Gift.pdf
Consent Action L - Music Donation.pdf
SC Warrant102419.xlsx

SC Warrant103119.xlsx
SC Warrant110719.xlsx
SC Warrant111419.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off 112619.pdf
SC Warrant102419.pdf
SC Warrant103119.pdf
SC Warrant110719.pdf
SC Warrant111419.pdf
addtinfo.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2010 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2010.pdf
budgettoactual.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf