

Franklin School Committee
Minutes
October 15, 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: Mrs. Dianne Feeley; Mrs. Cindy Douglas; Dr. Monica Linden; Mrs. Mary Jane Scofield; Dr. Anne Bergen; Mrs. Denise Schultz; Mrs. Gigi Zub; Mr. Lucas Giguere; Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards; all present. Two high school representatives were also present: Danny Harrington and Ally Ivers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Sarah Spanek Grade 12:

She has a total of 8 AP courses over her years at FHS, with a particular love for science and the arts. She is planning on entering into the medical field, and is applying to a list of schools that includes:

- Vassar
- Brown
- Connecticut College
- Tufts
- Cornell

Additionally, she has organized a fundraising campaign for the Leukemia Lymphoma society, helped with a Beagles of New England (BONES) rescue event, works in the Boston Hospital for the Homeless, is co-president of the National Art Honor Society, is a member of the Empty Bowls Club is currently running cross country, is president of the GIVE club, and is a two sport captain of winter and spring track.

In addition to all of the above activities, Sarah earns exceptional grades, and has repeatedly won national awards for her paintings in watercolors!

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 School Committee will hear public comment 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 comments made. A Committee member may add an agenda item to a future meeting as a result of a citizen comment" – from Policy BEDH

c. FHS Student Representative Comments -

Ally - Friday, October 25th is our homecoming game. Each grade will have floats for the event and our homecoming dance is also coming up.

Danny- There are some senior sports coming up. The Franklin soccer team volunteered in Providence. Some spirit days are coming up.

Ally - We have early decision coming up very quickly.

Dr. Bergen - Thank you. We like all the community service that is done.

d. Superintendent Report

Dr. Ahern - I have a few things to share with you. The middle schools are having an upcoming author visit. The author Leslie Connor and will visit each school. We have been reading some of her work. There will be a night at An Unlikely Story to meet the author. We will have a stop, drop and read at all three schools coming up. Please sign up to meet the author. We are excited about this event.

I want to recap the professional development that we had recently. It was across the entire district and was very powerful. We get to shrink the district and bring people together with collaboration. We will have a session in November. Elementary did a professional development day on building empathy with parents and families. Our goal will be to bring this to the secondary educators.

We had a great time at the Harvest Festival. There were thousands of people who attended.

Dr. Bergen - Any questions?

2. Guests / Presentations

a. FHS Europe Trip Recap – Kevin McCarthy, Mike Walsh, FHS Students

Two trip leaders from the Social Studies department, Mike Walsh and Kevin McCarthy. They will share their experience of the trip.

Mike Walsh- Thank you to everyone who helped us get this trip together. It was a large trip and your faith was well placed. It was a wonderful time and there were so many opportunities they have and this was probably the foremost ones they had.

Kevin - I wanted to thank you too. We had a great chaperone group, we had 66 students. They were incredible. We had mentioned a few times that you had put their trust in them and they had to come through. I would like to have the students come forward.

We have a short video that Isabelle's dad made. We have Jeremy, Isabelle, Michalea and Adam.

Jeremey - This trip was wonderful and I saw more than I thought would ever see. We got to wander around and see what we wanted to see.

Isabelle - I got to see the cultural differences and got to wander and we explore it for ourselves. We could immerse ourselves in the culture.

Michaela - This was my first time out of the country and it was so interesting to hear everyone. We could smell all these different foods. We were in Poland and I have pictures but being there was truly amazing. There was a chandelier made of ice crystals. It was unbelievable.

Adam - I thought there was a real sense of community among the kids. There was a bus ride from Poland to Budapest, we had a music playlist and we had a sing along. Getting to see Auschwitz, it was profound and memorable. It was a real opportunity to go on this trip.

Mr. Walsh - These were great kids and it was great to have them come with us.

They showed a brief video of the trip.

Ms Keenan - I wanted to say that one of the things is that the EF tour guides were incredible. We would like to continue this trend on how it went logistically. They did a good job bonding with the students and they could look up to and trust them. In terms of SEL and I really felt that there were so many more faces that I knew and were connected with. I felt like I had the opportunity to connect with the students.

Mrs. Schultz - Thank you for sharing with this. How was the funding? And fundraising?

Mr. McCarthy - I wanted to thank the members of the community and we raised over \$7,000 and that was able to defray the cost. It was expensive. We had support from parents and the community. We would like to look at how we could raise more money and disperse with students who have a financial need

Dr. Bergen - You are representing your school and your country. It has to be said that for teachers to do this and it is important and it is an act of love for them to do this. Thank you for doing that.

Mr. McCarthy - We would be happy to help the next group who would like to organize the next trip. There is a learning curve on doing this.

c. NEASC Two-Year Update – Paul Peri, William Klements

Mr. Peri - We are excited to be here tonight. It was a wonderful trip and they did an outstanding job. We have some ideas coming about for upcoming trips.

In March of 2017, the accreditation team came for the 10 year accreditation visit and we received our accreditation. We have recommendations and nine of those were highlighted. We did all the recommendations; three were completed and six of the nine deal with 21st century skills.

Mr. Klements -

Completed and have the advisory program up and running

Meeting two times per month - 20 minutes / meeting

Small group of student are added to at least one adult in the school

Topics range from anything the student's want to discuss

Mr. Peri - We had some overcrowding in the lunchroom, so we purchased \$6000 worth of seating to address this at the lunch room. It works well. We have some seniors that can go to the library media center.

A new fitness center has opened up and removed some of the cardio equipment.

The District moved to google classroom and the google platform.

Mr. Klements - 21st century skills will be woven throughout, portrait of a graduate, digital literacy, critical thinking, etc.

Mr. Peri - Nine goals is what we had, one falls to the School Committee. We need to develop and implement a plan to ensure portrait of graduate.

Mr. Klements - Another thing noted was to look at the schedule and for staff to collaborate. We will look at neighboring schools who do this as well.

Mr. Peri - We will look at learning expectations and instruction strategies.

Mr. Klements - We will assess not just individuals, looking at whole school progress.

Mr. Peri - The last two are in progress, and it is working with staff to analyze data to respond to unequal student achievement.

Mr. Klements - We will develop a plan for dependable funding for sufficient staffing.

Mr. Peri - There were 20 other recommendations and we currently have three in progress and others planned for the future.

Mr. Klements we have gone to NEASC workshops and they should always be in progress.

Dr. Linden - In terms of communicating, is that a report card?

Mr. Peri - Yss, we are working on this and doing a visual component. How do we assess this?

Mrs. Feeley - Can you go back to one slide, the one about collecting data. I am looking at this, are you taking the personality out of the teacher and how do you ensure the teachers get to be creative?

Mr. Peri - You could ask our staff, our beliefs and we support teacher's autonomy. But we do also do like the collaboration as well.

Mrs. Feeley - That is great.

Mrs. Schultz - The School Committee one is about budget, what risk do we have of the accreditation?

Mr. Peri - It can cause the school to lose accreditation. They are very specific and it is dependant on funding and class size.

Mr. Klements - We try to accurately report our successes and our needs. Our report was due October 1 and we want to capture of where we are.

Ms. Scofield - Will we get a copy of the report?

Mr. Peri - Yes.

Dr. Bergen - With the advisory portion, how you measure its effectiveness?

Mr. Klements- The change does come from formal and informal surveys from students and staff. We meet once a month but staff and students agree it needs to happen more often. We reduced the length of time to 20 minutes.

Mr. Peri - I would say when you have 1,800 students, you can break them down to smaller groups and you get to a deeper level of connection with the students. The students love advisory and you will see the change in the hallway after the advisory sessions.

b. Health & Wellness Curriculum Presentation – Kristin Letendre and Dr. Edwards

Dr. Edwards - Thank you for having us to update you on health and wellness. We had done a curriculum review and some of the slides will speak to that. We will have data from the metrowest data review.

The plan is the same and the health action items from 2017 and 2018. As part of the review, we did a survey of grades 6 to 12 at the time as well as the health and PE staff. We developed a recommendation plan and next steps that need to be taken.

Some findings were the K12 program were positive. We also found students like their health and PE classes. We did hear there was not enough PE time.

Some others were parents wanted students to participate in these electives That staffing was an issue and we could not offer enough classes. Students wanted more mental health classes. We also found that students and families that they shouldn't receive their health curriculum at PE time.

There was a need for common planning time. The health and PE will increase communication and most felt we had a high quality program. We are always looking for improvement in the field.

Kristin - We will give you a broad overview of the health related topics.

Some of the Data that vaping, marijuana, health and sleep, were the highest on the survey. I will say in the history of these surveys that vaping has the highest increase that they ever have seen. That is eye opening.

We can create our own tables to look at. You can see the uptick in vaping products. The next one is marijuana. There is a slight uptick in the 7th and 8th grade students. It also shows that students were at a party where marijuana was present. Alcohol abuse was lower and on the decline.

The trends in mental health were higher and we have been doing a lot with SEL within our schools to help students with mental health, so as you can see there is a rise in stress, hurting themselves, attempting suicide and some have attempted suicide.

Stress/anxiety and sleep by grade shows, not sleeping enough, and cannot sleep. They have experienced not being able to sleep or fall asleep. As students get older there is a decline in sleep.

In high school risk behaviours increase. The vaping has increased, a lot are vaping in the past 30 days, and smoking has stayed the same and declined a bit.

Marijuana use has upticked a bit because it can be vaped.

Alcohol use has declined however we need to focus our education around.

Related to prescription drugs and heroin, we have seen a decline and we don't see heroin use at the high school.

In terms of mental health at the high school level, students feel increased levels of stress, some feel sad and hopeless is up a bit, students hurting or injuring them or suicide has increased a bit.

We asked high school students to look at sleep and they report falling asleep and staying asleep that it increases as the student is older.

Mrs. Zub - If you had trouble getting to sleep and having too much is the same

Kristin - Yes, they don't differentiate it.

As I stated, we look at the data, we haven't made any program changes but we did make curriculum revisions.

Dr. Edwards - Looking at elementary concepts, we have been working on human growth and development. This is puberty/development for grade 4 and 5. We wanted to look at gender inclusive. Grade 4 & 5, we will have the same classes and not separate them out. We will also include vaping education for grades 4 and 5. Parents will have the option to opt out.

The middle school will have updates on current lessons, work on vaping curriculum from grades 6 - 10, we need to update the vaping work, we will have gender inclusive language during the human growth and development/human sexuality unit grade 6 - 10

Kristin - At the high school, there has not been changes in the health and PE requirements. We will focus on mental health and vaping. We no longer have nutrition at the high school. We had curriculum revisions as well, we will align the vaping curriculum, and we will also have the addition of gender inclusive language during human growth and development/human sexuality.

Our next steps are to increase communication, trim benchmark survey of some metrowest data points, research best practices.

Dr. Bergen - Any questions?

Mrs. Feeley - What more would you want?

Kirstin - I would like one more day of PE for every grade. We would like more health and education for the 11th and 12th graders.

Mrs. Feeley - Are you talking about that?

Dr. Edwards - We did have a request to have another health and wellness teacher. We are looking to fill some of these needs. The middle schools need to revamp their schedules as well.

Dr. Linden - Are the students following TWITTER?

Kirstin- I think it is a combination. We tag a lot of different groups. Our newsletters go to those taking our courses.

Mrs. Schultz - I was alarmed with vaping and mental health piece. We don't have enough resources. We get this going forward. We need to address these issues.

Dr. Edwards - We need to hire another health and wellness teacher. It depends on how we deploy that person.

Mrs. Schultz - Can one FTE address these?

Mrs. Zub - There are other creative ways that won't take away from the schedule.

Mrs. Schultz - They don't have nutritional skills

Dr. Edwards - We have five FTE at the high school for the 9th and 10th grade. We would have to mirror that for grade 11 and 12.

Dr. Ahern - The metrowest does not report that students feel connected with teachers and families and friends. There is a protective factor.

Kristin - We do have a great SEL program for the students.

Dr. Bergen - I wanted to add that we have made an effort to educate the public about the decisions we have had to make. We wanted to focus on class size and costs are increasing.

Dr. Ahern - Kirsten was modest about all that she has done. She is planning to send out a communication this week and she put together a letter and a link with a video on what the instruction is going to be. It is really well done. Thank you.

3. Discussion / Action Items

a. Policy – 2 nd Reading/Adoption I recommend adoption of the following policies as discussed: BEDB – Order of Business BEDH – Public Participation

Motion: Mrs. Scofield
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Schultz
Oppose: 0

b. Superintendent’s Contract The Chair recommends approval of the Superintendent’s Contract as Discussed.

Motion: Mrs. Schultz
Approve: 7

Second: Mrs. Scofield
Oppose: 0

4. Discussion Only Items

a. MASC Resolutions 2019

1. Resolution 1: Banning Polystyrene from Schools
2. Resolution 2: Pertaining to Educator Diversity and Professional Licensure
3. Resolution 3: School Transportation
4. Resolution 4: Climate Change
5. Resolution 5: Full Funding of Transportation Costs for Students in Foster Care and State Care
6. Resolution 6: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts
7. Resolution 7: Poverty and Children
8. Resolution 8: Resolution for Access to Menstrual Supplies

9. Resolution 9: Charter School Reform

Dr. Bergen - Any questions?

Mrs. Zub - Where does the charter school reform stand?

Mrs. Schultz - There are a lot of opinions. There is more headway on charter reimbursements. The tuition should not impact public schools

Dr. Bergen - Outreach and recruit more students who are under represented at charter schools chapter 70 funding should be given to the towns

Dr. Linden - Can you talk about MTEL measuring?

Dr. Ahern - The MTEL, there is a competency based one to relate the MTEL scores for entrance exams and it doesn't correlate well.

Mrs. Schultz - That conversion came back and that it is a barrier in some communities.

Dr. Linden - It doesn't lower the quality of teaching?

Mrs. Schultz - No, it doesn't.

b. BICO Quarterly Report

Dr Ahern -The report is included and I wanted to highlight BICO and we have had an increase over last year. They enroll six students from Franklin and we have an alternative middle school at ASMS.

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 - Meeting October 16 with Town Council. We approved money for consultants with study of Davis Thayer.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS Mrs. Zub - Harvest Festival was great. Next meeting is October 21 at 6:30 - 8:00 at the FHS media center.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Mrs. Schultz - February, 2020 Representative Roy and Representative Rausch will be there.

POLICY Mrs. Scofield - Next meeting is October 24.

JOINT PCC - Dr. Bergen and Mrs. Douglas - Meeting October 21.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Mrs. Douglas - Next meeting is November 27.

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Met last Tuesday of the month.

6. New Business

a. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern - We will have the budget workshop and the October 1 enrollment report. We will have MASC information and resolutions. We will have some information on field trips for high school coming up.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2019 School Committee meeting as detailed.

b. Executive Session Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2019 Executive Session of the School Committee meeting to be released as detailed.

c. Keller Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,844.00 from the Keller PCC for field trips as detailed.

d. Recurring New Hampshire Primary Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Mike Walsh to travel to New Hampshire for the presidential primary on February 10, 2020 as detailed.

e. JFK Gift

I recommend acceptance of a check for \$625.00 from the JFK PCC for field trips as detailed.

f. Recurring FHS Music Trip to NY City

I recommend approval of the request of Leighanne Rudsit, Diane Plouffe and Olivia Goliger to take FHS Band, Chorus and Orchestra students to New York City to see a Broadway Show and the Metropolitan Opera from April 18-19, 2020 as detailed.

Motion for all: Mrs. Schultz
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Scofield
Oppose: 0

8. Payment of Bills Dr. Bergen - correct

9. Payroll Mrs. Douglas - correct

10. Adjournment at 8:50 pm

Mrs. Schultz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Douglas. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 10-15-19.pdf

Copy of Metrowest Slides.pdf

NEASC School Committee 10.15.19.pdf

School Committee Presentation HE-PE - October 2019.pdf

CURRENT - BEDB - Order of Business.pdf

CURRENT - BEDH - Public Participation.pdf
Discussion ActionA - Policy.pdf
Discussion ActionB - Supt Contract.pdf
BICO Quarterly Information for Superintendents.9.30.19.pdf
MASC_Resolutions-Report_2019.pdf
Consent ActionA - Minutes.pdf
Consent ActionB - ES Minutes.pdf
Consent ActionC - Keller Gift.pdf
Consent ActionD - NH Trip.pdf
Consent ActionE - JFK Gift.pdf
Consent ActionF - FHS NYC Trip.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off 101519.pdf
SCWarrant091919.pdf
SCWarrant092619.pdf
SCWarrant100319.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2007 Summary.pdf
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Budget 2Actual.pdf
EnrollmentCompare-Sept2018-Sept2019.pdf
Pledge Student.pdf