

Franklin School Committee

Per Governor Baker's Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Members of the Public can access the meeting via remote conference. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable.

**LOCATION: Remote participation via: zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86252499587> Phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) (Meeting ID 862 5249 958**

AGENDA

“The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.”

Franklin School Committee Minutes May 26, 2020

Meeting are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29

Peter Fasciano of Franklin TV was located at Franklin TV
No one present from the Milford Daily News

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Call to order: 7:04 pm

Dr. Bergen

Also present were: Dr. Sara Ahern; Mrs. Miriam Goodman; Dr. Joyce Edwards; Mr. Lucas Giguere.

Franklin High School Representatives Present: None

Roll Call for attendance:

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

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

c. FHS Student Representative Comments - none

d. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ahern shared about professional development done by a staff member, Miriam Goodman who participated in a webinar as part of a panel of leaders regarding schools and the business side about relationships, trust, managing adversity, working with elected officials and how to orient new staff members, processes within the town and the value of round tables and collaboratives.

Dr. Ahern also shared information about bus fees. She explained that pursuant to Department of Education guidance, Franklin Public Schools will continue with the current bus contract and negotiate a lower rate. The transportation fee will be

refunded for seniors and they would apply the other students with a credit for the next school year.

Lastly, Dr. Ahern wanted to make the link available to everyone about educational roles today and how they have expanded and it is posted on our website.

Ms. Spencer wanted to thank the Community Relations Subcommittee to get this out and educate the people what the roles are in education.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer wanted to clarify that it was not just for the seniors but for all the residents of Franklin.

2. Guests/Presentations

A. Retiree Recognition

Ms. Motte, the principal at HMMS, recognized Tricia Bursell. She went on to describe her as passionate in her teaching and that powerful is another word to describe her. She also stated that leader is the final description because she would like to become an administrator.

Ms. Bursell spoke about her time at HMMS and how special it has been for her. She went on to thank everyone.

Ms. Motte recognized Ellen Forman as a lifelong learner, always willing to grow and challenge her own thinking curiosity is another way she promotes learning, committed herself, she loves her subject, her students and community.

Ms. Forman thanked everyone for such a wonderful life. She spoke about her passion and the encouragement she received.

Ms. Morrison from ASMS spoke about Anne McCaffrey for her dedication. She has worked over 30 years. She spoke about how passionate Anne is and supports many students. She has gone above and beyond to help whenever she was needed.

Ms. McCaffrey spoke about the wonderful experiences she has had. She has loved the students and families throughout the years. She thanked Anne Bergen for being her principal at one time. She is looking forward to taking time with her family.

Ms. Wasik, the Principal from Davis Thayer, recognized Eileen Norton who is retiring after 26 years. She has been a tremendous teacher and has spent her entire time at Davis Thayer. She is a very kind person and a wonderful teacher. She forms strong bonds with students and families. She is very friendly, fun and has a wonderful smile.

Ms. Norton thanked everyone and is just overwhelmed right now. She thanked Anne Bergen for being her first principal. She spoke about being a teacher for the same grade for all these years.

Mr. Stark, the Principal at Keller Elementary School spoke about Mrs. Parker and gave a brief history. She is a second grade teacher. She has been a pioneer with SEL. She did a lot of read-alouds and had a vast knowledge of literature.

Mrs. Parker thanked everyone and to have grown as a teacher. She will really miss her students but is looking forward to spending time with her family.

Ms. Barca, the Principal at Parmenter Elementary School, recognized Lois Welch. Ms. Barca shared how it is bittersweet as Lois has worked for us for over 28 years. Lois was a constant source of joy and support. She was welcoming to everyone who came to the school. She has worked for 6 principals and will all agree that she was hard working, fun to work with and great work ethic. She will always remain a prominent member of the Parmenter family.

Ms. Welch thanked everyone. She went on to say this was her dream job. I love the Parmenter staff and students. It has been a pleasure.

Mr. Peri, the Principal at FHS spoke about Doug White and how he has been a very special part of FHS. He has been here 25 years. He has impacted the lives of thousands of students. His connection with special learners will be remembered. We wish you nothing but the best.

Mr. White wanted to thank a lot of people and everyone he has worked with. He graduated from Franklin High many, many years ago. He went on to thank his wife. He thanked Paul Peri and Lucas Giguere. He is proud to serve the community. He recently became a grandfather.

Here is the list of all the retirees:

Tricia Bursell Teacher (Special Education) HMMS
Ellen Forman Teacher HMMS
Helena Hefele Cafeteria Worker ASMS
Anne McCaffrey Speech/Language Pathologist ASMS
Eileen Norton Teacher Davis Thayer
Holly Parker Teacher Keller
Gina Rossi Cafeteria Staff RMS
Ann Spears Speech/Language Pathologist Parmenter
Lois Welch Secretary Parmenter
Doug White Teacher FHS

Ms. Grady from FEA, spoke about the retirees and they all bring such passion and compassion to all students. They engage in memorable learning. She thanked all of them for their support.

Dr. Bergen spoke on behalf of the SC and recognized how much they have done for Franklin Public Schools.

B. Introduce Mr. Josh Hanna, FHS Principal as of July 1, 2020

Dr. Ahern introduced Mr. Hanna as the next FHS Principal.

Mr. Hanna commented on the respect of all the parties with the staff who are retiring. He spoke about how excited he is to become a part of Franklin Public Schools. He spoke about the interview process and his qualifications to begin leading Franklin High School. He looks forward to the challenges ahead with all that is going on.

Dr. Bergen spoke about how Mr. Hanna presented during the interview and what stood out about him.

3. Discussion / Action Items

A. Policy – 2nd Readings/Adoption

I recommend adoption of the following policies as detailed: EBAB (New) - Pest Management EBC - Emergency Plans

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. D'Angelo
Oppose: 0

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

B. Policy – 1st Reading

I recommend moving Policy ECAF – Security Cameras in Schools to a second reading as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Spencer
Oppose: 0

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

C. Policy Elimination

I recommend elimination of policy JLDBB – Crisis Intervention Plan as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Pond-Pfeffer
Approve: 7

Second: Ms. Spencer
Oppose: 0

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

4. Discussion Only Items - None

A. Closure Update

Dr. Ahern spoke about two updates about the closure and explained how graduation is affected by strict standards regarding a summer graduation ceremony, we gave this consideration and how to proceed forward. She shared the excitement from the class officers and the principals regarding the parade and how the plans have evolved so all families have a special moment. We are moving forward with the June 5 graduation as has been planned by the class officers. The students will be given a time to come into school and be able to get on stage to get their diploma and that will be shown on the next Friday. We will see if we can have a summer gathering.

She shared that they are making plans for health measures for school clean outs. It will take a bit longer to get this done but we need to start the process as it will take time with the safety measures.

She shared about waiting on the Department of Education for summer plans. We will need to make adjustments to our summer programs. She assured that there is collaboration with the Town.

She spoke about the fall and the CDC issued their back to school guidance. We are waiting for state level guidance as well and we should get this by mid June. We need to start working towards the goals of opening the schools.

Dr. Bergen asked about when the time for the parade and when they can view it. What is the schedule?

Dr. Ahern explained that they will be communicating that.

Dr. Bergen asked about former graduates from many years ago as to if they could gather a specific place they could line up and be invited.

Dr. Ahern said she will check with the health department regarding that.

B. FY 21 Budget Discussion

Dr. Ahern related information about the budget for the FY 2021. This is still being discussed and where we are in terms of the budget. There are some early indicators as to what may happen with state aid and the gap we will face and need to close the budget.

She spoke about information provided in the memo and how we have been operating on the Governor's budget since January. The expectation is to not have a supportive budget due to the pandemic. The Town Administrator outlined the impact on the budget and we will not know the state budget until August. Dr. Ahern spoke that we need to plan now and make sure schools will be up and running for the opening in the fall. The Budget Subcommittee and SC will be working on a series of scenarios to close the shortfall.

She proposed to eliminate some new positions and initial reductions in professional development. She explained that we will continue to see the budget impact with the shortfalls. We identified up to 50 positions could be eliminated.

She spoke about FY 2020 and we were able to close the gap by reducing services in professional development, we reduced 14.9 positions and we increased fees as well as applying revolving funds.

She explained that they will be making some reluctant revisions over the next few weeks. These will be very difficult budget years.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked about this is not the right time to provide education at a less costly basis? You talk about a \$90k salary, for employees, can we think out the box?

Dr. Bergen asked about before there was a pandemic, the town has been trying to keep teachers here and competitive, what was the amount saved by taking the middle level teams and combining them?

Dr. Ahern explained that Miriam knows the numbers.

Mrs. Goodman stated we cut middle school teachers last year and saved a lot of money.

Dr. Bergen wanted to educate the public on finding creative solutions to help our schools.

Dr. Ahern listed all the programs in place to keep students in the district which saves a lot of money. We do try to find other creative ways to do the job. There are increased needs of students and we need more counseling support to students across the district. We have been trying to spend the budget wisely.

Dr. Bergen followed up how we talked about the teachers and maintaining them. Our salaries are not exorbitant. We need to be competitive.

Dr. Ahern stated that our salaries are not high. We have lost candidates due to the salaries the current Franklin Public Schools offer.

Mr. Keenan asked about key points regarding this challenging position, and 25 positions are at risk and then considering that the aid will be lower than that, it could be 50 positions, how does that translate? It will translate that money goes towards salaries. We need to look at cost savings. He stated that Franklin educators are here for more than just the salary. If we keep cutting, the educational experience will suffer and the quality of schools will go down.

Ms. Spencer asked if we have any financial resources from DESE?

Dr. Ahern stated that there will be some reimbursement for the closure from the CARES Act.

Mrs. Goodman stated we are looking to submit reimbursement for expenses incurred and we may have an opportunity through FEMA. We are looking at USDA for families who need food. She spoke about health care benefits and they are comparable to other towns.

Ms. Spencer noticed on the Town's budget memo, she mentioned the closing of DT and what were the intentions moving forward?

Dr. Ahern stated that the SC has a policy and the Facilities Analysis Subcommittee is working on space study across the district and we will know more from the architect by June 9.

Ms. D'Angelo commented that the Budget Subcommittee worked diligently to close the gap. She stated this is a town wide issue. We need to work within that parameter. The town needs to also look at this when we have unexpected obstacles.

Ms. Stokes echoed what Mr. Keenan said earlier and I am having a hard time with that reduction of staff and how it will affect the students. The budget comes from the town budget.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked about what part of the budget is school mandates?

Dr Ahern stated we could look at that.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer asked if she could bring that to the next school committee.

Dr. Ahern stated yes.

Public comment:

Donna Grady spoke about having one person losing their job makes a huge impact on students, 25 to 50 will be devastating. When money is not available, teachers often buy their own materials. The salaries are 85% of the budget, we are the largest department in town.

Dr. Ahern summarized that there are administrative meetings this week to work on the budget.

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 twice this week and more meetings will be happening

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Dr. Bergen -Met last week and working on a newsletter

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCACY Dr. Bergen - No report

POLICY Mrs. Scofield, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes- Next meeting on June 17

JOINT PCC - Ms. Pond-Pfeffer - June meeting yet to be determined

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - Dr. Bergen, Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Giguere - Final meeting will be May 26. Summary will be provided at upcoming SC meeting

SCHOOL WELLNESS - Ms. Spencer, Ms. Stokes - Met on 5/12 and will have a summary of goals.

AD HOC DAVIS THAYER FACILITY Ms. Stokes, Ms. Pond-Pfeffer, Ms. Scofield- Met last week and will have an update on June 7

TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Keenan, Dr. Bergen, Ms. Scofield - no reports

AD HOC SUPERINTENDENT - Dr. Bergen - We will look at Dr. Ahern's goals which will be adjusted due the pandemic.

6. New Business

A. To discuss any future agenda items

Dr. Ahern spoke about upcoming budget issues, BICO collaborative boards, and the DECA students video and we will have them at a SC meeting.

Ms. Pond-Pfeffer requested to number documents.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2020 School Committee Meeting as detailed.

Motion :	Ms. Pond-Pfeffer	Second: Ms. Stokes
Approve:	7	Oppose: 0

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

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

9. Payroll Ms. D'Angelo noted that the payroll was correct

10. Adjournment at 8:56 PM

Motion to adjourn:	Ms. Scofield	Second: Ms. Spencer
Approve:	7	Oppose: 0

Roll Call Vote to end school committee meeting: 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

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Simon

SCAgenda 5-26-20
2019-20 FPS Retirees
Current - EBC - Emergency Plans.pdf
Discussion Action A - Policy 2nd Read-Adoption.pdf
Discussion Action B - Policy 1st Reading.pdf
Discussion Action C - Policy Elimination.pdf
SC Budget MEMo for Packet 5_26_2020.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
SC Warrant 050720EX.xlsx
SC Warrant 051420EX.xlsx
FPS Summary & Sign Off 052620.pdf
SC Warrant 050720.pdf
SC Warrant 051420.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2023 Summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #2023.pdf