### Franklin School Committee Minutes August 25, 2015 Municipal Building – Council Chambers

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Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

#### Mrs. Mullen

Mrs. Mullen read the District's Vision Statement.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Dr. O'Malley, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mr. Clement, Mrs. Mullen, Mrs. Trahan and Dr. Jewell were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator and Joyce Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was observed.

### 1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None
- Minutes: I recommend approval of the minutes from the August 11, 2015 School Committee Meeting.
  Motion: Mrs. Trahan
  Approve: 7
  Second: Mrs. Rohrbach
  Oppose: 0
- Payment of Bills: Mr. Clement made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$193,461.11. Seconded by Roberta Trahan. Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
- Mr. Clement a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$228,824.73, Seconded by Roberta Trahan. Approve: 7
  Oppose: 0
- Payroll: Mrs. Douglas reviewed the payroll, found it to be in order and recommended acceptance.
- FHS Student Representatives: The FHS Student Representatives are on summer recess.

• Correspondence: None

### 2. Guests/Presentations:

### A. Town Facilities MOU

Mrs. Sabolinski advised the committee that back in 2007 the School Committee and the Town Council agreed to have the Town assume the facilities for the schools. The Memorandum according to M.G. Laws Chapter 71, Section 37 outlined the regulations which enabled this to happen. The Agreement had expired on June 30, 2015. A meeting was held with Mr. Nutting, Mrs. Mullen, Mrs. Trahan, and Mrs. Sabolinski to discuss and revise the MOU. Mrs. Sabolinski is bringing the MOU for a vote and ratification by the School Committee tonight and then it will go to the Town Council in order to continue the partnership with the Town to consolidate facilities.

A few changes have been made to the MOU, on Page 1, striking the word 'will' and adding the word 'may'. The School Committee always retained the right to revisit this Agreement. If this is deemed to not be working for the School Committee then the School Committee can sit down with the Town Council to review whether we will continue this relationship. The effective date is 7/1/2015; the Agreement will be in place for no more than 60 months. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that some changes were made to the language on CORI documents. Language was added to reflect that the Town/School has the right to process a CORI more frequently if desired rather than every 3 years as currently stated for safety reasons.

Changes were also made to page 2 with regard to scheduling summer programs, the work has been done, however, this was not included and having it included in the Agreement, makes it easier going forward for future School Committees, Administration, etc.

Mrs. Sabolinski stated that it will be helpful to have the documents reflect the expectations of summer work. For example, in Appendix B, when scheduling when to mow the grass, for example, it would be helpful not to do so in the middle of state testing. Language was modified regarding moving the bleachers as the bleachers are no longer there. Language with regard to snow removal has been 'beefed up' to firm up the expectations in inclement weather. It had come to our attention that walking paths and all means of egress were not being cleared, so we would like to firm up the expectations of getting to and from schools in inclement weather.

Changes were made to page 7 with regard to preventive maintenance and cleaning with regard to specific language regarding expectations, i.e. inspection, eye washes, science lab equipment, safety checks for air filters, all safety showers, etc. It is important to have regularly scheduled procedures in place.

Addendum – The new policy on community use of facilities with all the fee schedules will also be attached to the Agreement.

Mrs. Mullen thanked the committee for going over the MOU and notes that after a rocky start, it looks like it seems to be a good partnership.

Mrs. Sabolinski noted that it is a good to be able to go back to look at the Agreement.

### **B. Transportation Update**

Mrs. Goodman advised the committee that there are 2,829 students being transported and more walking through the door every day. There are 31 buses, 3 tiers. 956 Middle School Students; 629 High School Students; 1,244 Elementary student which includes 248 Charter School Students on 7 different buses. 1,911 pay to ride students either because of mileage or because of the grade level (7-12)

Mrs. Goodman advised there are 918 bus eligible students based on the mileage by State law. Notifications were mailed at the end of April/early May timeframe with a June deadline. As of the date of this meeting, 51 students are on a waiting to be assigned.

There are 19 High School Buses. HS and Middle School buses are full and there is a waiting list. Mrs. Goodman advises that actual ridership numbers are needed before students on the waiting list can be added to buses. Some student ride in the morning not in the afternoon, etc. This generally takes place by the end of September when we have had roughly 3 weeks of school. Mrs. Goodman appreciates everyone's patience this time of year.

Mr. Clement asked how the routes and locations are determined. Mrs. Goodman indicated that the routes and locations are determined by Holmes Bus Company and the School Department together.

The routes and bus stops were posted online on August 14, 2015. There is also a Stop Change Request form on line, if folks wish to change a stop; it is suggested that parents complete this form on line.

Franklin School Policy indicates that children are able to walk up to a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile to a bus stop, although State law says one (1) mile. The stops are established based on where kids are living and routes change every year.

There is also a Bus Stop Evaluation Form which identifies some of the criteria we look at when we receive the Stop change requests. Sometimes we consult the Police Department

or DPW to come out and cut shrubbery or bushes, review traffic pattern, etc., these are some of the factors we look at when we establish stops and routes.

Mr. Clement indicated that he appreciates all the efforts.

Dr. O'Malley noted that the construction going on in Town is a challenge. Mrs. Goodman agreed it presents a challenge. Depot stops or shuttle stops are added to accommodate students and maintain the safety of students. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that she, Mrs. Goodman, DPW, Bus Company and Police Department will be meeting on August 26, 2015 to be sure accommodations are in place for the start of school. The sidewalks near Davis Thayer will not be completed but will have base coats on them. Mrs. Sabolinski is concerned about down town and large equipment. The above meeting will help to come up with a plan and this plan will be communicated to the parents at Davis Thayer community.

Dr. Jewell inquired as to how many students actually walk to school? Ms. Sabolinski advised that there are not many students that walk. Dr. Jewell also inquired as to how many students are on each bus.

Mrs. Goodman reported that the buses are 71 passenger buses including the driver. There are a few 77 passenger buses. On a 71 passenger bus we can fit 70ish and by 'ish' I mean on the lower end of 70, try not to put 70 elementary students. The guidelines for busing high school and middle school students are 2 to a seat vs. 3 to a seat at the elementary level. That puts 48 on a high school/middle school.

There are several safety checks to be sure kids are not standing or sitting in the aisles, they are advised to stay seated with their backpack on their laps. Generally there will be calls at the beginning of the year complaining of over-crowding, however, if there is a child at a bus stop, the driver is going to pick up that child.

Mrs. Sabolinski noted that buses need to account the issue of musical instruments, soccer bags, football equipment, etc.

Approximately by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September, the Principals will check bus counts and collect data for Miriam and also at that time the bus passes will be checked.

Mr. Clement queried as to the process of picking up students on cold/snowy days is the right thing to do, however, does it cause a problem? Mrs. Goodman reported that normally the occurrences of this are few and far between; there are not a significant number of kids getting on the bus. Mrs. Goodman indicated that there have not been complaints relative to overcrowding on buses with regard to inclement weather.

Mrs. Sabolinski stated that there are times that after monitoring the ridership, additional buses will be added if needed and generally this happens around the  $2^{nd}$  to  $3^{rd}$  week of school. Most buses at the elementary level have space, most of the students will get on the buses, however, it is a timing issue, where the students need to be assigned to a bus, get a pass, in some cases to create a stop. It becomes a challenge this time of year.

Mrs. Mullen inquired if could the reason for the wait list could be because of the students who didn't apply on time and that the pay to ride program seems to be going well.

# 3. Discussion Only Items:

Mrs. Sabolinski updated The Committee regarding the opening of school next week. There were trainings for new administrators and the A Team last week to go over any new regulation or policy changes that took place during the week of August 19, 2015.

Mrs. Winslow was happy to report that the New Teacher Induction 3 day orientation began on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. There were over 50 new educators, great crop of teachers. This orientation sets the tone for a positive school year. Mrs. Winslow explained that there were several presentations as well as a virtual bus tour which helps the new staff to see all the schools, understand the structure of the Town, the middle/elementary school complexes, pictures of the administrators, the history, mascots and they had a quiz and a little competition.

Mrs. Winslow indicated that Joyce Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning spoke to the group about the introduction expectations of the District. Debbie Dixson spoke about the Special Education 504 and I did a brief overview of Educator Evaluations.

Mrs. Trainor and Mrs. Winslow reviewed important district policies and there were also ice breaker activities. The new staff had the opportunity to have lunch with the administrators across the district.

On Wednesday, August 26, 2015 the new teachers break into groups at various schools for technology training. Several administrators from the Elementary, Middle and High School ran the technology training. New educators had the opportunity to spend time with FEA to meet and go over the FEA contract. Then there was lunch in the buildings with the Principals.

On Thursday, August 27, 2015, the new staff will be at their buildings for various trainings, etc. oriented to space, meet some folks, and meet with mentors and have lunch with administration.

Ms. Edwards advised the Committee with regard to the professional development and the instructional expectations and the aligned curriculum and the high expectations the District has for all students. The theme this year is **Increased Complex and Rigor for All Students**. Summer work and professional development programs will be centered around this theme. The

district has spent many years identifying struggling students and putting support under them and now is the time to be equally diligent that no child in the middle is missed.

Ms. Edwards indicated that she looks forward to the new teachers and returning staff working on their smart goals for the Evaluations focused on the goal of increased rigor for all students in their content areas.

Ms. Edwards noted that is her 5<sup>th</sup> year participating in the New Teacher Induction and this year it seems as though we have a sterling crop. Hiring committees with teachers and Administrators, beliefs about kids and beliefs about learning has made a positive impact. The interview committees asked tough and probing questions which is unparalleled in her 5 years. The Administrators told the teachers you are the best and the brightest and that's why we hired you.

Ms. Sabolinski invited The Committee, to a breakfast which will be held at the Franklin high School Courtyard on September 1, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This is an informal setting with coffee/snack to reconnect and welcome faculty back to school to kick off the school year. Come and meet with new staff and schmooze with veteran staff. Mr. Sherlock and Mr. Gleason were also invited.

Mrs. Sabolinski also advised The Committee that Mr. Paul Peri will move to the High School as Deputy Principal. We felt a need with all the new administration, that another Principal could be a benefit to Mr. Light. With 1,700 students having a stronger Principal presence goes a long way not just instructionally but also with regard to safety We have received positive feedback in the community and students too.

Mr. Wildeman will be the Principal at Remington Middle School who is more than ready and capable and joined by Danielle Champagne, who is formerly currently the Team Chair at Remington Middle School, will be transferred to Assistant Principal.

Mrs. Sabolinski noted that we have a Leadership team with a 'deep bench' and we rely on them. This is a tribute to the culture and values of the School Committee and the Administration that you have has been able to foster Building teacher leadership. When working with consultants, we are often told that the folks we have in our district are stronger than anyone out there in the candidate pool.

Mrs. Sabolinski advised that Mr. Shawn Fortin will be leaving Franklin on or about November 7, 2015 to accept a position in the Western part of the state. Mrs. Minkle has submitted her intent to retire on December 31, 2015. A search for both a Middle School Principal and Elementary School Principal is underway. Mrs. Sabolinski and Mrs. Winslow will address both faculties when they back next week to let them know the positions have been posted and currently collecting resumes. There are some viable candidates, we will be asking for parent volunteers and faculty volunteers. There are a lot of changes and we are excited about the direction we are

going in as a school district. We are looking forward to a wonderful start to the school year and are excited about the changes taking place.

Dr. O'Malley highly endorses the theme of Increased Complexity and Rigor as it doesn't help any of our students to take the easy road. Carry on.

Mrs. Sabolinski advises that she believes the PAARC pilot was instrumental in getting to that point. It helped teachers to see where the state of assessment is and to reflect on their own practice, what can I do better, step back. It is really nice time to start to recalibrate increased complexity and rigor. We met last week with Administrators and started working on the District Improvement Plan and seeing the energy in the room was just amazing, elementary teams work together, middle school teams, it will be exciting to see the district improvement plan and the students will benefit.

# **Capital Update**

Mrs. Sabolinski advised the School Committee of all the Capital Update Improvements that were made through the summer as follows: The facilities have been very busy while we are focusing on instruction.

## **District-wide projects**

All K-8 school camera / DVR security upgrades

POS system upgrade/ Free Reduce Lunch application online (Miriam) New this year, by law we have to notify households for free and reduce lunches, the notices will be sent electronically which enables it to be private and discreet, notification by the required 10 days, hoping parents take advantage of the opportunity. This will allow fewer eligibility on paper.

458 chrome books at MS done and deployed Chromebook monitoring software Addition of 149 Wireless Access Points Stem Labs at RMS and ASMS completed 100 chrome book for our intensive sped programs Freezer temp monitoring systems in place Standards-based K-5 report cards in ASPEN Café projectors at JFK, Keller/ASMS **DT** Steps will be repaired- cameras but not able to buzz in-Fence—capital Sidewalks in front of school- base coast of pavement-Meeting Wednesday – noted above in Transportation Update Bathroom upgrades –all but two completed – waiting for parts

Painting of classrooms IWB installed Lap top carts Not done- Library drapes and painting **Parmenter** Monitors for Main office and Principals Office Carpeting in library- not done Cameras **JFK** Carpeting replaced in modular Sound proof classroom PA- repaired- new one needs to go out to bid Library shelves- installed over weekends 9/8 Red cats installed Chromebook cart Café projector Jefferson/Remington Speakers installed in lobby, café, loading dock and kitchen Freezer door- RMS Repair sidewalk and stone wall **Teacher** laptops LED lighting indoor Keller/ASMS Stem Lab Some painting Chromebook carts **Oak/HMMS** Time out space- painting and cameras installed Sound proof classrooms Outstanding Food Warmers - RMS Painting Keller/ASMS PA - JFK Carpeting Parmenter Sped van- ordered, but has not come in yet.

**Establishment of a School Store Revolving Account:** Mrs. Goodman advised the Committee that by having a separate account it will be clean and clear with no mingling of funds.

#### 4. Action Items:

1. I recommend approval of the Budget Transfers as detailed.

	Motion: Mrs. Trahan	Second: Mrs. Rohrbach
	Approval: 7	Oppose: 0
2.	I recommend the acceptance of the town School Facilities MOU as presented	
	Motion: Mrs. Trahan	Second: Mrs. Rohrbach
	Approval: 7	Oppose: 0

I recommend approval of the establishment of a School Store Revolving Account as discussed.
Motion: Mrs. Trahan Second: Mrs. Rohrbach Oppose:

### **5. Information Matters:**

- Superintendent's Report: None
- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: None
- School Committee Liaison Reports: None

#### 6. New Business:

Vice Chairman Roberta Trahan reminded the public about the Harlem Wizard's Game to support the FEF on November 13, 2015. Mrs. Trahan notes that this is a major fundraiser for the FEF.

**7. Adjourn**: 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Mullen made a motion to adjourn.

Second by Mrs. Trahan

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Childers

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