

Approve: 5

Oppose: 0

- **Payment of Bills** – Dr. O’Malley reviewed the bills and found them to be in order.
- **Payroll** - Mrs. Douglas reviewed the payroll and finds it to be in order.
- **Correspondence:** None

FHS Student Representatives: Julie Harrington congratulated the boy’s hockey team for winning the game at the Garden last week. She advised that they are 9th in the state. Julie reminded the Committee that Beauty and the Beast will be held on April 8 & 9th in the Franklin High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. and tickets will be sold at the door. Spring sports tryouts started yesterday. National Honor Society hosted the Spring Fling event for Franklin Senior Center and it was a wild success!

2. Guests/Presentations:

Ms. Douglas made a motion open the FY17 Budget hearing, seconded by Denise Schultz.

Approve 5

Oppose: 0

a. **FY17 Budget Hearing -**

Dr. O’Malley explained how the Budget Hearing would proceed. He also confirmed that there will not be a vote on the Budget until the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Sabolinski thanks the Committee for the opportunity to tell the ‘story’ of what happens in 11 schools instructionally. She advises the Committee that the Administration is available to meet and answer any questions.

Ms. Goodman gave a brief overview of the Budget Hearing Agenda, which include Revenues, Budgeted Expenses, Budget Drivers, Unmet Needs, Statewide Picture, Final Takeaways. (see powerpoint)

Dr. Sabolinski advised the Committee that with regard to the Federal Entitlement Grants, it is important to note that those funds are required to be used to supplement the Budget not supplant the Budget. The funds are heavily regulated and audited.

Ms. Goodman advised that the FY17 proposed budget has a 2.28% increase over the FY16 budget which is based on the Town Administrator's recommendation.

Ms. Goodman advised that with regard to Personnel, there may be a decrease of 7.0 F.T.E. Teaching Positions and a decrease of 3.0 FTE Educational Assistant positions. It is anticipated that these reductions will be addressed through retirements and attrition. She advises that it is a result of our declining enrollment at the elementary level.

Dr. Sabolinski advised the Committee that there has been a loss of 200 students at the elementary level due to declining enrollment which is a national trend not just a Franklin, Massachusetts trend. However, there is increased enrollment in middle and high school which continues to trend upwards.

Ms. Goodman advised that Committee of the Unmet Needs in the FY17 Budget.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that these Unmet needs are not 'nice to have' as much as a 'must-have'. She indicated that with regard to counseling services, this is something that we may need to look down the road to fund them. She advised that we received results from the School Wellness Advisory Committee survey and while it is preliminary data, it does indicate that the interventions that have been put in place are working, we have received positive feedback. Dr. Sabolinski advised the Committee that with regard to the STEM programming, we will be implementing the new K-5 Science frameworks. Dr. Sabolinski asked if Ms. Edwards had anything to add with regard to STEM programming.

Ms. Edwards advised the Committee that with regard to STEM programming she will be presenting to the School Committee on April 26 with representatives from the PK-12 Science Committee and Digital Learning Committee. Both have been in operation for two (2) years and they are ready to roll out their work for the Committee's review. She advises that it speaks to the ongoing needs and forward thinking to align the science curriculum with the new science frameworks that came out in January.

Ms. Goodman advises the Committee that Franklin's per pupil expenditure is 20% below the state average.

Dr. O'Malley emphasized the fact that Franklin is 20% below the State Average with this budget and this is year on year that we are significantly below the State Average.

Dr. Sabolinski commented that if we were average, Franklin would be able to accommodate all the unmet needs in our Budget.

Ms. Goodman explains that in the DESE Categories of Expenses, Franklin is below in all the categories except Professional Development and the categories that are the lowest are in the Classroom and Specialist Teachers which is where we should be spending all our money. We are still below the State Average but not as far below as some other categories.

Ms. Goodman advises that the final takeaways of this budget is that Franklin will balance the budget with the use of revolving funds. She advises that Franklin is fiscally conservative in using revolving funds. Ms. Goodman advises that we cannot continue the trend to use revolving funds. We will not be filling vacancies at the elementary level left by retirements. Ms. Goodman also noted that the Council has approved housing for 600+ units and this will add pressure on the school population.

Dr. Sabolinski noted that the two (2) schools most impacted by the approval of 600 housing units will be Davis Thayer and Oak Street Elementary School.

Ms. Billelo inquired as to the Chapter 70 money and confirming that these funds remain constant despite all of these costs that we cannot control, i.e. out of district placement becoming more and more expensive every year. Ms. Billelo inquires as to health care being a major driver to the budget, what increase are we looking at just for that?

Ms. Goodman advised that we are looking at 7.5% increase in health care this year.

Ms. Billelo commented that we have obligations in special education to meet these students needs that are mandated and there are many, many, other mandates that are being put on us without any change in funding. Ms. Billelo asked that the out of district placement continue to have cost increases put on us, is that true, Ms. Dixon?

Ms. Dixon confirms that, yes, that is correct.

Ms. Billelo confirms that there is no additional funding from the state.

Dr. Sabolinski notes that with regard to out of district placements, it is another place we have no control over.

Ms. Billelo comments that looking at the chart that we are in the red so much below everywhere, the one that hits home for her is the counseling at 27% below. Are we close to the counseling ratio of 1 to 250 in our elementary schools?

Dr. Sabolinski indicated that we are not.

Ms. Bilello inquired as to what kind of counseling supports do we have in our elementary schools?

Dr. Sabolinski advises that with regard to counseling there is 1 FTE per school.

Dr. Bergen commented that as a follow up with what Vanessa is saying, she notes that the belief out in the community is that we are doing a great job, but at what cost? What has been taken away? We are still charging fees for athletics, clubs?

Dr. Sabolinski advised the Committee that yes, we are still charging fees for clubs, etc., however, these fees have not been raised in about 8 years.

Ms. Bilello also commented that the other area concerning to her is that as she had brought up a few meetings ago that we do not have a technology plan, it is pretty hard to do when we are 14% below in technology and 61% below in administration. It is concerning that we do not have a technology plan which is something that costs a district so much money. Do you feel like those are the kinds of things that you people are saying are 'nice to have', as technology is a major driver.

Dr. Sabolinski advises that it is not that we think that they are nice to have, we think they are essential. Mr. Rapoza is shared with the Town and he does an amazing job. Ms. Edwards is actually the technology person for instruction on how we use technology for teaching, etc.

Ms. Bilello inquires as to the talk in the community is about the turnover and the revolving door. Would you say that the fact that we are 61% below the State average, do you feel that this is a factor as to why we cannot maintain Administrators in the district?

Dr. Sabolinski comments that the School Committee has been responsive by having Assistant Principals at the Elementary, that has gone a long way. Dr. Sabolinski notes that when you look at compensation for Administrators, it is not competitive across the State. It could be a factor but one of many. It could be folks looking for new challenges, although she does feel that our teachers and administrators are under resourced and they work really hard. They will never compromise and err on not doing what's right for students, no matter what it costs, no matter how much time has to be put in. It is a special team here in Franklin and they make amazing things happen for students with the resources they have.

Ms. Schultz comments that as a parent, she thinks it is so commendable what everyone does with this grim financial picture. As a School Committee member I do not have any power to do anything about it but really hopes we can turn the tides, we are not going in the right direction as far as student spending but would like to say thank you to everyone in this room but she is very concerned about the direction of our finances.

Dr. O'Malley comments that the budget we are providing is inadequate for the needs for the caliber of the school system.

Ms. Bilello asked Ms. Goodman, can you explain the revolving accounts, we can see the alarm that we are using these funds at a greater rate before we can replenish. I understand that we are making do, I look at the budget drivers, I do not see any changes in health care, we have contractual obligations we have to meet, special education tuitions that we have to meet, so given that those things are going to increase, without some change we are going to run out of money, what is the impact of what we will be talking about next year? What is the reality of what we are going to be facing if this pattern continues?

Ms. Goodman advised the Committee that with regard to the revolving accounts, we cannot continue sustain the levels we anticipate spending in FY17, the best case is that we do not use all the anticipated money.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that the District is working on application for Extraordinary Relief for Circuit Breaker. One of the big drivers in this year's budget and next year's budget is the tuition increases in special education. So one of the options that we have available is to petition and submit for review documentation for extraordinary relief, so if we are 'x' amount of dollars over a baseline, we might be able to get some additional circuit breaker funds back.

Dr. O'Malley comments that the budget is broken, it is structurally deficient for the needs of this school system.

Dr. O'Malley advises the Committee that the budget will be read line by line. Any committee member can hold a line.

No line items were put on 'hold'.

Ms. Schultz asked about the line item (line 2800), psychological services, it shows a decrease from \$45,000 to \$8,000 under contracted/psychological services.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that these services were for students who no longer need the services.

Ms. Douglas made a motion to close the FY17 budget hearing and return to the general meeting. Dr. Bergen seconded the motion.

Approve: 5

Second: 0

Dr. O'Malley noted that the Committee will vote April 12th to approve the budget.

Discussion Only Items -

a. **Policy - First Reading - JKA Corporal Punishment**

Ms. Winslow advised the Committee that the District reviews and updates one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the policies every year.

Ms. Winslow advised the Committee that they have before them the current policy JKA - Corporal Punishment and a proposed revised policy. Ms. Winslow reiterated that Corporal Punishment is not allowed in the Public School in either the current policy or in the proposed policy. Ms. Winslow advised that the policy was quite outdated and it had language that was inconsistent with the language that is in the new physical restraint law which went into effect on January 1, 2016. The policy has been updated to reflect the new language of the new physical restraint law. Ms. Winslow advised that this policy needed to be aligned with the law, regulations and also the school committee policy. This particular policy was vetted through our School District Counsel who is an expert on student matters.

4.. Action Items:

a. I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Douglas

Second: Dr. Bergen

Approve: 5

Oppose: 0

b. I recommend moving policy JKA – Corporal Punishment to a second Reading.

Motion: Ms. Douglas

Second: Dr. Bergen

Approve: 5

Oppose: 0

c. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$912.50 from the Oak Street PCC for field trips.

Motion: Ms. Douglas
Approve: 5

Second: Dr. Bergen
Oppose: 0

- d. I recommend approval of the request for the FHS Cheerleaders travel to Lincroft, NJ on April 1-3, 2016 for the Nationals Competition as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Douglas
Approve: 5

Second: Dr. Bergen
Oppose: 0

- e. I recommend acceptance of the anonymous donation of a check for \$686.24 for a FHS Scholarship.

Motion: Ms. Douglas
Approve: 5

Second: Dr. Bergen
Oppose: 0

- f. I recommend acceptance of donations totaling approximately \$275.00 for the FHS raffle as detailed.

Motion: Ms. Douglas
Approve: 5

Second: Dr. Bergen
Oppose: 0

5. Information Matters:

● Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Sabolinski advised the Committee that Horace Mann Middle School is starting a new club called 'Horace Mann Middle School Ambassadors Club'. Ms. Hannah Hinde volunteered to be the advisor for the Club. It was a student driven request to start this club.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that Mr. Jim d'Entremont, a Teacher from Horace Mann Middle School was named PBS Innovator. He wins a free year of professional development from PBS. Congratulations to Mr. d'Entremont.

Dr. Sabolinski was proud to announce that Ms. Linda Ashley, Principal of Jefferson Elementary School successfully defended her dissertation today and will now be known as Dr. Linda Ashley.

Dr. Sabolinski advised the Committee that Principal Tom Morris has announced that he has accepted a position as Principal in Newton.

Dr. Sabolinski reminded the Committee of the FEF Trivia Bee which will be held on April 13th, 2016.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that on April 3, 2016 the S.A.F.E. coalition is sponsoring a concert at the Black Box to celebrate recovery.

Dr. Sabolinski congratulated the boys' hockey team. They have been trying a long time so it is gratifying to see them win. She also advised the Committee that there was a comment made to Peter Light and Paul Peri that the Franklin fans were the best behaved fans the whole day at the Garden. Security actually sought Peter and Paul out to let them know the fans were very respectful! This is a credit to the culture and community at the High School.

Dr. Sabolinski noted that she is hoping we had our last snow day-ish. She advised that the delay worked well.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that the Davis Thayer Principal interviews will be happening next week.

Ms. Douglas inquired as to the last day of school for the TV audience.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that it is June 22nd, that Denise has updated the web site and that the half day this week does not change this date.

School Committee - Sub-Committee Reports

- Budget Sub-Committee - Dr. O'Malley advised that the Budget Sub-Committee is very busy and on-going.
- Policy Sub-Committee - Ms. Scofield was not present to update the Committee, however, Ms. Winslow advised that there are three more meetings on the calendar between now and the end of the year so they will continue to plow through.
- Community Relations Sub-Committee - Mrs. Schultz advised that this Sub-Committee met last week with Sally and Maureen. Mrs. Schultz also advised that she, Vanessa and Anne are meeting tomorrow to discuss the information and addressing the issues and look at the Strategic Planning process and other ways we would like to interact with the community in terms of communication and other ideas. There are some exciting things and she will save the details for later.
- Calendar Committee - Ms. Douglas advised there are 6 meetings scheduled prior to the end of the school year. Ms. Bilello advised that the Calendar Committee has 6 meetings

scheduled, they may not need all meetings. They are hoping to get recommendations to the rest of the committee based on the cooperative group of teachers, administrators, parents, and school committee members.

6. New Business: None

7. Adjourn: Ms. Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Bergen.

8:20 p.m.

Adjourn:

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Childers

SCAgenda 3-22-16.pdf
March 8, 2016 SCMinutes-Draft
Payroll Warrant #1618 summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1618.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf
SCWarrant030316.pdf
SCWarrant031016.pdf
SCWarrant031716.pdf
PDF Budget Book Part 1.pdf
PDF Budget Book Part 2.pdf
Revised Franklin Public Schools FY2017 Proposed Budget 2.pptx
JKA- Corporal Punishment 3-9-16.pdf
OLD - JKA - Corporal Punishment.pdf
ActionA.pdf
ActionB.pdf
ActionC.pdf
ActionD.pdf
ActionE.pdf
ActionF.pdf
PledgeStudent.docx

