

# Franklin School Committee Minutes

March 10, 2015

## Franklin High School – Lecture Hall

*This meeting's audio was recorded by Steve Sherlock for Franklin Matters*

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Mullen

Mrs. Mullen read the Districts Vision Statement. The Vision Statement reads the Franklin Public Schools will foster within its students the knowledge and skills to find and achieve satisfaction in life as productive global citizens.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Mullen recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Mr. O'Malley, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mr. Clement, Mrs. Mullen, Mrs. Trahan and Mr. Jewell were present. Also present were Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator, and other invited guests. Superintendent Sabolinski as well as FHS representatives Conor Lemanowicz and Justin Bates were not in attendance. It was noted that a reporter from the Milford Daily News as also in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

### 1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None
- Review of Agenda: No additional items.
- Minutes:  
I recommend approval of the minutes from the February 24, 2015 School Committee Meeting.  
Motion: Mrs. Trahan  
Second: Mrs. Rohrbach  
Approve: 7

Mrs. Douglas: Yes  
Mr. O'Malley: Yes  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

- Payment of Bills:  
Motion: Mr. Clement  
Second: Mrs. Trahan  
Mr. Clement

Approve: 7

Mrs. Douglas: Yes  
Mr. O'Malley: Yes  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

- Payroll:  
Mrs. Douglas reviewed the payroll, found it to be in order and recommended acceptance.
- FHS Student Representatives: The FHS student representatives were not in attendance at this evening's meeting.
- Correspondence: The Budget to Actual was noted.

## 2. Guests/Presentations:

- a. FHS Update: The Committee viewed a recording of the high school's morning announcements – which are recorded in the new television studio. Ms. Moreau, who teaches Television Production at the high school, noted that students produce the show daily. She praised students on their amazing work and noted they will offer two new courses next year to further student's production skills. Mr. Light added that morning announcements are uploaded onto a public media portal for public viewing. Other information, such as presentations, can also be found on this portal. In the future, he hopes to stream graduation ceremonies as well as sporting events.

Mrs. Haberman, Assistant Principal, discussed the Academic Center which offers tutoring to students. This after school program started as a means to help students who were struggling in either Math or English, but now supports all students. The Center is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Mr. Light discussed the graduation and drop-out rates. In 2014, the graduation rate was 98.6% and the drop-out rate was 1.4%. In the 2013/2014 school year, the drop-out rate was 0.4%. There is no official data at this time for the current school year; however, 3 students have dropped out. The goal is to have a drop-out rate of zero and a team has been formed to meet with students considering dropping out to work with them. He also discussed this year's graduation which will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. In January, administration, facilities and custodians completed a dry run. They set up chairs, took measurements and planned out the space. They estimate the gym will hold 400 graduates, 200 faculty and guest speakers and well as about 1,600 seated guests. The auditorium will hold an additional 800 seated guests. The ceremony will be telecast to the auditorium. The walking track will hold an additional 250 people. Students will be allowed 6 tickets, 4 for the gym and 2 for the auditorium. No additional tickets will be available.

1. Health/PE Update: Mrs. Cerce noted that Health and PE has changed a lot over the past five years at the high school – with student’s showing an increased interest in courses offered. She gave an overview of the courses offered and noted that many courses have a waiting list. She also noted that these courses give students an edge when getting into college and help students make future career path decisions.
2. STEM Update: Mrs. Redding noted that the number of students who take science electives has increased 30% over the last four years which is a testament that students are enjoying science. She discussed some of the courses offered and the programs they would like to further build. Mr. Jewell and Mrs. Mullen noted they would like to have a presentation from guidance on how they assist students with finding the right college for their particular interests.

### **3. Discussion Only Items:**

- School Safety Update: Mrs. Winslow recapped the events that took place at Parmenter last Monday. An individual sought admittance into the building. The individual was buzzed in and instead of checking in, headed in the other direction. The individual was immediately intercepted by a teacher and custodian and asked why they were there. The response was, “to make the school safer”. The individual was told to leave and left without incident. Central office and police were immediately called. Other schools were also notified of the situation and were sent a photo of the individual – whose image was caught on camera. This image was used by the police to identify the individual. An investigation into the matter is ongoing with both the police and District. Lieutenant Manocchio, who was in attendance at this meeting, noted that the police department determined that a District wide lockdown was not necessary. Mrs. Winslow noted that this incident brought the issue of safety to the forefront of everyone’s minds. The district realizes that the actions or inactions of staff may have contributed to this matter and are glad no one was hurt. On Tuesday, someone was stationed in the lobby to check ID’s and hand out visitor badges. This will continue with the help of volunteers until a more permanent measure is in place. The District has met with a security consultant and discussed options to make the entrance space safer. Parmenter is also establishing a school wide committee to review current procedures. District wide, a safety and security audit will be conducted at all schools. Principals have been instructed to talk about school safety at their next PCC meeting and review safety and security measures with all staff and secretaries. The District also discussed establishing a panel to discuss larger issues on school safety – societal issues, mental illness, and access to weapons. Mrs. Malone, a parent who was in the audience, wondered why the whole District wasn’t informed about this incident. Mrs. Winslow noted that they felt it was a Parmenter issue so only addressed that school. Other parents in the audience also voiced their concerns and noted they would like to see District wide school

lockdowns if something like this were to occur again. Lieutenant Manocchio made note of this.

Mr. Light discussed today's threat at the high school. He noted that the police department received a verbal threat against the school via a phone call. Based on the nature of the threat, a decision was made to evacuate the building. All schools were put on an administrative lockdown.

There was a five-minute recess.

- Staff Snow Day Survey: Teachers were given a survey about school make-up dates. The consensus was to use April 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 11 and April 21 as make-up dates should the need arise. After discussion with the Committee, the Committee decided April 3<sup>rd</sup> should be a ½ day, if needed, since it is Good Friday. Mr. O'Malley noted he won't vote for any of these days. He feels the issue of religious holidays in public schools needs more discussion. Mrs. Mullen agrees and would also like to further discuss the issue of religious holidays. Mrs. Rohrbach noted that we need to give families a fair amount of notice should we have to use these days. Mr. O'Malley made a motion to table this.

Motion: Mr. O'Malley

Second: Mrs. Douglas

Approval: 2

Oppose: 5

Mrs. Douglas: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: No

Mr. O'Malley: Yes

Mrs. Trahan: No

Mrs. Rohrbach: No

Mr. Jewel: No

Mr. Clement: No

These dates are slated for approval under action items.

- State Budget Update: Mrs. Goodman noted that we have preliminary estimates on the State's budget; however, the House and Senate are still deliberating. Chapter 70 aid will increase by \$105 million statewide. For Franklin, that will result in an increase of \$121,720. Charter school reimbursement was reduced by \$3.1 million. That will result in a \$602,344 loss to the Town. The full day kindergarten expansion grant will be eliminated across the state. We stand to lose \$162,350. There will be a \$4.1 million decrease in the Special Education Circuit Breaker funding. It was noted that this decrease of \$53,900 won't impact us until the FY17 budget.

#### 4. Action Items:

1. I recommend the following dates be utilized, if needed, as school make-up dates in the event of school closures due to inclement weather:

1) April 3, 2015 (1/2 day)

2) April 11, 2015

3) April 21, 2015

Motion: Mrs. Trahan

Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approval: 5

Oppose: 2

Mrs. Douglas: No  
Mr. O'Malley: No  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$361.52 from Target for in-house enrichment at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Trahan  
Approval: 7

Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Mrs. Douglas: Yes  
Mr. O'Malley: Yes  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

3. I recommend acceptance of two checks totaling \$1,255.75 for Keller Elementary School as detailed:

- 1) BOKS - \$500 for in-house enrichment
- 2) Keller PCC - \$755.75 for field trips

Motion: Mrs. Trahan  
Approval: 7

Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Mrs. Douglas: Yes  
Mr. O'Malley: Yes  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$6.86 from Schoola for in-house enrichment at JF Kennedy Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Trahan  
Approval: 7

Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Mrs. Douglas: Yes  
Mr. O'Malley: Yes  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$220 from the Franklin Music Boosters for district wide in-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Trahan  
Approval: 7

Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Mrs. Douglas: Yes  
Mr. O'Malley: Yes  
Mrs. Rohrbach: Yes  
Mr. Clement: Yes

Mrs. Mullen: Yes  
Mrs. Trahan: Yes  
Mr. Jewel: Yes

**5. Information Matters:**

- Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Winslow noted that the high school's Mock Trial Team has advanced to the sweet 16 tournament. She noted how proud we are of the boy's hockey team for playing in the super 8 tournament. Cheerleaders competed in States today. She also noted how both boy's and girl's basketball teams had great seasons. The Community Relations Committee met and a proposal can be found in the Committee's packet for their review. They will hold a training at the May 12<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. This meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the training room.
- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: Mrs. Rohrbach noted that the Budget Sub-Committee has pushed off the public meeting until April.
- School Committee Liaison Reports: No new information discussed at this time.

**6. New Business:** Mrs. Trahan noted that the Trivia Bee will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that this November 13<sup>th</sup>, the FEA will host the Harlem Wizards instead of the annual casino night. Mr. O'Malley noted that Franklin students were well represented in the Globe's Scholastic Art section. He noted this is outstanding and applauds the kids.

**7. Executive Session:** Personnel Update

**8. Adjourn:** 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker

List of documents:

SCAgenda3-10-15.pdf

Budget2Actual.pdf

February 24, 2015SCMinutes-DRAFT.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1517 earnings.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1517.pdf

Franklin Public School Summary & Sign off.pdf

SCWarrant021915.pdf

SCWarrant022615.pdf

FHS School Committee Update.pdf

School Committee Presentation - CERCE - 1-27-15.pdf

STEM School Committee 2015 Updated.pdf

SnowDaySurveyData.pdf

ActionA.pdf

ActionB.pdf

ActionC.pdf

ActionD.pdf

ActionE.pdf

3-10-15Memo

HoranPRConsultatn.pdf

*Franklin School Committee  
Minutes – March 10, 2015*

*Final Copy*

Enrollmentcompare-Feb 2014-Feb 2015.pdf