# Franklin School Committee Minutes

April 10, 2012

## **Municipal Building – Council Chambers**

Call to order: 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Mullen

Mrs. Mullen read the Districts Vision and Mission Statements. 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. The Mission Statement reads the Franklin Public Schools, in collaboration with the community, will cultivate each student's intellectual, social, emotional and physical potential through rigorous academic inquiry and informed problem solving skills within a safe, nurturing and respectful environment.

## Pledge of Allegiance:

Sam Dowley, a 5th grader from the Kennedy Elementary School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Donahue, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mrs. Mullen, Mrs. McIntyre, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Jewell and FHS representatives Susan Mullen and Sarah MacLaughlin were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator, and other invited guests.

#### 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 Executive and Open Session minutes from the March 27, 2012 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approve: 7

• Payment of Bills: Mrs. McIntyre stated that she has reviewed the bills, found them to be in order and recommends payment in the amount of \$517,600.07

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

- Payroll:
  Mrs. Douglas reviewed the payroll, found it to be in order and recommended acceptance.
- FHS Student Representatives: Ms. Mullen and Ms. MacLaughlin noted upcoming events at the Franklin High School which included a Jazz Concert at the FHS Lecture Hall on April 11<sup>th</sup>; the Change for a Chance Program, initiated by FHS student, Queen Butahe which supports buying books for a library in Tanzania; the Mr. Franklin Pageant, featuring FHS boys all proceeds will support the Change for a Chance Program; the new sports team "Ultimate Frisbee" spearheaded by FHS student, Brian Doherty with a 3-1 record next match 4/11/12 at 3:30 at Dacey Field; a blood drive at FHS on April 11<sup>th</sup> and a reminder that next week is vacation week.

• Correspondence: Budget to Actual

#### 2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Mrs. Nancy Schoen, Music Department Director introduced Dianne Plouff and the Franklin Repertory String Orchestra, who recently won a gold medal at the MICA Festival to perform the "Russian Easter Overture" for the Committee. Mrs. Schoen updated the Committee on the many FHS Music Program initiatives. She commended the many talented students and noted that the FPS sent 11 ensembles to the MICA Festival this year, the most in the 26 years that Nancy has been in Franklin. Mrs. Schoen discussed the many musical performances scheduled this year and noted that the calendar of events is published in September for that school year.

Mrs. Schoen then discussed the Franklin Arts Academy, in its second year under the direction of Mike Peacock, which is responsible for music integration into the core academics. Mrs. Schoen looks forward to expanding the sound recording and Sound in the Hall FHS radio station when the new facility is built. She commented on the popularity of the two talk radio shows, *Sports Blast*, a sports talk radio show, and *Indie Outbreak*, where students interview independent bands. These shows can be heard through a link through <a href="https://www.SoundintheHall.com">www.SoundintheHall.com</a> or through <a href="https://www.soundintheHall.com">www.soundintheHall.com</a> or

Mrs. Schoen then discussed the Music Department's professional development initiatives which included a workshop with Denise Guilbault, RIC Music Dept. Chair and specialist in the Gordon Learning Theory; the opportunity for the FPS music teachers to visit neighboring districts to observe and share ideas; and the LSDO and All State Music Conferences. On half days, the staff revised curriculum and developed smart goals. This year, additional music opportunities included 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus across the district, elementary students performing

in an interactive concert with the RI Philharmonic and the All Town Band for all band students in grades 6-12.

Mrs. Schoen thanked the Franklin Music Boosters, whose fundraising efforts support scholarships, private lessons, guest artists, instrument purchases and commissioned work projects. The Committee received a packet of the above information and a few articles supporting the benefits of music programs to students. Mrs. Trahan asked about donations to the program and Mrs. Schoen explained that they could be made over the summer via the web site for that upcoming year. Mrs. Mullen thanked Mrs. Schoen for sharing the detail regarding professional development days with the Committee. Mrs. Edwards commented on how our music teachers go above and beyond after the school day to bring these opportunities to students. Mrs. Rohrbach thanked Nancy for her innovative ideas. Mrs. Sabolinski added that due to our talented staff, the Choral program is growing by leaps and bounds and we look forward to what new opportunities will become available with the new HS and new equipment.

b. Mrs. Goodman, Business Administrator, presented an overview of the upcoming budget process, including revenue sources, expenditures and budget drivers. The budget process typically follows the following timeline: State Aid is allocated (52.6% of the budget); the Budget Sub Committee meets, then meets with the Joint Budget Sub Committee; the Superintendent recommends a budget; the Town Administrator recommends funding for schools; the School Committee holds a Public Hearing; the School Committee adopts the budget; the budget goes to the Town Council for review; the Town Council adopts the school budget.

Mrs. Goodman detailed the District's sources of revenue which include Chapter 70 aid, the required municipal contribution, Federal and State Grant revenue, and revolving accounts, such as Circuit Breaker, food service, athletics, school choice, etc. Mrs. Goodman explained Circuit Breaker is more detail. Mrs. Sabolinski added that the circuit breaker reimbursement fluctuates annually and is subject to a lot of accountability, i.e. it is audited annually. The foundation budget, which is defined as "the minimum level necessary to provide an adequate education for all students" varies by community. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that students deserve more than an adequate education.

Mrs. Goodman discussed the FPS expenditures which includes salaries (75% of the budget), transportation, legal fees, software maintenance, Insurance, Medicare, out-of-district tuition and allocations to principals. She explained that at the Budget Hearing, if there is a question on a line item, the Committee would "hold" the particular item so that questions could be asked regarding that item. Mrs. Rohrbach asked Mrs. Goodman to speak to the formula used to figure the principal's allocations. Mrs. Goodman noted that the per-pupil allocation was approximately \$210.00 per student at the elementary level, \$230.00 at the middle school level, and \$300.00 for the High School. All principal's allocations are

distributed in the building at the discretion of the Principal. Mrs. Sabolinski added that all building principals would be present at the Budget Hearing on April 24<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions regarding their allocation line items. It was noted by the Chair that it would be helpful to the administrators if the Committee's questions were sent to Mrs. Goodman ahead of time if at all possible. The Committee will be receiving an electronic budget packet as well as a binder for easy reading.

Mrs. Goodman spoke about the budget drivers, which are health care costs, contractual obligations and special education costs. Mrs. Goodman noted the following timeline:

April 24, 2012 = SC Public Budget Hearing April 25, 2012 = Presentation to Finance Committee May 8, 2012 = School Committee adoption of budget May 30, 2012 = Town Council adoption of budget

## 3. Discussion Only Items:

- Kindergarten Registration Mrs. Sabolinski reported that registration was held on March 27, 29 and April 2. Enrollment was down approximately 100 students from last year at this time. (327 now - was 412 last year) Students will continue to register over the summer and we expect an increase of approximately 10%. Mrs. Sabolinski urges those parents who have not registered yet to do so as soon as possible as the enrollment numbers drive decisions made pertaining to reassignment of staff, etc. Mr. Jewell asked if the distribution of students to schools was the same. Mrs. Sabolinski stated that Davis Thayer, Keller and Jefferson's numbers were down so far and the other elementary schools were comparable to last year other than Oak Street which reported growth. Mr. Jewell asked how the ESL students fit in. Mrs. Sabolinski explained that at registration, the parents met with the school nurse and set up an appointment for a screening, where this issue was addressed. Mrs. McIntyre asked how the FPS communicated with the community regarding registrations. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that the ECDC placed ads on our web site and in local newspapers as well as her outreach to all area private preschools throughout the year. This year we had registration later (usually in February) and added a Transportation kiosk so that busing questions could be answered.
- Transportation Update Mrs. Goodman reported that all bus letters would be personalized with each student's name, school and ID number this year, utilizing our new SIS Aspen. These eligibility letters would be going out by the end of the month at the latest. Deadlines for Pay-to-Ride are as follows: Applications are due by June 1<sup>st</sup> and first payments (half or full) are due at that time. Final payment is due by July 9<sup>th</sup>. The fee per child is still \$325.00 with a cap of \$975.00 per family. Payments may be made by mail using the new tear-off form, or electronically via our web site. Mrs. Goodman urges online payments, as they are free with a debit card (there is a small fee for credit card payments). Mrs.

Sabolinski noted that their may be delays in busing and vans that need to go by East Central Street over the next few weeks due to the new Big Y construction.

#### 4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$125.00 from JF Kennedy PCC for field trips and nurses fees for JF Kennedy Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$750.00 from JF Kennedy PCC for field trips and buses for JF Kennedy Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$150.00 from Cop Ex, Inc for Davis Thayer Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

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

- Superintendent's Report:
  - o Mrs. Sabolinski reported that the FHS musical Grease sold out both performances. Kudos to Nancy Schoen and MaryAnn Lonato. The students had an (academy) "Frankie" awards night with refreshments to watch the video of the play which will be a fun new tradition at the high school.
  - The Jefferson principal's search is nearly complete and Mrs. Sabolinski hopes to make the announcement of the finalist on Thursday.
  - We were sad to learn that Kathryn Wilson, Principal at Davis Thayer has resigned and plans to relocate to New Hampshire. We wish her the best. The Davis Thayer principal search process will begin next week and will include parents, staff and School Committee members.
  - o Mrs. Sabolinski thanked the School Committee for all their work and support for the new high school. The vote was historic, and would not have been possible without all of the behind the scenes help from the School Committee, Town Council, Tom Mercer, Jim Valley, and the Finance Committee.
- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: No new information discussed at this time.
- School Committee Liaison Reports: No reports at this time

## 6. New Business:

• Mrs. Mullen wanted to echo Mrs. Sabolinski's gratitude for all the support for the new high school. Special thanks to Mrs. Sabolinski, Mr. Mike Doherty, the Town Council, Mr. Mercer and Mr. Nutting for all your hard work.

At 8:19 P.M., Mrs. Rohrbach made a motion to go into executive session to review the executive session minutes and not return to open session. Mrs. Trahan seconded. Role call vote: Mrs. Douglas-yes; Mr. Donahue-yes; Mrs. McIntyre-yes; Mrs. Rohrbach-yes; Mrs. Mullen-yes; Mrs. Trahan-yes; Mr. Jewell-yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Miller Assistant to the Superintendent

List of documents SCAgenda 4-10-12.pdf Budget2Actual.pdf March 27, 2013 SCMinutes-DRAFT.pdf Payroll Warrant #1220 earnings.pdf Payroll Warrant #1220 summary.pdf Franklin Public Schools summary & sign off.pdf SC Warrant 032212.pdf SC Warratn 032912.pdf 4-10-12 School Committee MUSIC Presentation.pdf Grid at k-registration 4-2-12.pdf ActionA.pdf ActionB.pdf ActionC.pdf ENROLLMENTCOMPARE-March 2011-2012.pdf 4-10-12.doc Executive Session Minutes-1-24-12-DRAFT.doc Executive Session Minutes-2-28-12-DRAFT.doc

April Newsletter.pdf