

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

February 15, 2011

Municipal Building – Council Chambers

Call to order: 7:00 p.m. Mr. Roy

Mr. Roy 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:

A freshman from the High School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mr. Cafasso, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Trahan, and Mr. Glynn were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator, and other invited guests. Mrs. Douglas and the FHS student representatives were not in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None

- Review of Agenda: There will be an additional action item added to the agenda, adoption of the FY2012 budget. Mr. Roy also noted that the Franklin Arts Association will be the first guest to present this evening.

- Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the Open and Executive sessions of the January 25, 2011 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

- Payment of Bills: Mr. Glynn

Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

- Payroll:

Mrs. Douglas was not in attendance at this evening's meeting. Acceptance of the payroll will occur at the next meeting.

- FHS Student Representatives: The FHS student representatives were not in attendance at this evening's meeting. Kayla Santello, a FHS student, was on hand to inform the Committee that Love Fest was being performed this evening at the High School. She also noted that winter sports were coming to an end and that the Winter Carnival will be held on March 13th at the Field House. Finally, she informed the Committee that Sound in the Halls Records is trying to sell 500,000 downloads of their newest artist. More information can be found at soundinthehallrecords.com.

- Correspondence: Mr. Roy acknowledged the Budget to Actual from Mrs. Goodman.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. State Representative Jim Vallee and Senator Karen Spilka: Mr. Vallee said they are starting the budget process at the State House and wanted to check in with the Committee to see what budgetary concerns they have. It was noted that the challenge they face at the State House is finding a revenue stream that is more reliable to ensure a quality education system going forward. Mrs. Spilka noted that this is going to be the toughest budget yet. However, she thinks things will get better. She feels the economy is on the rebound and getting better and that we are moving out of the recession. Mrs. Rohrbach, whose budgetary concerns are circuit breaker and out of district transportation, said the aid we receive is unprecedented compared to other communities, 54% of our budget comes from State Aid. Mr. Roy thanked them both for being tremendous advocates for the Franklin School system.

b. Lifelong Learning Update: Pandora Carlucci updated the Committee on Lifelong Learning. She stated that the Lifelong Learning program supports, complements and supplements the Franklin Public Schools and contributes to the financial resources of the District. She discussed some of the partnerships that have been forged over the years and discussed some of the new programs offered. More information on courses offered can be found on the District's website.

c. Franklin Arts Association: Mike Caple wanted to update the Committee on the Franklin Arts Association which has been up and running since the beginning of the school year. The premise of this endeavor is project based learning which includes a rigorous curriculum integrating the arts with academics. It allows students to learn in a style that interests them. Thirty-eight 11th grade

students are currently enrolled in the program. A few students and parents were on hand to speak to the Committee about how much they love the program. Students use Visual Arts, Musical Production, Architecture, Theater and Video Production as venues to demonstrate what they have learned in their core subjects. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that this program was built within existing budgetary structures.

d. FY2012 Budget Hearing: Mrs. Sabolinski, Mrs. Winslow and Mrs. Goodman presented to the Committee their best estimate, at this point in time, of the FY2012 budget. They request \$52,487,537 which represents a 5.24% increase over FY2011 budget. This budget number already includes the elimination of 14.3 positions. These positions were previously funded by Federal or State Grants which are no longer available. They noted that the major budget drivers continue to be healthcare costs and contractual obligations. Mr. Roy proceeded to read each line item. Mrs. Rohrbach questioned an increase in two line items, Educational Assistants and Transportation Services. Mrs. Goodman stated that the increase in the Educational Assistants line item is due to contractual increases. The increase in the Transportation Services line item is due to the fact that revolving funds which covered this item in FY2011 but will not be available for FY20112. Mr. Glynn questioned the increase in the Athletics line item. Mrs. Goodman noted that this is due to the loss of one time revolving funds which funded this item.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- 2011-2012 School Committee Meeting Schedule: Mr. Roy noted that the Organization Meeting, schedule for November 15, 2011, will need to occur the day after the elections. The meeting has been moved to Wednesday, November 9, 2011.
- Update on snow challenges: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that the Town is doing an exceptional job clearing sidewalks. She also commented that the safety of the schools roofs were never an issue. The Town was proactive with roof snow removal before it could become an issue.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$921.60 from the Remington PCC for in-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$125 from the Kennedy PCC for field trips.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

3. I recommend the naming of the FHS away-side press box in memory of FHS

football coach, Gerry Leone.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

4. I recommend approval of the recurring field trip to Hartford, CT for the FHS Cheerleaders for a competition as detailed.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. I recommend adoption of the School Committee Schedule for 2011-2012 as detailed.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

The Organization Meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,655 from the Horace Mann PCC for in-house enrichment at HMMS.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

7. I recommend acceptance of \$308 from Roberta Trahan for supplemental curriculum materials for the Franklin Public Schools.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

8. I recommend approval of the budget transfers as detailed.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

9. I recommend acceptance of the donation of a bass, bag and bow from Mr. & Mrs. Richards for the FHS Music Department.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

10. I recommend adoption of the FY2012 Budget in the amount of \$52,487,573 as detailed.
Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mr. Cafasso stated that when we have a service that performs far above average for far below average cost, we are getting a good deal. He further stated that these schools are worth the investment.

5. Information Matters:

- Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that the results of the kindergarten registration could be found in the Committee's packet. She said that the number of registrants is consistent with previous years, however, she feels the enrollment number will exceed this year. She announced to the Committee that Mrs. Babcock, principal at Davis Thayer, and Mrs. Wiles, Principal at Helen Keller will retire after this school year. Finally, she noted that Shawn Fortin has been hired as the new principal at Horace Mann Middle School. Mr. Fortin will be formally introduced to the Committee at a future meeting.
- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: Mrs. Trahan noted that the Building Use Sub-Committee met earlier in the evening and they will be reevaluating building use and report back to the Committee at a later date.
- School Committee Liaison Reports: No new information discussed at this time.

6. New Business:

- Mrs. Trahan noted that the FEF Trivia Bee will be held on Thursday, March 10 at the Horace Mann Middle School auditorium.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker