

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

June 28, 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:

Nancy Symmes from the Annie Sullivan Middle School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Glynn. Mr. Cafasso was not in attendance. 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 Open Session minutes from the June 14, 2011 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 6

- Payment of Bills 1: Mr. Glynn

Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 6

- Payment of Bills²: Mr. Glynn
Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen
Approve: 6

- Payroll:
Mrs. Douglas reviewed the payroll, found it to be in order and recommended acceptance.

- FHS Student Representatives: not in attendance

- Correspondence: none

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Rachel's Challenge/Friends of Rachel – Mrs. Wittcoff introduced Annie Sullivan Middle School teachers Becky Motte and Rachel Weintraub, who ran the program. They reported that since the initial presentation in October, they have been working to promote the positive culture in the school by following the five challenges put forth by Rachel Scott, the first student killed in the Columbine shooting incident years ago. They started a chain, made up of links indicating good deeds or positive acts that displayed one of Rachel's challenges noticed around the school. The links could be given to students, teachers or administrators. Their goal was to have 2011 links, which they surpassed with a total of 2174 links. They also initiated the Rachel Scott Award, which will be given to a male and female student from each grade who the Principal and Assistant Principal felt had put five of Rachel's challenges to action. The Rachel's Fun Run raised \$500.00 for Rachel's Challenge. Also, bracelets inscribed with "I accept the challenge" were sold to raise money for Rachel's Challenge.

b. Blogging Project – Laura Welshoff and Jen Slater were looking for a new way to engage students in reading and writing using technology. Their goal was to promote reading and writing, motivate students, extend the curriculum by using the correct grammar and spelling, and to collect data. The blogging project utilized social media in the school environment by having students write a constructive and descriptive blog once a week about something discussed in the classroom. They are also required to write feedback on their peer's posts. Two students, Mike Queenan and Brianna Murray reported that they loved posting on the blog. They said that they actually enjoyed doing this homework, and it has improved their writing skills, as well as given them recommendations for good books to read. Parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 93.2% of parents surveyed stating that their child was motivated or highly motivated about this program. Overall, the program was a great success, building confidence and sparking conversations about writing styles in class. The students want to continue the project next year, which they will try to expand to other grades and subject areas. Mrs. Trahan

noted the link with this program to the Rachel's Challenge initiatives. Mr. Roy commended both teachers and students on this fantastic use of technology, charging the students to blog about their experience on the Milford Daily News article that will hopefully be written about this project.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Food Service Program – Mr. Glynn, Chairman of the Nutrition Sub Committee spoke of the process followed to address the new legislation Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. The committee consisted of Mr. Glynn, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Sabolinski and Mrs. Goodman. Looking for options to meet the new standards and better serve the district, Mrs. Collins, the town Purchasing Agent, prepared an RFP in April. Four vendors submitted proposals on June 1st, which were evaluated by the team. The four vendors were Aramark, Chartwells, Sodexo and Whitsons. Mrs. Sabolinski reported that after individually reviewing all four proposals using an eleven-page evaluation form, the team unanimously recommended to enter into negotiations with Whitsons to assume the management functions of the school dining program. Some of the criteria that influenced this decision were that Whitsons did more cooking from scratch using less processed foods; they offer a variety of tasty food while addressing the nutritional needs and caloric intake of children. They offer a better pricing structure with competitive pricing, while using organic foods and meats with a line of allergen-free food offerings. They also offer a comprehensive training program for our staff. They were head and shoulders above the rest. Mr. Glynn noted that the team visited Attleboro Public Schools, where Whitsons runs their program. Mrs. Goodman noted that the cafeterias in this district are on three levels, and the team was impressed with the way Whitsons addressed this issue with efficient traffic flow and good signage. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that they listened to where we wanted to go with our program to address the solutions snacks, and event catering in the schools. Mrs. Mullen asked about privatizing the cafeteria workers and Mrs. Sabolinski explained that after recently concluding negotiations with the Cafeteria Workers, the district is highly invested in these employees. Mr. Roy noted how important the student's relationships with the cafeteria workers were. Mrs. Sabolinski also noted that the Food Service Program was self-funded and any revenue generated from the program, under MA General Law, must go back into the program.

Mrs. Rohrbach asked for a brief overview of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act's new requirements. Mrs. Goodman explained that some of the changes were the increase in fruit and vegetable servings from 5 of either to 5 of each per week. French fries were limited to 1 cup per week, as well as the milk offerings were limited to 1% white milk or non-fat flavored milk, which is not readily available in this area. Caloric range as well as sodium intake are closely watched and water must be available. Mrs. Rohrbach asked if prices would change with the new management, and Mrs. Goodman noted that prices would stay at \$2.75 for the High School, \$2.50 at the Middle Schools and \$2.00 at the Elementary. Mrs. Goodman added that this may change down the road, as the

new regulations will require a price increase at the elementary level. Mrs. Rohrbach also asked about capital equipment, Mrs. Sabolinski stated the cost would be amortized over time, and we will assess. With the new management, capital needs would come out of the program revenue, not capital funds. Mrs. Trahan stated that she was impressed with the organic offerings that will help children learn about the healthier options available.

- Transportation Overview – Mrs. Goodman reported on the MASBO/MAPT operational review of the transportation program in August of 2010. The program evaluation was charged with reviewing transportation policies, identifying inefficiencies with the program and recommending changes. The evaluators met with the district, the vendor, rode buses and did a very comprehensive evaluation, looking at every aspect of the program. The findings indicated that our Special Education transporting was commended and efficient. It was recommended that we use 77 passenger buses (we currently use 71 passenger buses); route development should be done by our staff, not the vendor; maps should be updated and student information should be uploaded from our SIS; we should utilize cameras on the buses; and the transportation coordinator should be a member of MAPT. In compliance with the recommendation, we upgraded the maps with in our current software in collaboration with the Town Assessor's office. Mrs. Goodman gave a brief demonstration of the Transfinder software. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that this increased accuracy may change the status of some student's eligibility for ridership, but our policy states that distances will be determined by the software that the district is currently using. Mrs. Goodman reviewed the online payment features and reviewed the deadline for Pay to Ride, which is July 15th. Mr. Glynn asked if parents were required to register if they qualified for a free bus. Mrs. Goodman replied that they did not have to register. Mrs. Rohrbach asked if the district would be able to accommodate all families with the reduction of 3 buses last year due to budget constraints and Mrs. Goodman noted that with the revision of a few routes, we should be fine.

Mrs. Acevedo, a parent in the audience, asked if the mileage was calculated "as the crow flies" or by "walking paths and roads". Mrs. Goodman noted that the software calculated mileage by safe walking paths and streets. Mrs. Sabolinski added that our transportation policy does not have provisions for whether there are sidewalks or not, and that transportation to and from school is, under MA General Law, the responsibility of the parent unless the student falls under the specific guidelines for free transportation.

- Policy – First Readings

- o JNN – Head Injuries & Concussion in Extracurricular Activities was brought forward for a first reading. Mrs. Mullen noted that the Committee has an updated version of this policy from the one received in their packets on Friday. Mrs. Winslow noted that the DPH has implemented new safety regulations in August of 2010 with a focus on prevention and training. The new regulations

focus on Middle and High school aged children, though we feel that this is a systemic issue and should include grades K-12. Mrs. Winslow noted that Mr. Sidwell, Athletic Director, has been working on developing and implementing these new procedures since last year. We will need to have a plan, similar to the bullying plan, to the DPH and possibly DESE by January of 2012. Mr. Roy noted the legal reference should be changed from 2469 Ch 166 to MGL 111 § 222 so that people could find the law easier. Mrs. Winslow agreed.

Mr. Roy made a motion to move policy JNN to a second reading with the changes noted above. Mrs. Trahan seconded
Motion carries 6-0 (1 absent).

o JKG – Educational Services in the Home or Hospital was brought forward for a first reading. Mrs. Winslow noted that this policy was developed to clarify the educational services of students at home or in the hospital for a short term for medical reasons. Mrs. Winslow noted that tutoring is supplemental, and not meant to replace 30 hours of instruction. Key pieces of this policy address the accuracy of information, the requirement that the tutor request be completed by a physician, the indication of an end date so that the district can transition the student back to the school efficiently, and the ability for the district to communicate directly with the physician to discuss the student's progress. This policy will be incorporated into the parent/student handbooks.

Mr. Roy noted that the legal reference should be changed from 23:03 to 28:03. Mrs. Winslow agreed.

Mrs. Mullen made a motion to move policy JKG to a second reading with the change noted above. Mrs. Trahan seconded
Motion carries 6-0 (1 absent).

4. Action Items:

a. I recommend the School Committee authorize the administration enter into negotiations with Whitson's to assume the management functions of the school dining program.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

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

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

c. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$84.03 from Follett for Supplemental Curriculum materials for Jefferson Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

d. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$10.67 from Follett for the Jefferson Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

e. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3000.00 from the HMMS PCC for In-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

f. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$100.00 from the Jefferson PCC for Remington Best Buddies (in-house enrichment).

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

g. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$200.00 from Alexandra LePage for Remington in-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Motion Carries: 6-0 (1 absent)

5. Information Matters:

- Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Sabolinski reported that we had a successful close of the 2010-2011 school year and are busy getting ready for the 2011-2012 opening. Summer is our busiest time a Central Office, as retirees must be replaced. Kudos are due to Miriam Goodman and Denise Johnson for all their hard work on the transportation program evaluation and implementation of the changes. Thank you also to the Town Assessors office for their help with updating the maps.
- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: No new information discussed at this time.
- School Committee Liaison Reports: No new information discussed at this time.

6. New Business:

- Mrs. Trahan extended a sincere thank you to all the PCC's for the money they continually donate to the schools.
- Mrs. Mullen commented on what a great job the Franklin High School has done with the Fine Arts Academy. She was truly impressed.
- Mr. Roy wanted to thank Brian Benson, the Milford Daily News report who has been covering our School Committee meetings as he moves on and this is his last meeting.

At 8:50 P.M., Mr. Roy made a motion to move to Executive Session. Mrs. Mullen

seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Douglas-yes, Mrs. Rohrbach-yes, Mrs. Mullen-yes, Mr. Roy-yes, Mrs. Trahan-yes, Mr. Glynn-yes. Mr. Cafasso was not in attendance.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Miller for Maureen Barker