

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

January 12, 2010

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

Mr. Roy announced that he will begin each meeting by reading the District's 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:

Two students from the Remington Middle School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Cafasso, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Glynn and FHS representative Christie Gianetti were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, Director of Finance, and other invited guests. FHS representative Zach Price was not in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None

- Review of Agenda: A discussion of the FY11 Budget will be added to the Discussion Only Items.

- Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the December 8, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

- Payment of Bills: Mr. Glynn

Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 7

- Payroll:

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

- FHS Student Representatives: Christie announced that there will be a new schedule for the upcoming midterms. She said that there will be a 30-minute prep period before each test allowing students to ask final questions of their teachers. She mentioned that the basketball team remains undefeated. The High School will present the musical *Bye, Bye Birdie* on March 25-26, 2010. The Winter Carnival and Winter Auction will be held on February 28th from 12-4 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Shriner's Burn Hospital in Boston.

Brittany MacLeod, former FHS representative, was on hand to speak to the Committee. She commented that she loves college and is really enjoying her newfound independence and freedom. When asked if she felt the High School prepared her for college she said that the education she received definitely prepared her for college.

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

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. War Memorial Recognition: Many students throughout the District helped raise funding for the War Memorial statue found on the Town Common. Mr. Roy congratulated and thanked the students from each of the schools who helped raise funds. He stated that they did a great service to the Town and contributed to the Community.

b. Best Buddies Grant Awards: Best Buddies, which enhances the lives of people with developmental disabilities by providing one-on-one friendships, has three chapters in the Franklin Public Schools: Horace Mann Middle School, Annie Sullivan Middle School and Franklin High School. Sue Streeter presented 11 grants totaling \$6,182.50 to these chapters for various activities such as the Best Buddies Prom, a field trip to Pump It Up, and the Best Buddies year-end dinner.

Mrs. Sabolinski thanked Sue, and everyone involved, for all the fundraising they do for our Best Buddies programs.

c. Community Health Council/Middle School Teen Angels: Sharon Jackson and Lisa Keohane, along with several students from the Franklin chapter of Teen Angels, spoke to the Committee about the Franklin Teen Angels chapter. Teen Angels is an official chapter of wiredsafety.org. The Franklin chapter was started because of students concerns with bullying. The students who make up

the chapter were recommended by their principals because they are not afraid to stand up for others.

This chapter coined the term “text bullying” that is seen in the wiredsafety.org website. They created an online survey which will be used to gather information on text bullying. They will evaluate the results of the survey in March and then develop a plan to deal with text bullying and its aftermath. They created the pledge “Text, THINK, Send” that has been adopted by wiredsafety.org. By taking the pledge, students agree to stop text bullying, never text bully, help someone who has been text bullied, and think before texting amongst other things. They hope, with the help of wiredsafety.org, to work with Verizon and AT&T to have these companies include this pledge when selling phones with texting capabilities to children. They also presented to the Committee a PowerPoint presentation on Cyber bullying and Text bullying. The technology teachers at the schools will incorporate this PowerPoint presentation into their curriculum.

The 8th graders in the chapter are looking to go to a Summit that will be held in Washington DC in the spring. They need sponsors to fund their trip to DC and cover other costs the chapter incurs.

Mrs. Sabolinski thanked the group and acknowledged that they are part of the solution, not part of the problem.

There was a five-minute recess.

d. FHS World Challenge: Chelsea Barnard, a language teacher at the High school, along with Dana Artz, Assistant Program Manager from World Challenge, spoke to the Committee regarding a proposed trip to Peru in 2011. The 4 week expedition would include outdoor education, leadership development activities, community service projects and a week of rest and relaxation activities. The cost for the trip would be \$5,955. Students will engage in a 12-18 month fundraising program to raise funds. Most students raise 60% of the cost.

Each expedition is experienced in advance by someone connected to World Challenge. They will assess risks associated with the expedition, determine best places to get water, where to find medical aid, suggest hostiles and determine unsafe areas.

There is an 8:1 student to chaperone ratio including a World Challenge expedition leader. World Challenge provides full trip insurance. They have in place an emergency plan including a medical care plan. They have emergency personal available 24/7 with the ability to get in touch with country agents, State Department officials and medical personnel. Every team carries a satellite beacon monitored by the Royal Air Force.

Mrs. Sabolinski has spoken with administrators from other Districts who have participated in the program and they all provided excellent feedback.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Policy – Regulation of Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds: The District will be responsible for posting NO IDLING Signage on school grounds - paid for by the Facilities Department. The policy states that no motor vehicle shall idle unnecessarily on school grounds with some exceptions. One exception is for queuing for the purpose of picking up or discharging students. The Committee wonders who will enforce this policy and fine those found in violation. The Committee decided to not take action on this policy until after a meeting is held with the Chief of Police to determine who will be responsible for enforcing this policy.

- Policy – First Readings:

- o ACE – Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability: There were two changes made to this policy. The word handicap was replaced with the word disability and a paragraph was removed. There was a motion to move this policy to a second reading.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

- o ADA – School District Goals and Objectives: This policy was rewritten. Mr. Roy would like to add back the language regarding updating the strategic plan on an annual basis. A motion was made to move this policy to a second reading.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

- Policy – Second Readings: These policies are on the agenda for approval under Action Items.

- o BIBA – School Committee Conferences, Conventions & Workshops

- o BID – School Committee Member Compensation & Expenses

- o BGF – Suspension of Policies

- o DJA – Purchasing Authority

- The Race To The Top Program: Mrs. Sabolinski does not recommend applying for this program because, based on preliminary findings, we would only receive \$19,000, which does not go far in a District of this size. She feels that the accountability and paperwork that would go along with this makes it not worth applying for.

- FY11 Budget Discussion: Mr. Roy asked the Committee to let the Administration know what they would like to see at the next meeting's budget presentation. Mrs. Mullen would like a one page summary of all the cuts that have been made over the past ten years. Mrs. Trahan would like to see more accurate numbers – she understands that the numbers may change, but would prefer no more than 3 or 4 number changes. Mr. Cafasso would like to see an apples to apples comparison of the budget over the years taking into account the custodial changes that occurred. He would like to see enrollment numbers and historical data on big cost drivers such as insurance and special education. He would also like a reminder of how this year's budget was

funded, regarding the one year stimulus funds. Mrs. Rohrbach wonders how we can close the gap between a level service budget and a level funded budget. She wants to come up with an approach or decision making tree when it comes to reductions. Mr. Roy would like to see the District statistics – number of schools, teachers, and total employees. He would like a ten year graph showing the decrease in teaching staff versus the increase in students. He would like to know when the new schools came online. He wants to know the per pupil expenditures in comparison to the state average. He would also like to review some of the cost saving measures used over the past couple of years.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$300.85 from Barnes & Noble for the Horace Mann Middle School for In-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

2. I recommend acceptance of the donation of 3 cameras and a Recorder/VCR valued at \$2,496.48 from Mr. Robert Salzberg of Resh, Inc. for the Davis Thayer Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend approval of the proposed trip to Peru in June/July 2011 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Abstain: 1

4. I recommend adoption of Policy BIBA – School Committee Conferences, Conventions & Workshops.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. I recommend adoption of Policy BID – School Committee Member Compensation & Expenses.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

6. I recommend adoption of Policy BGF – Suspension of Policies.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

7. I recommend adoption of Policy DJA – Purchasing Authority.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

8. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,877.32 from Lifetouch for the Remington Gift Account for supplies.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

9. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$250.00 from Maura Schaeffer-Tobin for the Jacqueline A. Scheffer Memorial Theatre Arts Scholarship Fund at the FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

10. I recommend approval of the request of Brad Sidwell for the recurring field trip for the FHS Wrestling Team Competition in Easton, PA from January 22-23, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

11. I recommend acceptance of two checks for \$414.29 and \$70.96 (totaling \$485.25) from Follett for Library and Supplemental Curriculum Materials for the Kennedy Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

12. I recommend acceptance of the Best Buddies Grants as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

13. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$200.00 from the Franklin Democratic Town Committee for the FHS Young Democrats' Club.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

14. I recommend that Franklin not participate in the Race To The Top Program.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

15. I recommend approval of the request of the HMMS Ski Club for their recurring trip to Mt. Sunappe, NH on January 23, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

16. I recommend approval of the request of Ms. Neal for 5 ALP students to travel to the RI Rock Wall in Lincoln, RI to participate in a leadership program with the YMCA.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

• Superintendent's Report:

a. Race To The Top: see information on subject matter above.

b. H1N1: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that 1,200 community members have received the H1N1 vaccine as a result of these clinics. She thanked all those you have volunteered their time.

c. DESE Financial Review: The DESE did a Fiscal Review in December when they conducted their Coordinated Program Review. They were pleased with the policies and procedures set into place by Mrs. Goodman and were pleased overall with the practices of the Business Office. Mr. Roy acknowledged Mrs. Goodman's hard work by reading a complimentary passage from the DESE report.

d. Snow Fallout/Sidewalks: Mrs. Sabolinski noted the policy that has been in place for several years that if a bus driver sees a child walking in the street due to unsafe sidewalks, they are instructed to offer that child a ride on the bus.

• School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: Mr. Cafasso said that the Community Relations Committee will work with Tim Rapoza to discuss website options.

• School Committee Liaison Reports: Mrs. Trahan acknowledged the Community Health Council for all that they do. She stated that the Council takes on important topics and presents that information to the Community. She encourages more parents to join this group.

6. New Business:

• Mrs. Trahan stated that the FEF Trivia Bee will be held on April 29, 2010. This year's theme will be History. She also mentioned that she would like to invite local seniors to the event to give their insight.

7. Executive Session:

• Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker