

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

January 26, 2010

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:

Two 7th graders from the Annie Sullivan Middle School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Cafasso, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Glynn and FHS representatives Zach Price and Christie Gianetti were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, Director of Finance, and other invited guests.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None

- Review of Agenda: Mr. Michael Jones Walker from the Franklin Democratic Town Committee will present a check for \$200.00 to the FHS Young Democrats' Club. Mr. Light, Ms. Leardi and Mrs. Waters will discuss the FHS London Trip. These items will be added to the Discussion Only Items.

- Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the Open Session and the Executive Session minutes from the January, 12, 2010 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

Mrs. Mullen noted minor changes that need to be made to both the Open Session minutes and the Executive Session minutes.

- 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: Zach noted that the Basketball, Hockey and Wrestling teams are all in first place or tied for first place in the Hocomock division. He also noted that the term ends on January 27, 2010. The Senior Banquet will be held on March 5, 2010. Christie announced that the 30-minute prep period before the midterms, allowing students to ask final questions of their teachers, was very helpful. She also mentioned the musical Bye, Bye Birdie which will be presented 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.

- Correspondence: There was no correspondence to discuss at this evening's meeting.

2. Guests/Presentations:

- a. Snow Removal/Sidewalks: Brutus Cantoreggi from the DPW spoke to the Committee regarding snow removal procedures. During a snow storm, the DPW's priorities are to remove snow from the roadways first, then public buildings and schools and finally, sidewalks. These priorities were established with cooperation from the Police and School Departments.

There are over 35 miles of sidewalks that need to be cleared – school walking routes and high traffic areas in the Downtown area. The process of snow removal from the sidewalks is very slow. In a storm that produces more than six inches of snowfall, it takes 2-3 days to clear the sidewalks.

In order to clear sidewalks faster, the Town could purchase an additional sidewalk snow removal machine, which would cost \$120,000 or require residents to clear snow from the sidewalks around their properties – which is currently not a requirement.

Mr. Roy wondered how the decision was made to cancel or delay school. It was noted that the DPW works closely with public safety officials and try to err on the side of public safety.

It was also noted that it is the School Departments policy that a parent can keep a child home from school if they feel the sidewalks are unsafe without penalty.

b. Mr. Michael Jones Walker from the Franklin Democratic Town Committee presented a check for \$200.00 to the FHS Young Democrats' Club. Ms. Leardi was on hand to accept the check.

c. FHS Trip to London: Mr. Light, Ms. Leardi, and Mrs. Waters spoke to the Committee regarding the London trip proposed for this summer. The nine-day trip will cost \$3,200 per student and includes airfare, accommodations, breakfast, dinner, transfers, taxes and trip insurance. Students will visit Stonehenge, Bath and Oxford. They will also attend 3 nights of West End Theatre performances. If the needed thirty-five students do not sign up for the trip, the group can piggyback on a tour with students from another school, as has been done in the past.

d. Preliminary Budget Discussion: Mrs. Sabolinski, Mrs. Winslow and Mrs. Goodman presented to the Committee a historical overview of the past decades budgetary issues.

Personnel Reductions: Over the past decade, a majority of the budgetary reductions have been to personnel. In 2006, the District employed 517 teachers. The District now employs 399 teachers – which is a reduction of 110 full time educators, 3 assistant principals, 4 central office administrators, and 0.5 technology and 0.5 facility administrators.

Programmatic Reductions: Over the past decade, foreign language has been reduced to one time per week at the elementary level. At the middle school level, French has been completely eliminated. Health classes have been reduced in the Middle school and eliminated from the elementary schools. Physical education has been reduced to one time per week at the elementary level. Instructional music has been eliminated in grades 4-5. General music has been reduced at the middle school level.

Curriculum and Instructional Service Reductions: Over the past decade, two middle school science specialists have been eliminated and three elementary technology integration specialists have been eliminated. The District no longer seeks NEASC accreditation in grades K-8. The textbook line item has been eliminated and curriculum teams have been eliminated.

Facilities: Over the past decade, ten custodial positions have been eliminated, weekend security has been eliminated and the summer job program has been eliminated.

Fee Increases: The pay-to-ride program increased fees in FY04, FY08 and FY09. Athletic fees increased in FY03 and FY04. Extra-curricular fees were implemented in FY08 at the Middle and High school levels. A Building Use fee was implemented in FY03 and increased in FY09.

Efficiencies: The District has taken many measures to save costs. They redesigned the health care plan, reorganized Administration whereas each member is taking on more roles, ConnectEd has been implemented, and the District has gone “green”. They also have in-house special education programming – which slows the rate of the special education budget.

One Time Sources of Revenue: Revenue from the federal stimulus package, state fiscal stabilization funds, circuit breaker extraordinary relief funds, along with an administrative wage freeze and FEA wage deferral helped bridge the gap last budget season.

It was noted that a majority of the budget is spent on health care costs, special education and contractual obligations and that the District relies heavily on Chapter 70 funding. The state average for per pupil expenditures is \$12,449. Franklin only spent \$9,751 per student in FY08.

The Committee decided to develop a decision making tree to help with systemic decisions on future budgetary cuts.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Budget to Actual: This was not discussed at this evening’s meeting.
- Second Reading:
 - o Policy ADA – School District Goals & Objectives: This policy is on the agenda for approval as an Action Item.
 - o Policy ACE – Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability: This policy is on the agenda for approval as an Action Item.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of the donation of 5 digital cameras and one camcorder from Mr. Robert Salzberg of Resh, Inc. for the Davis Thayer Elementary School.

It was noted that this action item was approved at the last meeting.

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,148.00 from the Oak Street PCC for a Grade 2 field trip to Stony Brook in May as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000.00 from the Panther Lacrosse Association to be used towards the fitness center at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from the Singleton Family Foundation for the FHS Special Education Department.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,000.00 from the Davis Thayer PCC for field trips as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

6. I recommend acceptance of the donation of a Visual Presenter from Mr. Robert Salzberg of Resh, Inc. for the Davis Thayer Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

7. I recommend approval of the request of Ms. Leardi and Mrs. Waters of the FHS for a trip to London, England on June, 25, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

8. I recommend adoption of Policy ADA – School District Goals & Objectives.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

9. I recommend approval of the request of Peter Light for an additional Assistant Track coach at a cost of \$1,467.00 to be funded from the Athletic Revolving Account to assist with increased student participation.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

10. I recommend adoption of Policy ACE – Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

• Superintendent's Report:

a. Finance Workshop Training: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that this training was held on January 25, 2010 and was well attended. She thanked all those who participated.

b. MSBA/FHS Project: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that they are still pulling together requested data for the MSBA.

c. Kindergarten Registration: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that the necessary paperwork for registration can be found on the District's website. Mr. Glynn wondered if the Committee intends on keeping full day kindergarten. It was noted that it is the District's intent to keep full day kindergarten if the budget

allows.

d. MASBO Compensation Study: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that this study was worth participating in. Reports have been disseminated to the negotiation teams and we are awaiting final copies.

e. Data Team: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that as the team evolves, they will discuss their vision and goals with the Committee.

- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: Mr. Cafasso mentioned Mr. Rapoza's offer to set up individual e-mail accounts for all of the Committee members as well as a general e-mail account for the Committee. Mr. Roy would like Mr. Cafasso to confirm how the general e-mail account will be set up and if it will require one member to man.

- School Committee Liaison Reports: Mr. Cafasso mentioned that the School Building Committee interviewed three companies for the position of Owner's Project Manager (OPM) for the High School renovation project. The School Building Committee selected Daedalus Projects Incorporated. Daedalus has worked with the Town on several projects in the past and has a strong relationship with the MSBA.

6. New Business:

- Mrs. Trahan mentioned the FEF Trivia Bee which will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010.

- Mr. Roy mentioned that he and Mrs. Sabolinski have been invited to attend the Rotary Club meeting on March 11, 2010. He asked the Committee to let him know if there are any messages they would like him to pass along.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker