

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

April 13, 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:

A 5th grader from the Kennedy 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, Miriam Goodman, Director of Finance, and other invited guests. Sally Winslow, Assistant Superintendent, was not in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None

- Review of Agenda: Action Item 2, the adoption of the Secretaries Contract, will be discussed during the Guests/Presentations portion of the meeting.

- Minutes:

I recommend approval of the Executive and Open Session minutes from the March 23, 2010 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approve: 7

a. Payment of Bills: Mr. Glynn

Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 7

b. Payroll:

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

c. FHS Student Representatives: Zach noted that the 4th term has started and that 3rd term report cards will go out on Friday. Christie noted that many seniors are currently participating in the Senior Project.

Mr. Glynn asked the two how they like the new schedule at the High School. Both agreed that they like the new schedule better, it allows them more time for lunch and gives them an 8-minute break during the day.

d. Correspondence: Mr. Roy noted the Budget to Actual from Mrs. Goodman and the Demand for Arbitration.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Signing of the Secretaries Contract: Mrs. Rohrbach started by thanking the secretaries for all that they do. She noted that discussions regarding the contract went smoothly and both parties were able to come to an agreement quickly. Mr. Roy noted that although he wasn't able to participate in the negotiations, he appreciated the team effort and the fact that they came to an agreement so quickly. He noted that the secretaries deferred pay increases last year and that the contract they have approved has very minimal increases.

At this point, Mrs. Sabolinski recommended the adoption of the Secretaries Contract from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approval: 6 Oppose: 1

b. JF Kennedy Food Service Presentation: Several third, fourth and fifth grade students spoke to the Committee about improving the school lunch menu. They surveyed students from their school and put the information into a PowerPoint presentation for the Committee. The survey results suggest that students are interested in adding healthier lunch choices to the menu as well as offering more drink choices. Members of the Committee were impressed with the student's presentation.

There was a five-minute recess.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Space Needs Sub-Committee Report: Mrs. Trahan spoke to the Committee regarding the Space Needs Report. She reported that overall, space is well utilized and in good shape; however, it is full. Davis Thayer and Oak Street have some available space. Parmenter, Keller and Kennedy are at full capacity. Mrs. Rohrbach noted that last year, the Committee voted to remove the modulars at Davis Thayer; however, they have not been removed due to finances. If they

were removed, the school would then be at full capacity. Mrs. Sabolinski stated that this study was done to determine the need to keep Davis Thayer open. The report proves the need to keep it open. The Committee is considering redistricting and would like Mrs. Sabolinski to determine the scope of changes involved if they do decide to redistrict.

• Budget Discussion: Mr. Roy would like to discuss the \$1.8 million budget deficit we appear to be facing and how we intend to close the gap. On April 28, 2010, the School Committee will present their proposed budget to the Town Council. The Town may then decide an override is necessary to close the budget gaps. Mrs. Sabolinski provided some possible reductions that could be made. The District will look into redesigning the health care plan to save money. 80% of the budget is personnel, so they will have to look into cutting personnel. They are also looking at some creative alternatives, like shortening the elementary school day, and they may not fill any positions made vacant by resignations and retirements. Some of the Committee's thoughts on bridging the gap include looking into transportation costs – perhaps using fewer buses and possibly turning down thermostats to save costs. Mrs. Trahan feels there is no where else to cut, since we have made so many cuts in the past. Mr. Roy will speak to the Town Council on April 28th to express the need to stop the elimination of programs, and also discuss how the many cuts that have been made in the past have hurt us over the years.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend approval of the 2010-2011 School Calendar with the change discussed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

Mrs. Sabolinski noted that the Committee adopted the 2010-2011 School Calendar at the December 8, 2009 meeting. On December 21, 2009, she learned that the MCAS schedule had been amended. So as to not interfere with MCAS testing, a ½ professional development day will be moved from March 22, 2011 to April 5, 2011.

2. I recommend adoption of the Secretaries Contract for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013 as detailed.

This action item was voted on earlier in the meeting. Please refer to the Signing of the Secretaries Contract under Guests/Presentations.

3. I recommend approval of the field trip request for Keller 5th grade class to visit Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, RI on May 7, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$250.00 from the Alliance for Climate Education for the FHS for supplemental curriculum materials.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. I recommend approval of the RMS Adventure Club's recurring trip to Mt. Monadnock, Jaffrey, NH for May 15, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

• Superintendent's Report:

a. Enrollment Comparison: It was noted that the Committee has this information in their packet.

b. Mrs. Sabolinski stated that Mr. D'Angelo will be doing field maintenance, by applying pesticides to the fields on Sunday. The fields will be unusable until Tuesday, April 19, 2010. She also stated that a Connect-Ed message will be sent out to families regarding this issue.

c. Financial Audit: Mrs. Goodman stated that the Audit had three minor findings, all of which have been corrected. Overall, she was please with the audit.

• School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: No new information discussed at this time.

• School Committee Liaison Reports: Mrs. Rohrbach noted that she and Mrs. Sabolinski attended the JPCC meeting to discuss the budget with the PCC chairs. Mr. Roy stated that he would like the Committee to meet with the PCC's over the next month or so.

Mr. Cafasso stated that the School Building Committee will meet in early May to discuss selection of an architect for the High School renovation project.

6. New Business:

• Mr. Glynn would like the Community Relations Sub-Committee to get together to discuss budgetary issues.

• Mr. Roy stated he received a Thank You card from Mr. Frank Mazzola. He shared the card with the rest of the Committee. He also noted that seven musical ensembles from the schools performed in the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association Festival (MICCA). All seven received medals. He also noted that the High School Orchestra will perform at Symphony Hall this Saturday.

• Mrs. Trahan reminded everyone that the FEF Trivia Bee will be held on April 29, 2010.

7. Executive Session:

• Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker