

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

April 27, 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 5th graders from the Oak Street Elementary School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, 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, Director of Finance, and other invited guests. The FHS student representatives were not in attendance. Mr. Cafasso arrived 5 minutes late.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None

- Review of Agenda: Mr. Roy noted that the Budget Transfers will be added and recommended for approval under Action Items. Also, the ASMS Comunitien Fundraiser presentation will be moved to a future meeting.

- Minutes:

I recommend approval of the Executive and Open Session minutes from the April 13, 2010 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 reviewed the payroll, found it to be in order and recommended acceptance.

- FHS Student Representatives: The FHS student representatives were not in attendance at this evening's meeting.

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

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Latin Awards: Mr. Roy presented certificates of recognition to several middle school students for their high performance on the National Latin Exam. He prefaced by saying it was refreshing to see such great, high performing students who in turn make us a high performing District.

b. ASMS Comuniten Fundraiser: This presentation was moved to a future meeting.

c. HMMS Math Team: Mr. Roy presented certificates of recognition to several students from the Horace Mann Middle School for the success they attained on the math test given by the Intermediate Mathematics League of Massachusetts.

The Committee took a 5-minute recess.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Budget to Actual: Mrs. Rohrbach said that there were no questions forwarded to her regarding the Budget to Actual.

- School Committee Proposed 2010-2011 Schedule: Mr. Roy asked the Committee for their thoughts on the proposed calendar. The Committee opted to have the February 2011 meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month so as to avoid having a meeting during the February school vacation week.

- FY2011 Budget: The Budget Sub-Committee is recommending a \$52.2 million budget – which provides a level-service budget. A level-service budget provides the exact same services as this current year. In doing so, they will run into a \$1.9 million gap. If the Town Council does not recommend an override, and if that override does not pass, then the Budget Sub-Committee recommends the following ways to bridge the gap:

Reducing Expenses:

- o Reduce 8 middle school teachers: This would involve introducing split teams at the Horace Mann Middle School and the Remington Middle Schools. Split teams are already in effect at the Annie Sullivan Middle School. As a result, not only would 8 teachers lose their jobs, but class sizes would increase to about

27-29 students per class.

- o Reduce 7 elementary school teachers: This would involve eliminating 7 positions, positions that were saved last year due to the FEA wage deferral agreement. As a result, class sizes would increase to 24-28 students per classroom.

- o Introduce one early release day each week at the elementary schools: The thought is to either start school late one day per week or end school early one day per week. This would eliminate 15 Activity Monitor positions that cover teacher's classrooms during their prep times. Prep time would now occur on the early release day while children are not in school. This would need to be discussed first with the Union and then agreed upon by the Union.

- o Fewer Buses: The District will look into 3-4 fewer buses next year which would make the buses more crowded, but still not at full capacity.

Revenues:

- o Reduce the cost of health insurance.

- o Use money from the State Stabilization funds.

- o Use one-time revenue from Lifelong Learning.

- o Increase athletics fees to a tiered fee structure at the High School.

- o Increase fees for extra-curricular activities.

The Reduction in Expenses and Revenues listed above will bridge \$1.8 million of the \$1.9 million gap.

Mr. Cafasso commented how we continue to be too creative with cost saving measures – all of which lessen the impact of what is happening in the school to the eyes of the Community. He emphasized that the District has already lost 110 teachers since FY06. He wondered if Mrs. Sabolinski has spoken with the Principals about the teacher reductions and early release schedule. She has, and these options are not palatable to the Principals, but they are options that impact the students the least. Mr. Cafasso suggests the District consider auctioning off empty seats on the afternoon buses as a source of revenue – noting that often times it is easy for parents to bring their children to school, but more difficult to pick them up.

Mr. Glynn noted that the shortened day at the elementary school goes against the trend to lengthen the school day.

Mr. Roy noted how property values are directly tied to the performance of the schools. The past 8 years we have been making cuts at the schools and are now left with few choices. He said we need the Community to step up to the plate and support our school system.

The Committee also discussed other options that can be considered to bridge the gap, and will vote at the end of the discussion which options they will present to the Community. Below is a list of other options the Committee will

consider:

o The complete elimination of High School athletics or having families pay 100% of the costs: If athletics are completely eliminated, the High School would be required to bring back Physical Education which would negate the cost savings. It was also noted that some kids stay in school because of athletics. If athletics are eliminated, that could potentially increase the drop out rate. If families are required to pay 100% of the costs, some families may not be able to afford the costs and that could lead to kids getting into trouble out on the streets. Mr. Cafasso noted that he is always stunned by families who vote NO on an override, which is tax deductible, yet are willing to instead pay higher fees.

o Half-day Kindergarten: Mr. Cafasso noted that we do not have to provide full-day Kindergarten; however, it is a big draw for people who chose to move to Franklin. If Kindergarten goes to half-day, the whole K-5 curriculum would have to be rewritten. Students would not be ready for 1st grade, Chapter 70 funding would be impacted, our Kindergarten accreditation would disappear, and we would lose the grant money that pays for the Kindergarten aides.

o Elimination of Head Teachers and CET's (Curriculum Enhancement Teachers): The Middle and Elementary schools do not have Assistant Principals. The Head Teachers stand in for the Principals when they are not on-site.

o Transportation: Mr. Glynn proposed pay-to-ride regardless of how far students live from the school. If all 3,041 students who take the bus were to pay (with some adjustments for free and reduced populations), the revenue created would be \$919,000. Mrs. Rohrbach noted that we would be breaking the law if we charged everyone.

o Parking Fees at FHS: Another creative idea thought up by trying to think outside of the box, is charging for parking at the High School. There are 400 parking spaces at the High School. The thought is to charge students \$180 for a parking pass. This would create revenue of \$72,000.

Mr. Glynn made a motion to move the Parking Fees at FHS as another means to produce revenue. It was not seconded by anyone on the Committee.

After discussing all options, a motion was made to move the Budget Reduction and Revenue originally put forward by the Budget Sub-Committee.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

Scott Mason, Town Council Chairman, was at the meeting. He noted that if this trend of cutting from the School System continues, we will end up with a watered down system. Property values and public health and safety will all suffer without a strong school system. If we don't maintain one, we lose the other. In FY12, we will get less from Chapter 70 funding (which funds a majority of our school budget). We need to start reversing this trend and put more

money into our systems.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend approval of the request of Nancy Schoen for a field trip for the Music Students to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH on Friday, June 11, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$125.00 from the JFK PCC for RN fees for a field trip.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$218.75 from the JFK PCC for RN fees for two field trips.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$4,000.00 from the Jefferson PCC for two field trips.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$639.03 from Follett for Supplemental Curriculum Materials for Jefferson Elementary – check from surplus books.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,969.60 from the Parmenter PCC for field trips.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

7. I recommend acceptance of the donation of supplies from Staples for the Solutions Program.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

8. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,748.00 from the Keller PCC for two tables as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

9. I recommend adoption of the proposed 2010-2011 Meeting Schedule for the Franklin School Committee – Option 2 Schedule (1st and 3rd Tuesday in February, 2011)

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

10. I recommend declaring microfiche machines at the FHS surplus to be donated to the Franklin Historical Commission as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

11. I recommend approval of Budget Transfers as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

• Superintendent's Report:

a. Mrs. Sabolinski mentioned that she received a letter from NEASC regarding the High School and is happy to report that they are continuing the accreditation of the High School. She noted that this is a wonderful tribute to Mr. Light and his staff. However, we are still on warning with regards to Community Resources for Learning.

b. Mrs. Sabolinski met with the MSBA today. She will report back to the School Building Committee regarding this meeting. She noted that we will get reimbursed 49% which is 10% more than anticipated.

c. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that a Budget Forum will take place at the Horace Mann Middle School auditorium on Monday, May 24th at 7p.m. to discuss the override.

d. FHS End of Year Activities: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

e. Principals Search Process: Mrs. Winslow stated that 60 people have applied for both the HMMS Principal position and the Parmenter Principal position. She would like to interview between 8-10 persons for each position. She will then recommend 2-3 finalists to meet with Mrs. Sabolinski. She expects to have both positions filled by Friday, May 28th.

f. Mrs. Sabolinski also noted that we need to schedule a Budget Hearing. The Town Budget Hearings are June 9th and 10th. We will need to have our Budget adopted by then.

• 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:

• Mr. Glynn noted that School Committee Members from surrounding Towns are interested in getting together to discuss similar problems Districts are

facing. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) has offered to hold a meeting in Franklin if the Committee members are interested.

- Mrs. Trahan reminded everyone that the FEF Trivia Bee will be held on April 29, 2010. She also asked Mrs. Sabolinski to provide the total amount of money PCC's donate to the various school, as a point of reference, to show how much parents are already doing for the schools.

7. Executive Session:

- Non-Union Salary Discussion

8. Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker