

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

May 25, 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 sophomore from the High School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Cafasso, 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, School Business Administrator, and other invited guests. FHS representatives Zach Price and Christie Gianetti were not in attendance. Mr. Cafasso left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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 Executive and Open Session minutes from the May 11, 2010 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

1. Payment of Bills: Mr. Glynn

Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 7

2. Payroll:

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

3. FHS Student Representatives: The FHS Student Representatives were not in attendance.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Roy acknowledged the correspondences received.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. FHS Latin Exam Certificates: Several students were presented with certificates acknowledging how well they performed on the National Latin Exam.

b. FHS Jr. Classical League State Latin Convention Certificates: Several students were presented with certificates acknowledging how well they performed at the Convention.

c. Pawtucket Red Sox – Significantly Improved Students (FHS): A number of students were presented with certificates acknowledging significant improvement with academic achievement throughout the school year. The Pawtucket Red Sox acknowledged these students at the May 10, 2010 game.

There was a five-minute recess.

d. FY2011 Budget Hearing: Mrs. Sabolinski, Mrs. Winslow and Mrs. Goodman stated that they are requesting \$52,255,910 for the FY11 budget. This amount represents a 3.89% increase or \$1.9 million increase over the current year's budget. Mrs. Goodman stated that 82% of the budget is made up of employee salaries and health benefits. She stated that the gap is \$1,858,090 and could possibly grow to \$2,380,910. The Town would like to bridge this gap via an override scheduled for June 8, 2010. If the override fails, then the District proposes to bridge this gap by increasing athletic and extracurricular fees. They also suggest reducing expenses by changing the current healthcare, eliminating 15 teaching positions, providing 3 fewer buses, and shortening the elementary school day by an hour or more, one day a week. Mrs. Rohrbach wondered how shortening the elementary school day will save money. Mrs. Sabolinski stated that activity monitors cover lunch and recess allowing teachers prep time. The teachers will now have their prep time during the shortened day after the students leave. By eliminating the activity monitors, the District will save \$158,000 which is equivalent to 3 teacher positions. At this point, the District cannot afford to lose any more teachers since class sizes are so large. Again, they are thinking outside of the box trying to cut expenses without losing any more classroom teachers. Mrs. Sabolinski also noted that if this cannot be negotiated with the FEA, then 3 more teachers at the elementary level will lose their jobs. The principals from all the school were on hand, and

the Committee asked them how these many reductions over the past years have hurt their schools and students. At the elementary level, since the 2007/08 school year, 27 teachers have been eliminated. As a result, many classrooms have more students than recommended by the School Committee. Library hours have been reduced and librarian positions have been cut, music programs have been reduced and instrumental programs have been cut. Dues for NEASC accreditation are no longer being paid. Computer lab CET's have been cut – teachers now have to do computer training. And this is just to name a few. Mr. Roy wondered how these cuts have impacted student learning. The elementary principals noted that class sizes are too large – making it more difficult for a child to learn. They notice more referrals for special education, assessments are not as well, and the teachers are becoming more stressed. Mr. Cafasso mentioned that someone questioned why schools are asking for more money when 99% of the graduating class goes off to College. Natalie Roy, a sophomore at the High School, noted the classes that have recently graduated were not exposed to so many budget cuts when they were in elementary and middle school. It is the students who are currently in elementary school who will display the effects of these drastic budget cuts. They are the ones who are not having as much academic opportunities as the students who have recently graduated from High School.

At the Middle School level, 8 teaching positions have been eliminated forcing the Middle Schools to move to a split team program. Three music teacher positions, a librarian position, 3 health/PE positions, one guidance counselor position as well as 3 foreign language positions have also been eliminated. French has been totally eliminated.

Mr. Light, principal of the High School, noted that parents and students are choosing private High School's and even Tri-County because they offer a broader range of services than the High School. Over the years, the high school has cut art, music, woodshop, PE and health. He noted that students have lost opportunities to take classes outside of the core classes. With the elimination of assistant principal positions and guidance counselor positions, the two assistant principals each manage 800 students and the guidance counselors have a student ratio of 350/1.

At this point, Mr. Roy read each line item of the budget. If there were any questions on a particular line item, Mr. Roy asked that the committee member say 'hold'. After reading each line item, he will then come back to the line item with a 'hold' for discussion. There were four 'holds' for discussion.

A motion was made to approve the FY11 budget in the amount of \$52,255,910.
Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Mullen
Approval: 7

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Second Reading – Policy JJFG Disposition of Student Activity: There were no additional changes made to this policy. It is slated to be approved as an Action Item.
- Budget to Actual/Transfers: Mrs. Goodman stated that the Committee has this information in their packets and that it is slated to be approved as an Action Item.
- MASC Regional Meeting: Mr. Glynn noted that he met with area School Committee's to discuss common challenges we all face, and to see if there is something we can do. It was decided to try and do something about the SPED Funding Model. A resolution was drafted to lobby the State to try and get SPED funded through the State's budget. Mr. Glynn asks that the School Committee vote to endorse this resolution so it can be brought to the Statehouse with the help of Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). Mrs. Sabolinski added that this funding formula is long overdue for reform. She also added that this has potential to be a good initiative.

A motion was made to move and endorse the SPED Funding Model resolution as drafted.

Motion: Mrs. Glynn Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

- Proposed Reduction to full day Kindergarten Grant: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that there is a chance that this grant money will be significantly reduced. This wont be determined until the State's budget is finalized. It was determined that Mrs. Rohrbach would be responsible for drafting a letter the Committee can send to the State.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend adoption of Policy JJFG Disposition of Student Activity Account.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

2. I recommend budget transfers as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$125 from the Kennedy PCC for a nurse for the field trip to Southwick Zoo on May 27, 2010.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500 from the Kennedy PCC for buses for the field trip to Southwick Zoo on May 27, 2010.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. I recommend acceptance of the donation of a set of basketball hoops from the Recreation Department.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$100 from Patricia M. Bishop (Class of 1960) for a FHS Scholarship.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

7. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000 from James M. Betts for a FHS Scholarship.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

8. I recommend acceptance of four checks (\$2,500) from the Guidrey Family for FHS Scholarships.

- Philip & Jennifer Guidrey \$500

- Alan Guidrey \$500

- Janet Guidrey \$500

- Nancy Lovely \$1,000

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

9. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,250 from the FHS PCC for large screen projectors for Class Day and Graduation.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

10. I recommend approval of the FHS trip for four students to compete in the National Jr. Classical League State Convention at the University of North Dakota from July 26, 2010 to August 1, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

11. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$250 from Let Us Never Forget for a FHS Scholarship in memory of Shane Cabino.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

12. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$543.98 from Lifetouch Pictures for ECDC in-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. Information Matters:

- Superintendent's Report:

a) Backpack Bulletin: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that the School Committee has a copy of this bulletin.

b) Principal's Searches: A principal has been selected for the Parmenter School. His name is Tom Morris and he is from the Newton School District. He will assume his position on July 1, 2010. A principal has not been found for Horace Mann. The District will hire an interim principle and will resume the search in October.

c) National Honor Society: Last evening, 65 juniors and seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society. Mrs. Sabolinski added that this was a wonderful ceremony.

d) Mrs. Sabolinski stated that the Pay-to-Ride letters are being sent out and will be due back by July 9, 2010.

e) Mrs. Sabolinski noted that the DESE is rolling out a new data tool that will show how each District is spending money. Mrs. Sabolinski would like to present this to the Budget-Sub Committee and thinks it will be good for the community to see how efficiently and effectively we as a District spend tax payer's money.

- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: Mrs. Trahan noted that the Advertising-Sub Committee met earlier in the evening and will have more information to provide at a future meeting.

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

6. New Business:

- Mrs. Trahan would like to thank all the Veterans for all they have done.

- Mr. Roy reminded the Committee of a number of events they have been invited to.

7. Executive Session: There was no need for an Executive Session this evening.

8. Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker