

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

June 22, 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:

Mr. Roy 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.

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 June 8, 2010 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approve: 7

- Payment of Bills: Mr. Glynn

Mr. Glynn made a motion to approve the bills from the June 8, 2010 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Glynn Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 7

Payment of Bills: Mr. Glynn

Mr. Glynn made a motion to approve the bills for June 22, 2010 meeting.

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: The FHS student representatives are on summer recess.

- Correspondence: Mr. Roy acknowledged the correspondence received.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Tom Morris – New Principal of Parmenter Elementary: Mrs. Sabolinski was thrilled and delighted to welcome Mr. Tom Morris to the Franklin Public Schools. Mr. Morris introduced himself to the Committee and spoke a little about his background. With twenty years experience as a music teacher, he is also thrilled to become a part of the Franklin Public Schools.

b. ASMS Best Buddies Officers – “Spread the Word to End the ‘R’ Word”:
Members from the Annie Sullivan Middle School (ASMS) Best Buddies Club presented a slide show to the Committee. They discussed how they meet with the buddies from school weekly and play games, work in the computer lab, participate in outside activities like bowling and lunches, etc. Mrs. Witcoff, principal of ASMS, stated that this presentation will also be played for incoming 6th graders at orientation to help spread this important message.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- FY11 Budget: Mr. Roy stated that because of the unsuccessful override vote, it requires us to make reductions to accommodate the amount allocated to us by the Town Council. Mrs. Goodman stated that the budget amount allocated is \$49,875,000. This amount is \$422,820 less than the FY10 budget amount. As a result, 15 teaching positions will be cut – 7 at the elementary level and 8 at the middle school level. Three buses will be eliminated and the elementary school day will be cut short one day per week. As a result of this shortened day – the activity monitor positions will be eliminated. However, if this can't be negotiated with the FEA, it will mean 3 more elementary teaching positions will be cut.

It was also noted that there will not be a family cap on athletic fees. Pandora Carlucci and Brad Sidwell are working on ways to generate revenue through summer athletic programs. This revenue will then go into the athletic revolving account to help offset these fees for families unable to pay. Mr. Roy noted that families who qualify for free and reduced lunches do not have to pay these fees

and those families that cannot afford the fees, can sit down and talk with Mr. Light or Mr. Sidwell to work something out. It is not the intention of the District to exclude anyone from participating in sports. Mrs. Trahan noted that she hopes those families who do have the means to pay will continue to do so, so others may participate.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend approval of the Budget Transfers as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000 from Natalie Brunelli for the John A. Brunelli Memorial Scholarship at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$50 from Elaine Costello for the Class of 1960 Scholarship at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$50 from Mary Ann Bertone for the Class of 1960 Scholarship at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000 from the Franklin Country Club for the Franklin Country Club Scholarship/Hall of Fame Award at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,700 from the Shayne Cabino Foundation for the Let Us Never Forget LCPL Shayne Matthew Cabino Memorial Scholarship at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

7. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$100 from Lonnie Grillo for the Class of 1960 Scholarship at FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

8. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,000 from Franklin Youth Lacrosse for a Space Camp field trip for Horace Mann students.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

9. I recommend acceptance of 3 checks for \$50 each from Mr. Lima, Mr. Folan and Mr. DiLorenzo for the FHS Scholarship Fund.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

10. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,000 from the Horace Mann PCC for in-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

11. I recommend approval of an increase in athletic fees to \$450 for Hockey, \$175 for Track and \$200 for all other sports.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Opposition: 1

12. I recommend approval of an increase in extracurricular fees to \$50 annually.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

13. I recommend adoption of the FY11 budget of \$49,875,000 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Opposition: 1

Mr. Cafasso wondered if legally, we need to go through the budget line by line since it has changed. This was not done; however, Mrs. Goodman did mention the line items where the majority of the changes occurred. It was also noted that the District will save money by hiring our own occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech therapists instead of using BICO Collaborative.

5. Information Matters:

• Superintendent's Report:

a. Foreign Language: At the last meeting, Mrs. Sabolinski let the Committee know that she had been exploring changes to the Foreign Language Program. She proposed eliminating Latin at the middle school due to the inability to find qualified Latin teachers and only offer Spanish. She also recommended eliminating Spanish at the elementary level in order to move those teachers up to the middle school. This change would then allow the District to expand the PE/Health program at the elementary level to include the mandated curriculum on bullying prevention. A letter has since gone out to parents making them aware of these changes.

Mr. Cafasso wondered what would be offered to those students who are passionate about Latin and have already invested two years into the program.

Mrs. Sabolinski stated they are looking into providing online learning, an after school club or perhaps a summer school program. However, the summer school program will not be available this summer. He wondered how is it beneficial to cut Latin at the middle school and eliminate Spanish from the elementary school. Mrs. Sabolinski stated that it is just not effective meeting one time per week. It is time to move in a different direction. Mr. Cafasso wondered if it became easier to just stop looking for qualified Latin teachers and just go in this direction. Mr. Cafasso stated that the responsibility of the School Committee is to decide how resources are used, decide the direction of the District and get input from the Community. He feels that in this case, the Committee was presented with a decision and asked to act. Mrs. Rohrbach pointed out that we have always been very careful to eliminate a program completely. We have always tried and keep a remnant, but we haven't been able to do that for elementary Spanish. Because of chronic budget cuts, we have seen a shift, and Spanish has been disseminated at the elementary level. Unfunded Mandates force us to provide programs, which cause us to shuffle our educational model – it is as pure and simple as that.

Mr. Roy stated that there is no question that the principals and the Superintendent want to see Latin, but in all practicality, he doesn't think we can. He is convinced that this was a well reasoned and well thought out decision. He noted that Spanish at the elementary level has been on the radar screen for 7-8 years. The time is right to eliminate it. It has been kept with the hopes that it could be offered more frequently if the budget allowed; however, that has not become the case.

The principals will attend a meeting in August to discuss this matter again. Mr. Glynn would like to have a more focused discussion at the elementary level with Spanish and bullying. Mr. Cafasso would like to see what the plan is, where are we going, and how does it make sense. He also wants to know the philosophy of the foreign language program and are we moving toward it or away from it.

b. Interim Principal HMMS: Mrs. Sabolinski stated they have hired a retired principal to serve as interim principal at HMMS. The search for a permanent principal will begin again in October, after an unsuccessful search this spring. Mr. Roy commented on the general theme of this evening's meeting, which is to attract and attain the best and brightest. He commended Mrs. Sabolinski and her staff for being brave enough to know when to say 'no'.

- 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:

- Mrs. Trahan wanted to wish all students and teachers a safe and enjoyable

summer.

- Mr. Glynn noted that a few more towns have adopted the resolution to try and get SPED funded through the State's budget.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker