

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

July 21, 2009

Call to order: 7:07 p.m. Mr. Roy

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Roy recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Armenio, Mr. Cafasso, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Rohrbach, and Mrs. Trahan. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski and other invited guests. Mr. Kelly, along with the Franklin High School Representatives, were not in attendance.

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 minutes from the June 23, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 5 Absent: 1 Abstain: 1

- Payment of Bills: Mr. Kelly

Mr. Kelly was not in attendance at this evening's meeting to approve the warrants.

- Payroll:

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

- FHS Student Representatives: The FHS Student Representatives were not in attendance due to summer vacation.

- Correspondence: Mr. Roy acknowledged the correspondence received from Mrs. Redpath along with the letter of response sent to Mrs. Redpath from the School Committee.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Teacher Retirements: Mr. Roy noted that if any of the retiring teachers show up to the meeting, he will return to this portion of the agenda to acknowledge them.

b. FHS Update – Peter Light: Mr. Light spoke to the Committee regarding the number of changes taking place at the High School along with what he has accomplished since taking over as Principal.

This fall, the High School will change to a 6 period schedule, and will have new credit requirements for graduation. Core courses will be worth 6 credits each and 112 credits will be needed for graduation. Also, grade point averages will be 5 credits versus the 17.5 point system used in the past.

Physical education is still required. However, students will now have a choice. They can choose to take physical education one day out of a 6 day cycle, they can participate in an athletic team for one season, or they can participate in 30 hours of an organized outside activity, such as gymnastics or dance. Students who do not take physical education as a class, can chose to spend that time in directed study, the writing center, or with guidance.

In the upcoming weeks, the Library will be transformed into the Technology Center accessible by both students and teachers until 5 p.m. 200 laptop computers will be available to students. It will also house a writing center, which Mr. Roy is thrilled about because a writing center can be found on almost every College campus. Mrs. Sabolinki noted that the technology purchases were funded through the Town Capital Budget.

Edline, a web based online access portal where parents can log on and access their student's grades, will be up and running on October 1.

The Guidance Department and Administrative Offices have moved within the High School. Guidance will now be located at the entrance of the building. It will also house a small computer lab for students to research colleges and career plan.

Mr. Light will continue with his online newsletter where he will discuss what is going on at the High School. In the fall, he will also experiment with Twitter as a means of communicating information.

Mrs. Trahan wondered how Mr. Light would inform parents of all the changes occurring at the High School. Mr. Light said that a letter will go out to everyone in the community informing them of the changes, as well as being posted online.

Mr. Roy thanked Mr. Light for his presentation. He commented how well he is doing given the current situation, noting that the improvements that have already taken place at the High School make it a better place.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Budget: Mrs. Sabolinski addressed the Committee on the Budget. In order to provide the same level of service as was provided this past school year, the School would need \$53,807,773. The Town has funded \$50,297,820. Additional sources of revenue from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Federal Stimulus Package, Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief Revenue, and School Choice allow for an additional \$1,133,953 which brings the budget to \$51,431,773. That is \$2,376,000 less money than needed to provide a level service budget. As a result, there will be a loss of 10 teaching positions – five PE teachers and five librarians. There will also be the loss of an Assistant Principal at the High School and one Data Analyst.

Mrs. Sabolinski also noted that enrollment continues to increase annually, by a minimum of 100 students, and with less resources, we need to find very creative ways to bridge the gap.

- FHS Facilities Project: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that Mr. Nutting sent in our application to the MSBA for the feasibility study to be done on the High School.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$102.88 from the Franklin Music Boosters for a nurse for a field trip for the Middle Schools.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$1,000.00 from the Franklin Country Club for the FHS Hall of Fame Award Scholarship.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

3. I recommend acceptance of a flowering magnolia tree, valued at \$300.00 raised from donations, planted in the bus loop at the Oak Street Elementary School.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,000.00 from the Horace Mann PCC for In-House Enrichment at HMMS.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$90.33 from the Remington PCC for a nurse for their 8th grade celebration.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,800.00 from the Parmenter PCC for supplies.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mrs. Rohrbach questioned what this was for. Mrs. Sabolinski stated that it is for an ongoing project that the Parmenter PCC does – the Backpack Project – which supplies backpacks full of school supplies to students in need.

5. Information Matters:

- Superintendent's Report:

- a. Facilities Update: see information on subject matter above.

- b. Summer Program Update: Mrs. Sabolinski is please with the number of students participating in the summer programs. She noted that 75 incoming freshman have signed up for the FHS Experience this year.

- c. Pay-to-Ride Update: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that enrollment is down, but attributes it to the fact that letters were sent out to parents at a later date than last year. They are continuing to accept applications. She also noted that there was no increase in the pay-to-ride fee this year.

- 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 acknowledge Helen Carberry, a former Franklin teacher, who recently turned 100.

- Mr. Cafasso would like to talk about enrollment numbers at one of the August School Committee meetings.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker