

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

August 25, 2009

Call to order: 7:00 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 were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, Director of Finance, and other invited guests. Mr. Kelly and the FHS student representatives were not in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- Citizens Comments: None

- Review of Agenda: Mrs. Rohrbach wanted to add the evaluation of Miriam Goodman to the agenda. Mr. Roy noted that we will discuss this at the end of the Discussion Only Items.

- Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the August 11, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 5 Abstain: 1 Absent: 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 recess.

- Correspondence:

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

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Dean College Community Partnership: Renee Vachon Danho, Dean of Professional and Continuing Studies, spoke to the Committee regarding the Franklin Public Schools PROgram (Professional Resource Opportunity) which will offer residents an associates degree, within two years, delivered in a cohort style learning environment on a part time basis. She plans on addressing building administrators and PCC's to get the word out to parents to let them know this will be available.

b. Legal Update: Attorney Paige Tobin addressed the Committee's concerns regarding changes made to the Electronic Communication Policy and Cyber bullying Policy. Cyber bullying has become a big concern and impacts the school environment. The policy will allow the District to take action when cyber bullying impacts the school environment by treating it as an instance of harassment. With regards to the Electronic Communication Policy, there could be some inappropriate boundary violations crossed when staff responds to social network invitations and text messages. Mr. Roy feels we need to embrace technology and find appropriate ways to use it. He notes that we could ourselves by violating this policy by using our own Facebook accounts and noted that Mr. Light plans on using Twitter as a means of communication this fall. Ms. Tobin stressed that if you don't have appropriate guidelines, it opens us up to liability. Mr. Cafasso noted that we need to focus less on the channel of communication and more on the appropriateness of communication. It was suggested by some to have a school sanctioned form of communication – perhaps a school sanctioned Facebook page.

Mrs. Rohrbach read aloud a revision she suggests for the Electronic Device Policy. She will forward it to the Committee members.

At this point we also discussed the Acceptable Use Policy. Mr. Roy wants to see the rules and regulations with the preamble.

There was a brief five-minute recess.

c. District Improvement Plan: Maureen Sabolinski, Sally Winslow and Michel Kingsland-Smith spoke about the District Improvement Plan which will guide and direct continuous improvement in learning for grades K-12. The District Improvement Plan (DIP) was developed through a comprehensive review of a variety of student data and aligns with the Strategic Plan that was adopted at the last School Committee meeting. The purpose of the DIP is to 1.) guide and direct continuous improvement in the educational program, 2.) articulate accountability for increases in student achievement, 3.) promote participation and collaboration with parents, staff, and community and 4.) delineate District

priorities and inform educational decision making.

3. Discussion Only Items:

- Budget to Actual: Mrs. Rohrbach had a question for Miriam Goodman regarding a \$7,000 transfer. Mrs. Goodman said that it was for the purchase of a self service module for employee payroll.

- Policy – First Readings: There was a motion to revise the following policies and move them to a second reading.

- o GBAB Acceptable Use Policy

- o GBAB-E1 Acceptable Use Agreement 6-12

- o GBAB-E2 Acceptable Use Agreement K-5

- o JT Electronic Device Policy

- o JU Electronic Communication Policy

Motion: Mrs. Trahan Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approval 6 Absent: 1

- Evaluation of Miriam Goodman: The Committee commended Miriam for the excellent job she has done since coming on board a little over a year ago. They acknowledged that within 10 days of starting, she had a command of the budget and presented it to the Town Council. Mrs. Sabolinski attributed this to her intellectual capacity, talent, and skill.

4. Action Items:

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

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

2. I recommend acceptance of the FHS Class of 2009 Gift of four large screen televisions for disseminating school-wide announcements at the FHS.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

3. I recommend approval of the District Approval Plan (DIP) as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. Information Matters:

- Superintendent's Report:

- a. Dean College Partnership: see information on subject matter above.

- b. District Improvement Plan: see information on subject matter above.

- c. Personnel: Mrs. Sabolinski stated that the new staff orientation will be tomorrow. Mrs. Armenio asked if we were all set with hiring. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that we are awaiting the acceptance of one last position.

- d. Coordinated Program Review: This is a comprehensive review by a team

from the Department of Education that happens every five-years. She noted that it will consume the District for the next 6 months.

e. Annual Town Report: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that the Annual Town Report was completed. Mrs. Rohrbach wanted to acknowledge how much parents continue to support the District.

- School Committee Sub-Committee Reports: Mrs. Mullen noted that the Policy Sub-Committee met last week and will meet again to address BMI at an upcoming meeting.

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

6. New Business:

- Mrs. Rohrbach would like an update from Facilities on what they did over the summer. Mrs. Sabolinski said she would get an update from Mr. D'Angelo for the next meeting.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker