

## Welcome

### Franklin School Committee Minutes

October 13, 2009

Call to order: 7:00 p.m. Mr. Roy

#### Pledge of Allegiance:

A 4th grader from the Keller School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Armenio, Mr. Cafasso, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Trahan, and FHS representatives Zach Price and Christie Gianetti were present. Also present were Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, Assistant Superintendent Sally Winslow, Miriam Goodman, Director of Finance, and other invited guests. Mrs. Rohrbach was 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 September 22, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

- Payment of Bills: Mr. Kelly

Motion: Mr. Kelly Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

- Payroll:

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

- FHS Student Representatives: Zach Price mentioned that students are enjoying the new schedule at the High School. Classes are now shorter – at just 50 minutes and the lunch period is longer. He also noted that the kids are enjoying the use of the Technology Center – taking full advantage of the computers. Christie Gianetti commented on EdLine – noting that it is a wonderful tool for checking grades. She also noted that the High School is

looking into getting g-mail accounts for students as well as using Twitter for announcements.

- Correspondence: The letter from Miriam Goodman regarding the Budget to Actual will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 2. Guests/Presentations:

a. FHS Building Update: Tom Mercer updated the Committee on the FHS renovation project. The process is different from the last time we went through a building renovation. The SBA now requires approval at every stage and phase. Currently, we have only been approved for a feasibility study. This process requires the Town to hire an OPM - Owner's Project Manager. Last week, an RFS, Request for Services, was sent out to various OPM's. By the end of November, the School Building Committee expects to select an OPM. After that, an RFS would be sent out for an architect, who would work on a schematic design that would then be submitted to the SBA for approval.

Once the State approves the project, the Town has 120 days to fund the project. The State may decide to pay for only parts of the project, and the Town would be responsible for the rest. If all goes well, and the State has the money to fund this project, Mr. Mercer is guessing that perhaps we can get this project started in late 2011.

Mrs. Armenio noted that if the sales tax revenue falls short at the State level, then all bets are off – especially in this economy. Mr. Mercer reiterated that the only thing we have been approved for thus far is a feasibility study. We just don't know if money will be available when it comes time to do this project. Mrs. Trahan wondered if we could start this process and then promise to be reimbursed by the State. Mr. Mercer was not sure.

b. FHS Swim Team Proposal: Brad Sidwell asked the Committee to approve a swim team for the High School. Currently, about 20 students have shown interest for such a team. For approximately \$6-7,000, a swim team can be added at the High School.

Mrs. Armenio's concern is that if this is approved, next year's budget is anticipated to be worse than this year, and she worries that it will be one of the first programs to be cut.

Mr. Roy noted that in the past, students have chosen to attend a private High School that has a swim team. He also noted that this will become an action item for the next meeting.

c. Literacy Update: Michele Kingsland Smith updated the Committee on the Literacy Initiative. At the elementary level, the goal is to implement readers'

workshop 3-5 times a week. At the middle school level, the goal is to implement the key three strategies (summarizing, 2 column notes, and main idea) and continue to apply additional reading and writing strategies. Grades 4, 5 and 6 will use the GRADE tool, Group Reading Assessment & Developmental Evaluation, to identify reader's strengths and areas of concern. This data will then be used to inform instruction.

d. MCAS Growth Model: Michele Kingsland Smith, Bob Lima, and Mrs. Sabolinski spoke to the Committee regarding the MCAS Growth Model, a new way of analyzing MCAS data. Franklin was lucky enough to have been one of only nine Districts in the State chosen to participate in this pilot program. Measuring growth helps improve the validity and the scope of decisions we make using MCAS results. Each student rate of change is compared to other students with a similar test score history and the rate of change is expressed as a percentile. The data derived from this model can be used to drive curriculum and help to inform instructional program to meet the needs of the students in the District.

### 3. Discussion Only Items:

- ASMS Book Bin: Annie Sullivan Middle School has a Big Hearted Books (BHB) book drop bin located at the school that allows for the recycling of unwanted books, cassettes, VHS tapes, CD's and DVD's. The PCC makes a profit of about \$100 a month via this fundraising effort. It has come to the attention of the PCC that the DPW has concerns over the location of this bin. The DPW suggested that the PCC go to the School Committee for approval for this bin. The School Committee approves this effort and couldn't find any policy against it. Mr. Roy will try and locate any policy on this but feels that this isn't an issue.

### 4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$5,000 from the Keller PCC for the 1st grade field trip to Jane & Paul's Farm Stand and the 3rd grade field trip to Plimouth Plantation.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$5,000 from the Jefferson PCC for field trips for grades 1-5.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$10,000 from the Davis Thayer PCC for field trips for grades K-5 as detailed for the school year.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$107.14 from the Remington PCC for a nurse for the 6th grade field trip to the YMCA.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. I recommend approval of adding a 0.5 position ELL teacher.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mrs. Armenio asked Mrs. Sabolinski to explain the need for this position. Mrs. Sabolinski said that we are under serving students who are English Language Learners (ELL's). Therefore, it is necessary to add this position. She also noted that this is just a band-aid for the year. It is anticipated that we will have 80 ELL students by the end of the school year.

6. I recommend approval of the Horace Mann Middle School field trip to the Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama from July 11-16, 2010 as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

7. I recommend approval of the FHS Art Department's request for a field trip to New York City on Saturday, November, 14, 2009 to the Museum of Modern Art as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. Information Matters:

• Superintendent's Report:

a. DESE Update: The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have reorganized the Districts. Franklin is now part of the Greater Boston Region. Mrs. Sabolinski noted that this may impact us financially and policy-wise down the road.

b. H1N1: Mrs. Sabolinski noted that they received positive feedback from the recent survey sent to parents.

c. MASBO: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

d. Transportation: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

e. Administrative Professional Development: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

f. Enrollment Comparison 9/26/08 – 9/25/09: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

• 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. Armenio commented on the Faculty Recital at the High School. She said that it was a lovely evening of music and noted what amazing talent we have.
- Mrs. Trahan wanted to remind everyone about the FEF Casino Night that will be held at the Elk's on Friday, November 20, 2009.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker