

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

January 13, 2009

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

A 5th grader from the Kennedy School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Armenio, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Rohrbach, Mrs. Trahan, and FHS representatives Brittany MacLeod and Pat Slight were present. Also present were Superintendent Wayne Ogden, Assistant Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, and other invited guests. Mr. Cafasso arrived at 8:05 p.m.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

· Citizens Comments: Mr. Steve Sherlock reminded the Committee that we are now streaming live on the Internet. He asked that we be sure to speak into the microphone. He also stressed the importance for all Town Departments to work together.

· Review of Agenda: Mr. Ogden noted later in the meeting the necessity to add a 4th Action Item to the Agenda to accept the Oak Street School Improvement Plan.

· Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2008 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 5 Absent: 1 Abstain: 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:

Pat Slight reported that midterms are next week, and the 2nd quarter term ends

on January 26. He also mentioned the Winter Carnival. The Winter Carnival is open to all in the community and will take place on Sunday, February 1, 2009 in the Field House. It will consist of games, a silent auction, a disc jockey, food and more. Proceeds from the Winter Carnival will go to the Tomorrow Fund, which benefits the Hasbro Children's Hospital.

· Correspondence: Mr. Roy stated that the Budget to Actual will be discussed at the January 27, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Art Gallery: Mr. Mike Caple, from the High School Art Department, along with two students made a presentation to the Committee. One of the missions of the Art Department is to connect art to the community. They have done so by hosting an art exhibit at the High School known as Gallery 218. The exhibit displays artwork from students in grades K-12, teachers, alumni and community members. Also, students from the High School have taught art classes to the seniors at the Senior Center. On January 15, 2009 this artwork will be on display at the Senior Center from 10-11:30 a.m.

b. FHS Principal Candidate – Peter Light: On January 26, 2009, Mr. Peter Light will take over Pamela Gould's position as Principal of Franklin High School. Ms. Gould has taken a position within the Plymouth School System. Mr. Ogden and Mrs. Sabolinski wanted input from students, teachers and parents as to whom the best replacement would be. Students, teachers and parents alike mentioned Mr. Light. Mrs. Sabolinski mentioned that in our midst we have a gem of a leader to move the high school forward. The School Committee also shared their confidence in Mr. Light's leadership.

Mr. Light thanked the Committee, spoke a little on his background, and mentioned three areas that he would like to focus on when he takes over leadership of the high school. One area is the desire to bridge the gap between the school and the community; another is raising the academic expectations of students by focusing on teaching and learning. The final area is his leadership style, which is transparency and inclusiveness. As an example, he mentioned he would like to open up communication and dialogue by starting a Principal's blog and have a budget pod cast – which will make information on the high school readily available to the public.

c. Oak Street School Improvement Plan: Mrs. Minkle spoke to the Committee on Oak Street School's Improvement Plan. She has three goals for the School. The first goal is the District Wide Literacy Initiative. The second goal is Communication. Based on an anonymous student survey given to students last year, she feels it is necessary to start educating families on such issues as internet safety, TV viewing, hand washing, etc. Her final goal is Kindergarten accreditation.

3. Discussion Only Items:

· Building Committee: Mr. Cafasso mentioned that the School Building Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. He wondered what our priorities were for Capital Improvements aside from the High School. After some discussion, it was decided that the High School is the top priority. If the MSBA does not fund replacement or renovation of the High School, we need to come up with a "Plan B" and use any capital money for improvements to the high school. If funding does become available to replace/renovate the high school, then we need to focus on safety consideration at other schools. Two such issues have come forward that take top priority. They are the replacement of heating units at the Parmenter Gym and a complete upgrade to the phone/voicemail system at all of the schools.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,625.00 from the Annie Sullivan PCC for the 7th Grade field trip to the Krista McAuliffe Space Center.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

2. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$800.00 from the Horace Mann PCC to support in-house enrichment activities.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend approval of the job posting for School Nurse at the Annie Sullivan Middle School.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 7

Mr. Ogden noted that the needs of a student require a one-on-one nurse from now until the end of the school year. This is something that has not been budgeted for but we are bound by the state to provide. Mrs. Trahan noted that it would be more expensive to provide this service out of district than to hire an on-site nurse.

4. I recommend acceptance of the Oak Street Elementary School's Improvement Plan.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

· Superintendent's Report:

a. Snow Day Decision Making/Connect Ed: Mr. Ogden wanted to explain what goes into the decision making process for a snow day/snow delay. Whenever possible, he would like to make the decision the night before to give parents

time to make child care arrangements. If that is not possible, the decision making process begins very early in the morning to try and give people as much time as possible to make alternative child care arrangements. Members from the Highway Department and the Facilities Department decide if it is feasible to get the streets, sidewalks and parking lots cleared in time before school starts or if they need more time. They use the best information they have available before making their decision and err on the side of caution. Mr. Ogden did mention that if the 5:15 a.m. phone calls for cancellation/delays is too early for your family, that you can call the School Department and they can change the primary phone number to a cell phone for example.

Mr. Cafasso asked how things have been going since the Town took over maintenance of snow removal at the schools. It was noted by Mr. Ogden that he has received several calls regarding the stretch of sidewalk from the Oak Street Elementary School/Horace Mann Middle School to the High School. That stretch of sidewalk has not been plowed before the start of school during the last storms. The Town stated a sidewalk plow was out of service and has since been fixed. In the future, that stretch of sidewalk should be accessible during inclement weather.

b. Enrollment Comparisons Dec 07-08: This item was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

· School Committee Sub-Committee Reports:

o Mrs. Rohrbach mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee, which is comprised of a variety of members, has had two meetings. At their meetings they have created a mission statement and an online survey to get at the core values of their stakeholders.

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

6. New Business:

· Mr. Cafasso mentioned that he was late for this evening's meeting because he attended the Winter Concert at the Horace Mann Middle School. He wanted to mention how impressed he was with the performance and commended the music program.

7. Executive Session:

· Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker