

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

February 10, 2009

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Two students from the Remington Middle School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Armenio, Mr. Cafasso, 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. Kelly 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 January 27, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

· Payment of Bills: Mr. Kelly

Mr. Kelly was not in attendance to discuss the Payment of Bills.

· Payroll:

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

· FHS Student Representatives:

Brittany MacLeod reported that the High School is honoring Black History month, tournaments for the winter sports will be held after February vacation, and Love Fest will be held at the Lecture Hall this Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Pat Slight reported that five smart boards have been installed at the High School and that artwork from past alumni will be on display at the High School Art Gallery for the next month. He also reminded the Committee that the Winter

Carnival will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2009.

· Correspondence:

Budget to Actual: Mr. Roy mentioned that there is a note in the Committee member's packets from Miriam Goodman regarding the Budget to Actual.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Literacy Initiative: Michele Kingsland-Smith, along with other professionals from various Franklin schools, updated the Committee on the Literacy Initiative. The School District believes that literacy is critical to our children's education, and the initiative strives to help students think critically, read strategically, read widely, and communicate effectively. Through professional development and the use of the reader's workshop model, teachers are working together and reaching common ground on this initiative.

b. AP Access: Mr. Light and Mr. Koch spoke to the Committee about increasing student's access to AP programs. AP programs are the most challenging level of curriculum offered and are aligned with a first year college curriculum. Some of the benefits of taking AP courses are more competitive college access, greater success in college, and greater depth of thinking skills. It was noted by Mr. Light that more students than previously thought could benefit from and be successful in these programs.

c. School Improvement Plan – FHS: Mr. Light spoke about the High School's School Improvement Plan. The first goal is to increase the student achievement and participation rate in higher-level courses. The second goal is increased communication with parents/caretakers. The final goal is increased student awareness with lockdown procedures.

3. Discussion Only Items:

· Second Reading – School Based Advertising Content Policy KCDB: There were no changes made to this Policy.

· First Reading – Sub Committee Minutes Policy & Exhibit BEDGG/BEDGG-E: There were no changes made to this Policy.

· First Reading – Acceptable Use Policy & Exhibit GBAB/GBAB-E: Mr. Roy suggested sending this Policy back to the Policy sub-committee for review noting that some language needs to be changed.

· Review District's Vision and Goals that will guide budget reduction decisions: Mr. Ogden read to the Committee the District's visions and goals. Mr. Cafasso added that everyone values everything and thinks every single school line item should be fully funded. Music and PE are just as important as English and Math. Football is just as important as AP classes. Life here in Franklin should be a utopia, especially in the schools, and we should never make hard choices. But just in case we want to do something other than draconian

across-the-board cuts, we might want to take some time to discuss and agree upon some kind of values framework on where to direct the very unfair remaining funds we have.

· FY10 Budget: Mr. Ogden has been meeting with the Town Administrator to tweak the budget as conditions change. As it stands, it is necessary to reduce the level service budget by \$3.3 million. Mr. Ogden is meeting with the entire faculty to talk about this reduction and discuss ideas that the Administration may not have considered. Mrs. Rohrbach mentioned that we are at the point where impossible choices will need to be made when it comes to budget cuts. Mr. Cafasso wondered how we can get a menu of the difficult options we will be facing out to parents and the community. He also feels it is important that people understand there is going to be an effect on their children's education. Mr. Roy suggested the Community Relations sub-committee get together to talk about how to accomplish this.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend action be taken regarding the make-up day for the HM/Oak/ECDC Complex.

This Action Item was tabled until the next meeting.

It was the Committee's understanding that the Administration would pick a day to make-up the missed school day. They did not come back to the Committee with a day, so a few ideas were tossed around. Mr. Roy suggested making the day up on Good Friday; however, that would cost the District more money because they would need to pay the Educational Assistants who are supposed to have a paid holiday on that day, and there is also the cost of bussing. Mr. Cafasso recommends we don't make up the day at all, commenting that our kids are in school more hours than required by State Law. The Committee would like more financial information from the Administration on what this make-up day will cost the District before they make a decision.

2. I recommend moving Policy GBAB/GBAB-E – Acceptable Use & Exhibit, to a second reading.

This Action Item was withdrawn until a future meeting. The Policy is going back to the Policy sub-committee for future review.

3. I recommend approval of the Franklin High School's School Improvement Plan as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Armenio Second: Mr. Cafasso

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

4. I recommend approval of the request of Parmenter Principal, Judi Bassignani to declare the listed books as surplus.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mrs. Armenio pointed out that these books are from the 1980's and material within them is outdated.

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$427.00 from General Mills Box Tops for Education for the Remington Middle School to be used for supplies.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

6. I recommend adoption of Policy KCDB School Based Advertising Content.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

7. I recommend moving Policy BEDGG/BEDGG-E Sub Committee Minutes & Exhibit to a second reading.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. Information Matters:

· Superintendent's Report:

a. Enrollment Comparisons: Mr. Ogden mentioned that the comparisons can be found in the Committee member's packet.

b. Budget Matters: see information on subject matter above.

c. Remington Middle School Leadership: Mrs. Sabolinski acknowledged Mr. Peri's leadership skills at Remington Middle School. At the beginning of the school year he took over as principal of the school and has received amazing accolades from his staff. She was amazed to hear such positive feedback.

· School Committee Sub-Committee Reports:

o Mrs. Trahan mentioned that the Financial Planning Committee met on February 5th and will hold another meeting on February 19, 2009.

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

6. New Business:

· Mrs. Armenio wanted to acknowledge the committee that put on the Alcohol Awareness Program at the High School. She said they put on a fabulous program that was really well attended. She also commented on the Jazz Café that was held on February 4, 2009 saying that it was phenomenal.

· Mr. Cafasso wondered about his previous request regarding the list of improvements that have been made to the High School over the past ten years. Mr. Ogden mentioned that Mr. D'Angelo is working on getting that information together and will have it available at the next meeting.

· Mrs. Trahan wanted to remind everyone that the Trivia Bee will be held on

March 19, 2009.

- Mrs. Rohrbach wanted to recognize Oak Street Elementary for raising over \$500.00 through their "Coins for Caps" fundraiser for the Franklin Veterans Monument Committee. She also mentioned that the Franklin High School's Alumni Art Show opened at the High School this evening. She attended the Art Show and commented on the amazing artwork on display.
- Mrs. Sabolinski mentioned that registration has started for the Summer Programs and that over 400 students have already registered.

7. Executive Session:

- Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker