

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

March 24, 2009

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Attendance: Mrs. Armenio, Mr. Cafasso, 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.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

· Citizens Comments: None

· Review of Agenda: At the end of the meeting it was decided that an Executive Session was necessary.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approve: 7

· Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the March 10, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 6 Abstain: 1

· Payment of Bills: Mr. Kelly

Motion: Mr. Kelly Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 7

· Payroll:

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

· FHS Student Representatives:

Brittany MacLeod reported that the Senior Banquet will be held on Friday, March 27th at the Lake View Pavilion. Also, the musical South Pacific will be performed on April 3rd and April 4th, 7:30 p.m., at the High School. Pat Slight

reported that over the weekend a blood drive was held at the High School. He also reported that Mr. Light held an open house for incoming freshman, which was well attended. On a final note, he mentioned that sophomores will take the ELA portion of the MCAS next week.

· Correspondence:

1. Letter from Mark Tiede & Melissa McCann: Mr. Roy acknowledged this correspondence.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Certificates for Maddie Gordon and Jake Sargeant – ASMS 8th graders honored at MA Make A Difference award program for their volunteer work in Best Buddies: Mr. Roy presented both Maddie and Jake with a plaque for their involvement with the Best Buddies organization. Their principal, Mrs. Witcoff, also noted that on March 1st, both students received the JFK Make a Difference Award.

3. Discussion Only Items:

· Budget to Actual: Mrs. Rohrbach stated that there were no questions forwarded to her from other School Committee members regarding the Budget to Actual monthly report.

· Mike D'Angelo – Capital Project at FHS: Mr. D'Angelo reported that over the past ten years, many improvements have been made to the High School, totaling just under \$6.5 million. About 5 years ago, a feasibility study was done on the building; and it was determined that the building needed a full-scale renovation. Since then, the Town hasn't invested a lot of capital money into the building. Mr. D'Angelo stated that any money spent upgrading systems in the building would disappear in the renovation, so money has been spent wisely in ways where products can be reused. For instance, he noted that windows could be removed prior to demolition and reused. Mrs. Armenio asked Mr. D'Angelo to touch on any cost savings items that have been put into the high school. Mr. D'Angelo mentioned that motion detectors run the lights in the hallways and classrooms. Also, the installation of DDC controls, immediately cut costs by 20%.

· Maureen & Miriam – Strategic Planning Update: The Strategic Plan is a 5-year roadmap that informs educational decision-making in the Franklin Public Schools. The Steering Committee is in the process of developing a survey, which will be given to stakeholders to develop a District Improvement Plan.

· FY10 Budget Information: Mr. Ogden prefaced by noting the complicated nature of trying to reduce the FY10 budget from level service to level funded. As it stands, 60 staff positions will need to be eliminated to get to a level funded budget. On a side note, the unemployment costs for those 60 teachers will be \$1.2 million. This evening, Mr. Roy mentioned that the town will not pick up the cost of unemployment; so now the school will need to factor this information into their budget.

Since 2002 staff and program eliminations have taken place throughout the

District.

The Elementary Schools, Middle Schools and High School presented potential scenarios on what teacher eliminations would look like at their schools. At the elementary level, it may be necessary to eliminate 30 staff. Elimination of 30 staff means larger class sizes, up to 36 kids in one class, which will have a major impact on classroom instruction. Other implications include potential achievement implications (AYP/MCAS), increased demands on special education, space limitations, no librarians, and no grade 5 musical instruments. The reduction of kindergarten from full day to half-day is on the table. The District needs 18 kindergarten teachers to run the full day kindergarten. If they reduce kindergarten to half-day, they can redistribute 9 of those 18 teachers into other grades to help reduce class sizes. It is important to note that the District feels the reduction of kindergarten from full day to half-day would be a giant step backwards. If this becomes the reality, it will result in the loss of kindergarten grant monies and NAEYC Accreditation.

With regards to the middle schools, it may be necessary to eliminate 15 staff, which will increase class sizes to as many as 38 children in 7th and 8th grade classrooms. It was also noted that the middle schools have seen an increase in IEP's, (Individual Education Plan) directly resulting from the reduction of staff and increase in class sizes.

And at the high school, it may be necessary to eliminate 14 positions, which will also increase class sizes.

Mrs. Armenio stated there are no good choices. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Roy read a letter he composed and sent to the Franklin Education Association asking the teachers to freeze their salaries for FY10.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend approval of the recurring field trip to Providence Place Mall for Remington Middle School students as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

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

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$136.67 from Target's Take Charge of Education program for Horace Mann Middle School's in-house enrichment.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$188.30 from Target's Take Charge of Education program for Annie Sullivan Middle School's gift account.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$107.18 from Target's Take Charge of Education program for Remington Middle School's scholarship fund.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$3,600.00 from the Parmenter PCC for the following field trips: Gr. 2 – Stony Brook, Gr. 3 – Plimoth Plantation, Gr. 4 – Museum of Science, and Gr. 5 – Freedom Trail.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

7. I recommend approval of the FHS Girl's Lacrosse Team recurring field trip to Guilford, CT for a Scrimmage and Dinner on April 4-5, 2009.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

8. I recommend preliminary approval of the FHS Track Team's trip to Philadelphia, PA/Mt. Laurel, NJ on April 22-24, 2009 for the Penn Relay track meet if they qualify for the event.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

9. I recommend acceptance of the donation of 50 disposable cameras from CVS for the Davis Thayer 5th grade graduating class.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

· Superintendent's Report:

a. FY10 Budget: see information on subject matter above.

b. Capital Projects at FHS: see information on subject matter above.

c. Strategic Planning: see information on subject matter above.

d. "Education in the Flat World" by Yong Zhao: Mr. Ogden did not discuss this 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: No new information discussed at this time.

7. Executive Session:

Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker