

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

May 12, 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, 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: A citizen inquired about the budget. Mr. Roy explained to her that she could ask her question during the budget discussion later in the meeting; however, she left the meeting before that time.

· Review of Agenda: No additional items

· Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the April 14th, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 6 Abstain: 1

I recommend approval of the minutes from the April 28th, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Rohrbach

Approve: 7

· 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 on May 21st and 22nd, 2009; the seniors will present their senior project presentations. They will also present their presentations to the School Committee at the June 9th, 2009 School Committee Meeting. Finally, on June 3rd, the Athletic Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Pat Slight reported that the junior prom was held on Friday, May 8th. May 27th will be the last day for seniors. Academic Awards night will be held on June 1, 2009 and graduation will be on June 5, 2009.

Kevin Murphy, who was a student representative last year, visited the meeting. He just finished his freshman year at Providence College. He happily reported that Franklin High School more than readied him for college.

· Correspondence:

1. Mr. Roy acknowledged the Budget to Actual from Miriam Goodman and the letter received from Susan Tribe.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Moodle Facilitated Courses:

Pandora Carlucci, Eileen Belastock, Adam Wawrow and Dave Sutherland discussed Moodle Facilitated Courses. Moodle, a course management system, is a free web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites. This summer, several online courses will be available to students entering grades 9-12 using the Moodle application – courses above and beyond what is typically offered at the High School. Mrs. Armenio noted that this is cutting edge in High School; this is mostly seen in college.

Mrs. Armenio and Mrs. Rohrbach asked why we are using Moodle instead of Blackboard, and what the cost difference is. Moodle is much easier to navigate than Blackboard. It is also much less expensive. Blackboard costs about \$8,600 for the basic package. Moodle is free. The only cost is to maintain the server, which Lifelong Learning will pay for. Mr. Ogden noted that he envisions this will become a part of the teachers load in about 2-5 years, at which point it will be supported by the School Department.

3. Discussion Only Items:

· Draft MSBA Report on FHS: Mr. Cafasso noted that the MSBA has some interesting solutions to some of the challenges we have outlined. The report notes the building is well maintained and functional. It offers ideas and solutions to some of the problems. He feels the report takes the middle ground, revising existing, empty spaces to fix issues. We are still awaiting word from the State with regards to potential funding. Mr. Cafasso and Mrs. Mullen both stated they are looking forward to getting together with the Building Committee to get their thoughts on the report. Mr. Ogden added these are interim steps to get us up to speed. Because the building has been so well maintained over the years, there are other schools higher up on the list.

· Staff Reduction in Force (RIF), the Adoption of FY10 Budget for public hearing (May 26, 2009), and User Fees will all be discussed together: Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sabolinski and Mrs. Goodman provided a slide show presentation to the Committee regarding the proposed FY10 budget. Ideally, the School Department would like to have a level service budget, which provides the same services as currently provided. However, they will have a level funded budget, which means cuts will need to be made. Mr. Ogden stated that they have not yet identified everything that will be reduced from level service to get us to level funded. He stated that potentially 42 teaching positions will need to be cut along with extracurricular activities, specials, all librarians, an assistant principal and secretary. He stated that this number can be reduced with additional revenues or more savings - referring to the much talked about salary freeze which could save as many as 16 positions. He said this has been the most fluctuating budget cycle he has encountered and that it will continue to change up until June.

Mr. Roy read a joint statement from the School Committee and the FEA regarding the temporary wage concessions. He stated that significant progress is being made and they are hopeful that it will lead to an agreement. A vote will need to take place; and Mr. Roy hopes to have actions taken and concluded before the May 26, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

As a way to save positions, the School Department is still suggesting half-day kindergarten. Most of the Committee said that they are not supportive of half-day kindergarten.

The High School has proposed a 6 period day, which will help class sizes remain manageable. PE/Health classes will become an elective. The Committee came to a consensus that Mr. Light could move forward with scheduling for a 6 period day vs. a 7 period day. Mr. Cafasso added that this scenario maintains focus on the core focus areas and doesn't add a study hall as previously suggested.

With regards to fees, it was proposed to increase athletic fees, extracurricular fees and pay-to-ride fees over the course of the next three budget seasons. No consensus has been made with regards to a family cap at this point in time.

Mrs. Trahan noted that it is the public's job to educate themselves; it is not only the Committee's responsibility, but also the public's responsibility as well to learn about the budget procedures. Next budget season everything will be on the table again, including half-day kindergarten.

Mr. Steve Sherlock wondered who would be responsible for covering the unemployment costs, the Town or the School. Mr. Roy said that as of right now, it will be the school's responsibility and that it is already worked into the budget.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend approval of the FHS field trip to McCoy Stadium, Pawtucket, RI on (tentatively, based on ticket availability) June 15, 2009 for a Paw Sox game from 5 p.m. to approximately 10:30 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mr. Trahan

Approval: 7

2. I recommend approval of the FPS Music Dept. field trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH on June 12, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

3. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from Exxon Mobil for Franklin High School to be used for academic recognition for seniors.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

4. I recommend moving FY10 Budget amount of \$50,297,820 to public hearing on May 26, 2009.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Trahan

Approval: 7

5. Information Matters:

· Superintendent's Report:

a. Reduction in Force: See information on subject matter above.

b. User Fees: See information on subject matter above.

c. Town/School Expenditure Agreement (Final Draft): Mr. Ogden mentioned that this draft agreement could be found in the Committee's packet. He mentioned that it would not be publicly discussed until the next meeting. The Committee will need to discuss whether to accept or reject this agreement, and determine who will be responsible for signing this agreement on a yearly basis.

d. End of Year Events: Mr. Ogden commented that there are a number of activities planned that can be found in the Committee's packet.

e. Enrollment Comparisons for April 08/09: 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:

· No new information discussed at this time.

7. Executive Session:

· Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker