**SCHOOL COMMITTEE: OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE AND TIME:** March 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:**
- Memorial Building - Blumer Room
- 150 Concord Street, Framingham
- Remote Option via Zoom

**MEETING CALLED BY:** Chair Jessica Barnhill

**PRESENT:**
- Jessica Barnhill
- Adam Freudberg
- David Gordon*
- William LaBarge
- Tiffanie Maskell
- Jennifer Moshe
- Valerie Ottaviani
- Rich Robles
- Judy Styer
- Mayor Charlie Sisitsky

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:**
- Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent
- Lincoln Lynch, Executive Director of Finance and Operations
- Jordan Cohen, Student Advisory Committee Chair
- Joanna Hastry, Executive Assistant for the School Committee

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**Call to Order**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., noted all in attendance, and said that member David Gordon and Mayor Sisitsky will be attending remotely. She said that the meeting is being broadcast live on the Government Channel and stated how to participate in public comment in person and through Zoom. She asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Jeffrey Newcombe, a physical education teacher at Barbieri Elementary School and former Walsh Middle School teacher, who passed away unexpectedly.

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**Public Comment**
Meenakshi Verma-Agrawal said that she is a parent of three children at Framingham Public Schools (FPS) and the co-founder of FFREE (Framingham Families for Racial Equity in Education) and one of their four main pillars on racial equity in education is retention of administrators and staff of color. She said that the District is losing leaders and teachers of color at an alarming rate and staff who have left the District said it was a hostile environment that uses stereotypes to push out people of color once they speak about injustices they have observed. She asked the School Committee to investigate the concerns, hold a private audience about the concerns and hear from the employees of color themselves, ask Human Resources and Dr. Tremblay to set specific benchmarks for their strategies to recruit and retain staff and leadership of color and make it accountable to report to the School Committee on an annual basis, and to do the work to talk to constituents and employees who are feeling this harm and discuss the importance of representation.

Jennifer Israeloff said that she is a teacher at Stapleton and wants to speak to the transportation problem, specifically the current busing issue that leaves many students without transportation and those who do receive it are often on buses that are late to school or to drop off students at home. She said that when students are late they are missing instructional time, often have to get cold breakfast and unpack, eat, and follow along on lessons while everyone else has had more of a timely and relaxed transition into school which can make students feel dysregulated and anxious from the moment they arrive. She said that there is an equity issue as many students who are late are traveling from the southside to northside and not all families are able to provide an alternative mode of transportation. She urged the committee and District to consider the proposal to bring transportation back in house as a way to improve students experiences and have more direct control over drivers and routes.

Bianca Blackman said that she is from District 8, her children went through FPS, and is a member of FFREE. She said that teachers of color are leaving the District and while Dr. Pope gave information on who has been hired, he did not answer the question on who stayed since being hired, and why staff are leaving. She said that since 2018 FFREE has been speaking with FPS and walking with them on this antiracist, diversity, and equity journey, but no one has yet addressed the environment. She read quotes from FPS students on the school environment and their experiences, what they think about teachers of color who do not stay, if they would like to teach at FPS to change that, and when they have a family if they want them to go to school here.

Corrin Glover said that she is still a resident of Framingham, but left working at FPS after 7 years, and removed her son from FPS schools due to the systemic racism in FPS. She spoke to a few of her outstanding concerns including the almost nonexistent rate of promotion of staff of color, constant and consistent act of asking employees of color to handle and complete work or refusing to compensate or promote them for the work, apparent lack of staff of color in administration roles, upper management, or the Superintendent's cabinet, fear that staff of color have in speaking up about treatment they face due to being retaliated against or being outcast, and the presumption that the people of color are being dishonest, exaggerating, or lying when bringing concerns to Human Resources which is opposite of white counterparts experiences. She said that the treatment of students and employees of color in this District
does not seem to be addressed and asked at what point it will be held accountable for the failures to staff and children of color that it is tasked to serve.

Zeynep Gonen said that she is a teacher at Framingham State, a parent of a child at FPS, and an immigrant and would like to speak about the recruitment and retention of teachers and staff of color. She said that she appreciates living in an environment with diversity, but that doesn't mean it is a supportive and inclusive environment and it is necessary to have direct initiatives and efforts to eliminate systemic issues that are being faced by people of color both in the City and school system. She spoke to the importance of representation in schools and said that if teachers and staff of color are not being respected and valued it is not only important for retention but also for the experience of students. She asked for an inspection into understanding why this exodus is happening and to create solutions for that.

The Chair said that an email was also received for public comment which will be shared with all members, but the committee does not read emails that are sent in during the public comment portion.

**Announcements from the Chair**
The Chair congratulated SAC Chair Jordan Cohen for being selected as a member of the Executive Committee Inaugural Class of Governor Healey's Youth Advisory Council.

**Mayor’s Update**
Mayor Sisitsky said that there was a Community Center Advisory Committee meeting today that met at the former Marian High School to start making plans to reuse the building. He noted that the District was represented by School Committee member Valerie Ottaviani (who is also a member of the Community Center Advisory Committee), and the Directors of Athletics and Fine and Performing Arts.

**Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)**
SAC Chair Jordan Cohen and members William Jjuko, Scarlett Creedon, Deborah Da Vitoria, and Angeliki Kayas shared a presentation on school safety at Framingham High School (FHS) which included student survey procedures, student population responses data, the questions asked and student answers in the survey regarding safety. They reported that the conclusions from the survey answers were that 1003 students responded to the survey, students feel very unsafe in the bathrooms and in the crowded hallways, about half of students don’t have a trusted adult in the building they can talk to about their safety in school, students need more communication on the steps taken to ensure their safety in school especially on how the school addresses and prevents bullying, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity are playing a role in one’s feeling towards their safety in school, many students expressed they did not answer the survey because while they do feel somewhat unsafe, they do not want any stricter policies than those already enforced, and while the percentage of students who feel very unsafe is low, each student who feels this way is too many. Executive Director of Student Supports Courtney Balacco and Director of Safety and Security Scott Penrod continued the presentation focused on the Departments of Health and Wellness’ and Safety and Security’s current initiatives and next steps for students’ sense of safety in public spaces, the need for trusted adults and school connections, bullying
prevention and intervention, safety concerns and student identity, and other safety related efforts.

Ms. Styer spoke to the importance of having a trusted adult and feeling safe as key pieces for students’ sense of belonging and academic progress and her concerns that only half of the students who responded to the survey said that they have a trusted adult in school. She asked if it’s possible to pull out demographic data (gender, race, ethnicity) on students who reported feeling unsafe. Mr. Cohen said that they kept the responses unanimous and did not ask for that information, but he will be working with administration and going to the high school's affinity clubs to get their opinions on safety. Ms. Styer suggested comparing this survey against the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey and asked where the high school is in regards to implementation of professional development for implementation of consequences and interventions and the Code of Character, Conduct, and Support (Code), and if the belonging survey has already been administered. Ms. Balacco said that the belonging survey has not been administered yet, but should be shortly, and they plan to have it administered twice annually at the middle schools and high school. She said that they are in year three of the roll out for the Code and have completed some training, but they have seen some inconsistencies with implementation of consequences across the District so they have been meeting with each individual high school house (social workers, counselors, house administration, and principals) to look at data regarding referrals, which ones are paired with interventions that are in line with the Code, and looking at areas of improvement and the next step is to refine the matrix and retrain administrators. FHS Interim Principal Mark Albright said that Engaging Schools was at the high school to help develop more consistency in regards to interventions and also met with each house to observe to see what is working with the implementation of the Code and will be giving feedback.

Ms. Styer asked what the timeline is for the next steps for the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), if there is a concerted effort to educate the students on who the safety monitors are and what their role is, and if the safety monitors and Student Resource Officers (SROs) receive training on adolescent development, de-escalation, trauma, and other mental health challenges. Ms. Balacco said that they have started the process to ensure that safety monitors are being trained in Safety Care, de-escalation, and to be trauma informed. Mr. Penrod said that the SROs go through a specialized training and can report back on the specifics. Ms. Moshe asked for more details about Safety Care training and if it is different depending on the staff roles, confirmed that the Code starts at the elementary level so students know throughout the years what is expected, and if there has been hands on training on how to use the straps and door pegs that were given to all classrooms. Ms. Balacco said that Safety Care training is to help avoid putting hands on and to de-escalate a student as well as how to move a student out of a space or physically restrain a student if they are an imminent danger to themselves or others. She said that within the classroom training may focus on how to help a student before a situation escalates or when to call for support for staff who are more trained in situations. Mr. Penrod said that he has provided hands-on training for any classroom who has requested it and they also offer videos with many different scenarios on how to use the door pegs and straps.
Mr. Robles asked if students are aware of all the current initiatives and things being put in place to help with their sense of safety and so they know the District is taking it seriously. Mr. Albright said that they are working on being more transparent and better with communication to start building trust with parents and the community, including with positive incidents and what they are doing to try and make the school safer. Mr. Freudberg said that the issues of bathroom safety is a theme that comes up every time this survey is done in the high school and asked about the rollout plan and training for staff on vaping detectors and E-Hall Pass. Dr. Tremblay said that E-Hall Pass is successfully used in the middle school, but is more difficult to roll out in the high school due to the size, but it is a priority to do so there in order to help regulate any opportunities for negative interactions by keeping track of where students are. He said that he sees vaping as a health and addiction crisis, that other districts have reported that the detectors are often torn off and creates more damage, and he would rather be proactive with a mental health approach. Mr. Albright said that the survey was sent to students prior to the new protocol with campus aides and safety monitors directly sitting outside every bathroom and monitoring and they have seen a decrease of students in hallways and bathrooms since implementing this. Mr. Freudberg encouraged the District to pilot the detectors and asked for more specificity on timing for E-Hall Pass in the high school. Ms. Maskell said that she appreciates that the SAC is seeking out students who may not respond to surveys through other forms of communication and spoke to the benefits of cameras in the school being able to see where students are and how E-Hall Pass should help as well. Mr. Cohen suggested communicating the E-Hall Pass implementation to students as a benefit over a detriment in order for it to be better received.

Superintendent’s Update
Announcements
Dr. Tremblay said that the METG (Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild) High School Drama Festival State Finals start tomorrow at FHS and the finalists go on to Boston.

Student Success: Eagle Scout Project & Donation
Dr. Tremblay introduced student and aspiring Eagle Scout Josh Laird who reached out to him about his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Laird spoke to his project that included collecting children books, PreK-12, to be donated to the FPS Wrap Around Office from multiple places, sorting them into age groups, and scanning them into a database so recipients have a list of books that they received including authors’ ISBN and age ranges. He said that he had hoped to collect 750-1,000 books, but ended up collecting over 3,000.

Motion: To accept the donation (book collection).
Moved: Ms. Maskell Seconded: Ms. Moshe
Discussion: Mr. Gordon commended him for coming out and speaking in front of a large audience and the School Committee and for the electronic conversion for books as it is a big lift.
Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (9-0-0)
(Yes: Robles, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Public Hearing and Vote on Massachusetts Inter-District School Choice Program (Policy JFBB)
Dr. Tremblay said that per Policy JFBB every year the School Committee need to vote to participate or not in the Commonwealth’s School Choice for students which would be for
students from other communities to attend at FPS. He said that he would not recommend participating in this due to lack of classroom space which has been his recommendation in the past as well. The Chair opened up the public hearing. There were no participants.

**Motion:** To approve the Superintendent's recommendation to not participate in the State’s School Choice Program.

**Moved:** Ms. Ottaviani  
**Seconded:** Ms. Moshe  
**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)  
(Yes: Robles, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

**Superintendent’s FY25 Budget Recommendations Presentation**

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch shared the Budget Hearing presentation that included a trend analysis for the School Department budget, overview of the proposed FY24 and FY25 budget, data on state aid, local contribution, and enrollment, 2025 budget drivers, and next steps. The current proposed budget summary showed a 6.87% increase from FY24, which is an increase of $11,323,640 for a total amount of $176,117,222. He said that they plan to meet with the Mayor and his team next week and hopefully get a number to work towards that the City will be able to approve. He said that he is projecting that there may need to be significant cuts to the current proposed budget due to city revenues.

**Public Hearing on the FY25 Budget Proposal**

Chair opened up for public hearing.

Amy Chesin said that she is a Speech and Language Pathologist at Walsh and Student Support Chair for the department here to speak about the urgent need for funding for at least one additional speech position. She said that with current staffing levels group sizes are large and sometimes vastly different skills are paired together which leads to fewer opportunities for students to practice and slower growth. She said that without the foundation of adequate understanding of spoken language and efficient ability to communicate ideas academic and social emotional skills are at great risk. She spoke to the increase in needs since the pandemic, how workloads have increased but staffing has not, and high work loads have led to difficulty recruiting new candidates and retaining staff.

Ariane Macavoy said that she has worked in the Occupational Therapy department at FPS since 2005 and during that time has seen an increase in work loads, programs that have gotten bigger, changes in the department, and the impact of those trends. She said that the numbers continue to increase in addition to the high level of needs and this requires more therapeutic time and consultative services to give the quality care and education students deserve. She said that she is advocating for an additional full time Occupational Therapy position.

Sarah McKeon said that she is a first grade teacher at Dunning. She said that although the classrooms have door straps there are no anchors, they have door stoppers, but they don't stick, and they still don’t have WiFi. She said that she is here to implore for fair funding of departments and schools so teachers can do the work well and meet the needs of students. She said that there are not enough supplies, support, or time. She said to listen to teachers as they know what is needed to maintain our great district and put money where it should be, towards schools and kids.
Robert Bolles said that he worked in schools for over 30 years. He said that the budget is mostly salaries and the schools need to control the spending and figure out how to get more done with less money.

Herb Chasan urged the committee to pass the current proposed budget without any cuts and said that the City has more than enough money to fund the budget as is. He spoke about the needs in schools including support for kids and more counseling, well paid teachers and substitute teachers, in house bussing to be able to pay bus drivers a decent wage with benefits to attract more drivers, and the vital PreK program. He said that the City can afford this because since 2013 Framingham has set the tax levy below 2.5% which means the City has available unused tax potential since then.

Samantha Snyder said that she is a math teacher at Cameron and is here to speak about the proposed budget and impact on the potential contract for teachers. She said that the budget does not seem to be balanced as the proposed funding for Harmony Grove has decreased by 18% while the Superintendent’s Office has increased by 16%. She asked why student facing expenses are decreasing drastically while non facing ones are increasing and that this does not seem to reflect Central Office efficiencies that the City Council has asked for. She said that priorities need to change, the District needs to rethink the budget to have a successful contract negotiation with Framingham educators, and offer a competitive contract to keep its highly qualified teachers from leaving.

Roberto Calvo said that he is from District 1 and would like to know if there is any consideration or plans for funding free PreK for three year olds at BLOCKS.

**Discussion on the FY25 Budget Proposal**

Mr. Freudberg suggested at the meeting next week with the Mayor for administration to advocate for a review of the memo that was provided at the joint subcommittee meeting and use more free cash in the budget without hurting the Moody’s bond rating, which is typical for communities when Chapter 70 is low without hitting 2% of the overall budget. He asked what ideas the District has to reduce the overall budget request as there are a lot of expense and non-student-facing items that could be reduced. He suggested looking at if other districts are taking a risk in assuming that there will be state aid next year for the homeless transportation costs for asylum seekers, reducing expenses in central office that have been mentioned before, if there are any risks that could be taken to reduce the increase from the Operational Service Division on private schools and for collaboratives, and if there are any revolving account balances or remaining federal money that can be used, such as American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and remove some items from the operating budget.

Dr. Tremblay asked to respond to some of the public comment including that the District does not plan to have free PreK for three years olds, apart from students with IEPs, but it will be free for all four year olds and the two positions mentioned for Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Pathology are included in the budget proposal and would not be proposed reductions. He said that in regards to the transportation reimbursement from the state for asylum seekers there is no guarantee that it will continue beyond this fiscal year and
information will not be known about that until after the budget needs to be passed. He said that the Central Office only takes up 2.7% of the total budget and they are proposing to reduce expenses on the operation side by $1.1 million. Mr. Lynch said that the budget was already reduced by $3.4 million at the March 6th meeting, but to further reduce it his recommendations would be to reduce the Central Office budget by $1.1 million and to level fund expenses for all departments, to not include schools, Special Education, and transportation. He said that this would bring the budget request down to an increase of 5.74% for a total of $9,463,339, and it is likely there may have to be further discussions and review of this proposed budget based on the City’s revenue presentation. Ms. Ottaviani asked what his further recommendations would be if the budget needs to be reduced further. Mr. Lynch said that the next step would be to look at the bus contract to see if reductions could be made since there has not been the full contracted amount of 77 drivers, but there are legal implications he would need to review with the City Solicitor before formally recommending that, and could look further into reducing expenses to avoid having to further reduce any staff. Ms. Moshe confirmed that the reductions do not affect any student facing support service. Mr. Freudberg asked if it is known the amount of ARPA funds the District may receive. Mr. Lynch said that it could possibly be $300,000 and at a future meeting can review what has been spent so far, what the balance is, and if there are any possibilities of using remaining funds to offset the operating budget.

**Motion:** To support the recommendations to change the budget request (reducing the Central Office budget by $1.1 million and level funding expenses for all departments, to not include schools, Special Education, and transportation).

**Moved:** Ms. Maskell  
**Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani  
**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)  
(Yes: Robles, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

*Mr. Gordon left the meeting briefly from approximately 9:14 p.m. until 9:34 p.m.*

**School Committee Department Budget**

The Chair said that the Finance Subcommittee met on March 19, 2024 and reviewed items within the School Committee Department Budget for FY25 including lowering the expenses based on the School Committee vote for all departments to do so and reviewing the Executive Assistant’s salary and job description with the addition of attending subcommittee meetings. The draft narrative for the School Committee Department budget was included in packets and the following motions were unanimously approved: **Motion:** To decrease the office supply line by $50 and the consultant line item by $2,000 for the FY25 School Committee Department budget. For FY25 for the School Committee’s Executive Assistant the subcommittee recommends to the full committee to update the job description to include working at School Committee subcommittee meetings (not inclusive of Unit Bargaining subcommittees) and increasing the salary to correspond based on the recommended hourly rate in the memo of $38.09 and to use funds from the remaining consultant line from FY24 for retroactive pay to the Executive Assistant for work in subcommittee meetings. There were no proposed edits to the draft narrative for the School Committee Department budget.

**Motion:** To decrease the office supply line by $50 and the consultant line item by $2,000 for the FY25 School Committee Department budget.

**Moved:** Ms. Moshe  
**Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani  
**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)
(Yes: Robles, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

**Motion:** To accept the Finance Subcommittee’s recommendation to update the job description for the School Committee’s Executive Assistant to include working at School Committee subcommittee meetings (not inclusive of Unit Bargaining subcommittees) and increasing the salary to correspond based on the recommended hourly rate in the memo of $38.09.

**Moved:** Ms. Moshe    **Seconded:** Ms. Maskell    **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)
(Yes: Robles, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

**Motion:** To use funds from the remaining consultant line from FY24 for retroactive pay to the Executive Assistant for work in subcommittee meetings.

**Moved:** Ms. Moshe    **Seconded:** Ms. Maskell    **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)
(Yes: Robles, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

**Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update**
**FY24 Operating and Capital Budgets**
Mr. Lynch said that the FY24 YTD shows 68.13% spent. He said that they continue to track expenses, specifically Special Ed tuition and transportation costs as some have come in much higher than budgeted for. He said that he may need to request to use the City’s Special Education Stabilization Fund, that is to solely be used for funds that have exceeded the budget, which would require a School Committee and then City Council vote. He said that for capital projects they are still in the bid planning process for all projects including roof repairs and design, exterior envelope design, fire alarm replacement, and paving and stormwater, the King front entrance project is almost complete, and asbestos abatement is ongoing.

**Transportation Update: NRT Status and Continued Discussion on In-House**
Mr. Lynch said that the transportation report was included in packets which shows what buses have been late, the amount of time they are late, and broken down by bus number, date, and school. He said that the driver count has stayed at 57, the Edulog tracking system for parents was down for one day, and there were 49 requested athletic trips with 36 NRT accommodated for, and 13 that staff used the Flyer vans for.

**Vote on 2024-2025 Transportation**
Mr. Lynch spoke to having gone out to bid many times for buses and putting together the memo in packets with the different transportation options for the 2024-2025 school year. He went over the options which included staying with the current Vendor, NRT Bus for year 2 of 3 of the contract with 77 NRT drivers and 77 NRT buses, to stay with the current Vendor, NRT Bus with a new 5-year contract with 77 NRT drivers and 77 NRT buses, to move to In-House busing with 65 FPS drivers at $34 per hour and lease NRT buses at $160 per day, to move to In-House busing with 65 FPS drivers at $34 per hour and lease NE Transit buses at $154/$178/$144/$183 per day, or to move to In-House busing with 62 FPS drivers at $34 per hour & lease NRT buses at $160 per day, with the same budget line funding NRT contract obligations until the in-house shift is ready. FPS will post driver positions, and begin recruiting to seek a guaranteed driver count before in-house would begin. No shift from NRT to in-house would begin until a guaranteed minimum of 58 licensed drivers are committed, with the budgeted number
for 62, a +5 driver count increase from 2023-24 school year.

Mr. Robles asked for option 3 and 4 with moving to in house bussing what the likelihood is of hiring 60 plus drivers. Mr. Lynch said that there is likely zero chance of guaranteeing 65 in house drivers for the start of next school year. Ms. Moshe said that she thinks an in house busing option would be the best, but probably not until the 2025-2026 school year in order to make sure it is done correctly and at 100 percent of where we need to be. Ms. Ottaviani said that any increase in drivers would be better than what NRT is currently giving and asked for the District’s recommendation from the choices presented. Mr. Lynch said that he would recommend the last option presented to bring in house once there are a guaranteed number of drivers with the goal to do so in 2025. He noted that the reduction within that option could also potentially help with the FY25 budget gap. Mr. Freudberg said that the District and committee has been speaking about this for a long time and has done due diligence in looking at this problem through an independent audit, detailed fiscal review with many different scenarios, different bid requests to try and get a new vendor, three Breach of Contract letters to NRT, and requests from the District and committee to meet with them. He said that the vendor model is not the right model for Framingham and in house busing would add local control and ability to support drivers with a wage we set and to stand out as a destination for staff. He said that the next step would be an implementation plan from the District and to continue to work as a team effort with City partners. Ms. Maskell said that she doesn’t want to miss this opportunity by striving for perfection, the decision needs to be made today, and kids need to get to school on time.

**Motion:** To continue with NRT the next school year with expectation of coming in house for transportation for July 1, 2025.

**Moved:** Ms. Moshe    **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge

**Discussion:** Mr. LaBarge said that he supports this as it would be a disaster if we had even less bus drivers to start the next school year and this allows time to prepare.

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

(Yes: Robles, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Mr. Freudberg said that now the District can really start the implementation plan and reduce the budget request for transportation for FY25, but also hold NRT accountable for the contractual obligation. Discussion occurred on the length of time it takes for someone to obtain their CDL license, with an estimate of 8-10 weeks. Mr. Robles said that the District has just over a year to think about a recruitment campaign, seek out organizations that may be able to help, and have a strategic plan in place.

**Vote on the Updated ACCEPT Collaborative Agreement Proposed Changes**

The Chair said that ACCEPT has requested approval from participating districts of the changes in the collaborative agreement and they need to get the approval documents to the Commissioner’s office for signature in early April for Westborough Public Schools to be considered for membership on July 1st.

**Motion:** To approve ACCEPT Collaborative Agreement with proposed changes.

**Moved:** Ms. Maskell    **Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani

**Discussion:** Mr. Robles asked if the District is in agreement with these changes. The Chair said that she sees no reason to object.
**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)
(Yes: Robles, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

**Subcommittee Reports**
Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed for a total of $4,422,869.76 and a payroll total of $5,549,087.80 on the dates of March 4th and 11th.

Ms. Moshe, as the Policy Subcommittee Chair, said that Policies IJOA: Field Trips, IJOA-R-1: Standard Field Trip Regulations, IJOA-R-2/JJH-R: Student Travel Regulations Including Overnight and Out of State Travel, IJOA-R-3: Field Trip Emergency Forms, JJH: Student Travel, JJH-R: Student Travel Regulations Including Overnight and Out of State Travel, and JJE: Student Fund-Raising Activities are being referred to the Policy Subcommittee to be discussed at the meeting on March 27th.

**Approval of Minutes, Gifts, and Field Trips**

**Motion:** To accept gifts for BLOCKS, Hemenway, McCarthy, High School, Athletics, Superintendent, Dunning, Walsh, and Fuller. Items include drinks and lunch for FTA PD Day, pies for staff, Gaga ball pit, posterbards, glue sticks, contributions for field trips, costs for travel to a championship, books, donations to Class of 2024, soccer nets, copies of US Constitution, gift cards to support families, and end of year activities.

**Moved:** Mr. Robles  **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge

**Discussion:** Ms. Maskell said that while she appreciated the PTOs donations, there is an equity issue if all schools are not getting the same items, such as only one elementary school getting a GaGa ball pit. Ms. Moshe asked why materials such as poster board and glue sticks would not be considered to be materials for education and not items that should be donated. Mr. Lynch said that the goal of the District is to provide all classroom supplies for staff, but the PTO wanted to donate extra, and if the committee wishes donations can be denied. Mr. Freudberg said that he doesn’t think any donations need to be rejected, but this is a reminder that for this new process there is a next step for an annual report that may show where inequities are, such as with field trips. Ms. Ottaviani spoke to some PTOs having more parent support than others and unsure how to be able to help the PTOs without as many volunteers or donations. Dr. Tremblay said he has been engaging in these conversations with PTO leadership since he started, it is better than it used to be and he would like all 9 schools to be equally desirable, but the District and committee does not have any financial oversight of PTOs and need to be cautious about trying to micromanage.

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)
(Yes: Robles, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

**Motion:** To accept the last two donations on the memo for Fuller including gift baskets.

**Moved:** Ms. Maskell  **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge  **Roll Call Vote:** 8-0-1
(Yes: Robles, Gordon, Freudberg, Styer, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge. Abstained: Moshe)

**Motion:** To approve the Open Session Minutes of February 7, 2024.

**Moved:** Mr. LaBarge  **Seconded:** Ms. Moshe  **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)
Additional Public Comment
Gerry Bloomfield said that it is a hard time for many people for different reasons. He said that sometimes you need to accept a situation and reduce what is being asked for and spoke to items that have affected affordability for the people of Framingham including governmental decisions.

Adjournment
Motion: To adjourn.
Moved: Mr. LaBarge Seconded: Ms. Moshe Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (9-0-0)
Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Meeting Materials
Agenda
Student Advisory Committee Presentation: School Safety at FHS
Eagle Scout Project & Donation Memo
Massachusetts Inter-District School Choice Program (Policy JFBB) Memo
Draft FY25 Budget Book
School Committee Department Budget Narrative Draft
Updated FY25 SC Department Budget Memo
Finance and Operations Subcommittee Updates Memo
School Committee Executive Assistant Memo
FY24 YTD
FPS Transportation Update
2024-2025 Transportation Options Memo
ACCEPT Collaborative Agreement Proposed Changes
Warrants
Gifts Memo
Draft February 7, 2024 Minutes

These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee in Open Session on May 1, 2024.
These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on May 2, 2024.