

1 **FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
2 **Desmarais Room – King Administration Building – February 24, 2015**

3
4 **Present**

5 Beverly Hugo, Chair
6 Dr. Eric Silverman, Vice Chair
7 Heather Connolly, Clerk
8 Michelle Brosnahan
9 Jim Stockless
10 Don Taggart, III

11
12 **Absent**

13 Andy Limeri
14

15 **Also Present**

16 Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent
17 Jordan Cline, FHS Student Representative
18 Will Cook, FHS English Department Head
19 Kate Giffune, FHS English Teacher, Co-coordinator of FHS Writing Center
20 Brian Menna, FHS English Teacher, Co-coordinator of FHS Writing Center
21 Melissa Parish, FHS Senior
22 Frank Rothwell, Brophy Elementary School Principal
23 Sara Cummins, Brophy Elementary School Assistant Principal
24 Ellie Cowen, Math Coach
25 Kim Taylor, Dunning Elementary School Principal
26 Michele Schecter, Dunning Elementary School Assistant Principal
27 Sally Breckenridge, Literacy Coach
28 Matthew Hanlon, McCarthy Elementary School Principal
29 Jean Nolan, McCarthy Elementary School Vice-Principal
30 Dr. Ed Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer
31 Tricia Simeone, Administrative Assistant
32

33 **AGENDA**

- 34 I. Meeting with the Public
35 II. Student Highlights and Recognitions
36 III. Framingham High School – Student Advisory Committee
37 IV. Program Recognition
38 V. School Improvement Plans
39 1. Brophy Elementary School
40 2. Dunning Elementary School
41 3. McCarthy Elementary School
42 VI. Action Item
43 A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers – Second Quarter
44 VII. Discussion Item
45 A. FY16 Budget
46 B. Advocacy Efforts on Capitol Hill
47 VIII. Superintendent’s Report

- 48 IX. Approval of Minutes
49 A. January 6, 2015 – Open Session
50 B. January 20, 2015 – Executive and Open Session
51 X. Report of Committees
52 A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri
53 B. Buildings & Grounds/Capital Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Connolly
54 C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo
55 D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo
56 E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo
57 F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman
58 G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly
59 H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri
60 I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly
61 J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless
62 K. Communications and Public Relations Task Force – Mr. Stockless
63 XI. Member Reports
64 XII. Bills and Payroll
65 XIII. Adjournment
66
-

67
68 **ACTION**

69 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Beverly Hugo convened the School
70 Committee with six members present. Mr. Limeri was unable to attend due to a prior work
71 commitment. The Chair announced that the meeting would be recorded and broadcast live
72 with assistance from the School Committee’s FHS-TV Producers and from the Framingham
73 Public Access Channel. She noted that the previous SC meeting of February 10, 2015 was
74 cancelled due to a snow emergency. The Chair said that earlier this evening the SC met in
75 executive session and a Level IV Grievance was postponed to next week. Ms. Hugo reviewed
76 the items on the agenda for this evening.
77

78 **I. MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC**

79 Chair Beverly Hugo noted that the first 15 minutes of every regularly scheduled meeting are
80 reserved for members of the public who want to comment on a topic within the School
81 Committee’s purview. Ms. Hugo noted that a list of rules is at the podium and stated that
82 person attacks are not allowed. Ms. Hugo said the SC takes all comments under advisement.
83

84 Mr. Gerry Bloomfield, Town Resident of 44 years, was present to discuss the school system.
85 Mr. Bloomfield discussed how the Town is receiving budget cuts but the school department is
86 still accommodating Mass Bay Community College. Mr. Bloomfield said no one is to blame for
87 the denied replacement project but it is something the Town is dealing with. Mr. Bloomfield
88 mentioned the Fuller project and rumors he has heard around Town in regards to the rebuilding
89 project and accommodating the Mass Bay lease rate. Mr. Bloomfield said that with the recent
90 heavy snowfall, there are concerns about the snow load on buildings. Mr. Bloomfield said that
91 he obtained the capital budget programs for the Town and said there was a mention of money
92 being funded for Farley but not Fuller.
93

94 **II. STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOGNITION**

95 Ms. Hugo said Jake O'Brien, from the High School Wrestling Team came in first place at the
96 state meet. The Flyers Swim Team and Alpine Ski Club did well at their recent meets.
97 Framingham High School advanced to the quarterfinals for the High School Quiz show. The
98 drama club is in an upcoming competition. Ms. Hugo also noted the Boston Globe Scholastic
99 Art awards and asked that teachers submit a list of names for a future meeting.

100

101 **III. FRAMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL – STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

102 The School Committee schedules five meetings a year with the FHS Student Advisory
103 Committee. Students reported on a variety of Framingham High School events and activities of
104 interest.

105

106 Jordan Cline, FHS Student Representative, said the High School is selling candy for \$1.00 apiece,
107 as part of a fundraiser. The seniors are in crunch time for prom. The juniors' cotillion is coming
108 up, and the sophomores are planning for their Spring Fling which will include an ice cream bar.
109 The freshmen are finishing their year and had strong shirt sales. Mr. Cline noted that the
110 Student Government sold a lot of coffee at the PD day a few weeks ago. To add to student
111 highlights, Mr. Cline mentioned that the Framingham Track team was recognized at All States.
112 The boys' team was scrapped but did qualify for All States. The girls 4X200 team was able to
113 participate.

114

115 **IV. PROGRAM RECOGNITION**

116 The Writing Center re-opened at Framingham High School at the beginning of the school year.
117 Mr. Will Cook, FHS English Department Head and several teachers were present to share an
118 update on the Writing Centers' activities.

119

120 Mr. Will Cook introduced English teachers Kate Giffune and Brian Menna as the co-coordinators
121 of the Framingham Writing Center, and HS senior Melissa Parish. In adding to the student
122 highlights, Mr. Cook recognized sophomore Eli Bonder for making it to the State semifinals of
123 the Poetry Out-Loud Competition which will take place this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the
124 Masonic Tempe Association in Framingham. Mr. Cook said Mr. Bonder will compete against 20
125 other high schools. The winners of the four semi-finals, which are being held throughout the
126 state, will go on to the State finals in Boston.

127

128 Mr. Cook said that at a recent PD, Ms. Giffune and Mr. Menna ran two workshops for teachers
129 about the writing center and over fifty teachers attended. Mr. Cook said there were four
130 crucial factors that went into the reopening the writing center; a position allocated for an
131 additional English teacher position, converting the computer lab into the center, the slight dip
132 in student enrollment, and the cut back of co-teaching (except for co-inclusion) and reduced
133 electives. Mr. Cook said the writing center is well worth it, and thanked Dr. Diaz and Dr. Scott
134 for their assistance in purchasing furniture.

135

136 Ms. Giffune said the writing center is open all day and they offer opportunities for students to
137 attend that do not have a study period, i.e. during lunch. The writing center is open for 30
138 minutes after school when teachers volunteer their time. The center consists of some tables
139 for students to work quietly or to work together for peer editing/revision. Ms. Giffune noted

140 that most importantly, the writing center allows for 1-on-1 conference at any step in the writing
141 process.

142
143 Mr. Cook said there are seven goals of the writing center: to help implement the common core
144 curriculum, reinstate individual conferences, raise FHS from a Level III to Level I school,
145 facilitate the STEAM initiative, support ESL moving to mainstream, assist with the college essay
146 process, and the development of online writing portfolios.

147
148 Mr. Menna said the transition into Google Apps and the creation of a tracking form has helped
149 them track a student's time spent in the writing center and the reason why they attended the
150 center. There were 484 forms in term 1 and 1113 in term 2. There was a rise in the number of
151 visits in November, December and January due to College essays and the popularity of the
152 writing center. The class frequency is primarily for English and History, with "other" being used
153 as the category for college essay assistance. Mr. Menna said they hope the tracking chart will
154 be more equitable between all subjects. They ask students to identify what issues they have
155 with writing and to not just say they need help with the entire process. Mr. Cook added that
156 the Google forms will help with updating teaching instruction in the future.

157
158 Melissa Parish, Student at FHS, said she visits the writing center up to three times a week. It
159 has helped her through tough essays and the college process. She noted that the College and
160 Career Center has one teacher while the writing center always has three to four. Ms. Parish
161 said that she always has access to a Chrome book in the writing center but they are not
162 guaranteed in the Library. She said the writing center is less distracting and is a good
163 environment to do her work.

164
165 Ms. Hugo thanked the English Teachers for the presentation and the important work they do.
166 Mr. Taggart said the writing center is vital for college essay preparations and the word will
167 spread quickly. Mr. Taggart congratulated the teachers for their work. Dr. Scott said he is
168 proud of the work and said the writing center is a great engine for both writing and creativity.

169
170 **V. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS**
171 Under the Education Reform act, all public schools are required to develop school improvement
172 plans. The plans must be developed and approved by their School Council. The School Council
173 is comprised of staff members, parents and community representatives.

174
175 Tonight, the School Committee heard a review of the School Improvement Plans for three
176 schools. Each school was allotted 20 minutes for its presentation and 10 minutes for questions
177 from the School Committee.

178
179 **1. Brophy Elementary School**
180 Mr. Frank Rothwell, Principal, Ms. Sara Cummins, Assistant Principal, and Ellie Cowen, Math
181 Coach, were present to speak.

182
183 Mr. Rothwell said this is his fifth year at Brophy. In previous years, they have strategically
184 implemented things for the changing needs of their student body. Mr. Rothwell said curriculum
185 and instruction are their primary focus. In 2003, there were significant changes in the schools
186 demographics as the primarily bi-lingual Juniper Hill School closed. Since 2007, they have seen

187 a steady increase of high needs students. The challenge is to improve the educational
188 experience of the students in the sub-groups while maintaining a rich educational experience.
189 Several programmatic, structural, and instructional changes include; SEI, literacy and math
190 instruction, readers' workshop, math curriculum, building based PD, and positive behavioral
191 interventions and supports (PBIS). Mr. Rothwell said there are weekly meetings for teachers
192 and students. Ms. Rothwell thanked Ms. Cummins for her hard work with organizing PD. Mr.
193 Rothwell said they have seen tremendous ELA growth by subgroup and within the district, by
194 several measures. Mr. Rothwell explained that "Growth + Time = Achievement" and he
195 discussed their achievement in relation to 2012, when the state put in a lot of changes.

196

197 Mr. Rothwell identified Math as a problem and said it needs to increase for non-needs
198 students, as it has flattened. He also mentioned that the proficiency gap is narrowing for ELA
199 and math. Mr. Rothwell said science has improved across the board. With math as a goal this
200 year, they hope to see growth for all students in grades 4 and 5 as proficient/advanced or
201 having shown growth in one year.

202

203 Ms. Cowen said math is their first goal and includes an initiative in training staff to implement
204 academic conversations and to work with DSAC to figure out the cause of the low growth. The
205 second goal is with ELA and a summer reading program. Ms. Cowen noted that they have over
206 100 students show up at the library on Tuesdays and over 15 teachers are present as well. The
207 third goal is in science and technology, and they hope to show 10% achievement over last year.
208 Mr. Rothwell noted that Mr. Fardig is working on science changes, but for the time being they
209 are doing a need analysis for where students are struggling and are reviewing the curriculum.
210 The fourth goal is the social and emotional wellness of all students. They hope to decrease bus
211 and behavioral referrals by 20%. Mr. Rothwell said the PBIS system is a three-tier process. Ms.
212 Cummins explained the three tiers and how they fit the needs of the students. She said that
213 maintaining the three tiers is wonderful for Brophy. Mr. Rothwell said Ms. Cummins does great
214 work and the school went from being reactive to proactive with how students act. The fifth
215 goal is the physical plant of the school and this includes working on the flow of getting students
216 in and out of the building, and an emergency plan.

217

218 Ms. Hugo said the presentation was impressive. Mr. Taggart thanked the staff for their
219 presentation and said he was intrigued by the summer reading program. Mr. Taggart said he
220 would like to view anything that is written about program and noted that it could be valuable
221 for elementary schools in nearby towns and other places. Mr. Rothwell said he will have the
222 teachers be in contact with the SC office.

223

224 Ms. Connolly said her three children attended Brophy and asked what the school needed from
225 the SC in regards to their increasing enrollment. Mr. Rothwell said the District has provided
226 classrooms but they always look for additional social support from outside the school and he
227 noted that their list is with Dr. Scott. Mr. Rothwell said that with all of this data, they are able
228 to show more specifically where their needs are.

229

230 Dr. Silverman said he was impressed with the presentation, the summer reading program, and
231 goal four on bus behavior. Ms. Cummins said that with PBIS in place, the suspension rate is
232 much less over the past 3 years. Mr. Rothwell added that five years ago the school had no data
233 and it is remarkable to see each student's improvement. Mr. Stockless congratulated the staff

234 on the work they have done with ELA and their growth. Mr. Stockless said it is terrific to see
235 math as the first goal.

236
237 Ms. Hugo said she noticed there was no after school program and asked if they had any plans to
238 have one. Mr. Rothwell said they have the BOK program through Reebok, but it is not a good
239 representation of their school even though it is a great program that students enjoy. Since
240 many students live a good distance from Brophy, transportation is an issue. In answering a
241 question from Ms. Hugo about iPads, Mr. Rothwell said it is difficult for the school to buy Apple
242 Apps but they have worked it out and are still in the testing phase.

243
244 Dr. Scott said growth scores are a primary focus of the district. He applauded Brophy for their
245 effort in that area. In regards to PBIS, Dr. Scott said the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)
246 is very important. They want to be systematic across the district and Brophy's work of building
247 a culture in the school is exemplary. (A copy of the Brophy School Improvement Plan and
248 PowerPoint presentation is on file in the School Committee office with the records of this
249 meeting.)

250

251 **2. Dunning Elementary School**

252 Ms. Kim Taylor, Principal, Michele Schechter, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Sally Breckenridge,
253 Literacy Coach were present to discuss the Dunning SIP.

254

255 Ms. Taylor said their process for developing their SIP is a collaborative effort which included the
256 Dunning Data Team, Dunning staff, the School Council, the Literacy Specialist and Math Coach,
257 an ELL Coach and a SAGE teacher. Strengths in their data are the maintenance of a Level 1
258 status for the third year. The high needs students exceed the PPI target of 71, with a score of
259 99 out of 100. The ELL, flex students, low income, and Asian students exceeded with a score of
260 100. As the school changed their teaching model this year, Ms. Taylor said it will be interesting
261 to see changes over the next few years. With the programmatic switch, the school disbanded
262 the co-taught model in grades 3, 4, and 5. Challenges include growth versus achievement, the
263 special education subgroup CPI decreasing the past four years, and the measurement and data
264 strand weakness on math MCAS across all levels.

265

266 Ms. Schechter discussed the school environment and said the building is celebrating its 50th year.
267 Some of the biggest challenges include the cafeteria walls needing to be painted and wall
268 coverings peeling off in the gym. Their biggest instructional challenge is a lack of space. Ms.
269 Schechter said they use all available space and noted that music classes are held on the cafeteria
270 stage.

271

272 Ms. Taylor said Dunning has four goals: ELA, math, science, and a goal centered for tiered
273 supports. Based on the data from the last 2 years, the English language arts goal is to increase
274 open response-type questions by 10%. Although there is progress, percentages are on the
275 lower side and they would like to increase this percentage. Highlights include how to bring the
276 skills of open-ended questions to the lower grades, increasing academic conversations, and
277 implementing common language. Ms. Breckenridge said that children need to understand
278 questions/vocabulary in order to be able to find additional back up within the text.

279

280 Ms. Schechter said the second goal is to increase the number of students in advanced and
281 proficient by at least 5%. She noted the percentages over the past two years for grades 3, 4,
282 and 5. Highlights and steps include a .5 math coach who works on implementing Engage NY
283 and Think Math. Ms. Schechter said the teachers use visuals and real world models to promote
284 the growth mindset. A big word in the school is “yet”, and teaching students “they cannot do it
285 yet”.

286
287 Ms. Taylor said the third goal is in science and the three standards that are historically low at
288 Dunning. This is a multiyear goal for a comprehensive instructional plan for more consistent
289 science instruction in states of matter, earth and the solar system, and weather. Ms. Taylor
290 said the open response questions need to be improved at all grade levels. Ms. Schechter said
291 the fourth goal is a comprehensive multi-year plan, to provide consistent and systematic
292 response to intervention service delivery to all high need students. The PPI has been dropping
293 over the last few years and Ms. Taylor said there has been a consistent effort by staff. They are
294 focusing on the growth mindset and use bulletin boards in the cafeteria, in student friendly
295 language.

296
297 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for their presentation and commended them on their third year as a
298 level 1 school. Ms. Taylor said they have a .5 math coach and would like to increase the
299 position to full time. The tutoring grant was not received and they are looking for other
300 resources for funding. Ms. Taylor said the 10-mark program is something parents can work on,
301 at home, with their students. The PARCC online game is also shared with parents.

302
303 In answering a question from Dr. Scott on PARCC preparation, Ms. Breckenridge said literacy
304 coaches have looked at curriculum around MCAS, noticed shifts, and what is required for
305 PARCC. Ms. Breckenridge said teachers now give multiple part questions and focus more on
306 non-fiction books as these are more prevalent in PARCC. Teachers use online resources, such
307 as www.readworks.org. Dr. Scott said the work they are putting forward in preparing for
308 PARCC is great. Ms. Breckenridge said it is refreshing to know it is testing the standards and it is
309 broken down on the website so teachers can include this in their instruction. Ms. Taylor said
310 that for the half days in February, teachers have had the ability to take the PARCC tests. Dr.
311 Scott said he is proud of the work they have done. (A copy of the Dunning School Improvement
312 Plan and PowerPoint presentation is on file in the School Committee office with the records of
313 this meeting.)

314

315 **3. McCarthy Elementary School**

316 Mr. Matthew Hanlon, Principal and Ms. Jean Nolan, Vice Principal were present to share a
317 presentation on the McCarthy School Improvement Plan.

318

319 Mr. Hanlon has been the McCarthy Principal for five years and was a teacher for seven years
320 prior. McCarthy currently has 603 students enrolled, and 198 are SPED students (this is a 32.8%
321 subgroup and is the largest group of students). For MCAS, 68% of students are considered high
322 needs, 45% of those have disabilities, and 35% are non-needs.

323

324 Ms. Nolan said they have a beautiful building and great custodial staff who maintain the 20 year
325 old building. They appreciate the support of this maintenance. Space is an issue and they have
326 32 classes with a fewer amount of classrooms. The gym is the only place that can hold all

327 students at once and this makes it challenging to schedule town wide organizations due to the
328 size. Ms. Nolan said parking at the school is challenging with 100 staff and only 86 parking
329 spaces. The flow of traffic works well in the morning but the afternoon pickup is challenging, as
330 parents need to come into the building to pick up their children.

331
332 Mr. Hanlon said structure changes include a change/efficiency of time, program model changes,
333 increased common planning/collaboration time, fulltime math and literacy coaches, and a part
334 time ELL coach for the increased ELL population at the school. Ms. Nolan reviewed the student
335 achievement on MCAS as the data guides their improvement plan. Ms. Nolan noted that open
336 response questions are an area of weakness and they want to be at or above the state average.
337 This includes improved instruction for all students. Mr. Hanlon said the math differential is
338 lower than they want as it is below the state average. They are looking at core instruction in
339 math. Ms. Nolan said the MCAS ELA data from last year shows all students are not where they
340 want them to be. Non-high needs students do much better than high needs students across all
341 grades. Ms. Nolan noted that their language arts drop is consistent with state averages.

342
343 Mr. Hanlon said their goals are on core instruction and student growth performance. The first
344 goal for ELA is for proficient and advanced to be at 51% and all other student above that
345 percentile. Their action is to focus on core instructions, RBT training, learning walkthroughs
346 with DSAC, ELL services, and an implementation of Reader's Workshop with PD sessions. Ms.
347 Nolan said their second goal is in math and they want half to be advanced or proficient, with
348 special needs at least 51%. This action is similar to the tier one plan but includes the
349 implementation of Think Math and Engage NY. Mr. Hanlon said the third goal is for Special
350 Education students. McCarthy has the highest number in the district and this is due to their
351 inclusion strand programming. Over 15.8% of students were referred for a SPED evaluation. In
352 January, they cut this rate in half and are hoping it stays the same for the rest of the year. Ms.
353 Nolan said their action plan is grade level collaboration for problem solving and to improve the
354 process for monitoring students. They have STAR at McCarthy and want to implement it at a
355 deeper level in a PBIS program.

356
357 Mr. Hanlon concluded by saying they focused on three goals this year. They have continuous
358 reviews and assessments of their plan. Their short-term goal is to no longer be a level 3 school
359 and their long-term goal is to improve to a level 1 school.

360
361 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for their time and presentation. Ms. Brosnahan asked how Engage
362 NY is lining up with Think Math. Ms. Nolan said they are moving to the common core and the
363 best way to meet those standards. Teachers find Engage NY to be much clearer even though
364 the math is the same. They are somewhat blended and take the best from both programs. Ms.
365 Brosnahan said the parent math night is very helpful and Mr. Hanlon agreed.

366
367 Mr. Taggart thanked Mr. Hanlon and Ms. Nolan for their presentation. In regards to the first
368 two goals, Mr. Taggart asked if they are comparing PARCC to MCAS and how they can do this.
369 Mr. Taggart also asked how they plan on reducing SPED referrals by 10% and how this is done.
370 In regards to comparing PARCC and MCAS, Dr. Scott said they will use formulas of scoring for
371 one relative to the other, in terms of percentile rankings and transitions. Dr. Scott said the
372 relationship can be made in a thorough and effective way for schools to use PARCC. In
373 answering Mr. Taggart's second question about referrals, Mr. Hanlon said they will not prevent

374 anyone from getting services they need, but limit the needless referrals due to the lack of a
375 targeted intervention being in place. Dr. Scott compared this to a triage and meeting a need as
376 soon as possible, such as additional tutors or guidance prior to a referral. Ms. Nolan said a
377 student might just need ESL services. Mr. Stockless thanked the staff for their work and said
378 the numerical targets of advance and proficient should be broken down by category versus
379 being clumped together.

380
381 Ms. Connolly asked how teachers and student are being prepared for PARCC testing. Mr.
382 Hanlon said they start in the grade level collaboration. The coaches are quickly brought up to
383 speed on what the differences are and a lot of teachers are taking the practice test. They are
384 also spending time to see what might be missing and should be added to current instruction in
385 the classrooms. Ms. Nolan said the reader's workshop is helping with looking at the text, and
386 multi-part problems. Ms. Connolly asked about collaboration between the schools and if more
387 of this needed. Ms. Nolan said school collaboration is a great need and the coaches bare a lot
388 of this responsibility as they meet on a monthly basis and share what goes on in different
389 schools and then bring that information back. Mr. Hanlon said more learning walkthroughs, to
390 see how other teachers teach, would be useful. Dr. Scott commended them for their hard
391 work. (A copy of the McCarthy School Improvement Plant and PowerPoint presentation is on
392 file in the School Committee office with the records of this meeting.)

393
394 Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee vote to accept the 2014-2015
395 School Improvement Plan for the Brophy, Dunning and McCarthy Elementary Schools.

396
397 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Dr. Silverman that the School**
398 **Committee vote to accept the School Improvement Plan for Brophy, Dunning and**
399 **McCarthy Elementary Schools. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly,**
400 **Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.**

401
402 **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

403 **A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers – Second Quarter**

404 Framingham School Committee Policy DBJ (Budget Transfer Authority) stipulates that the
405 School Committee has the authority to transfer certain funds among and between the account
406 classification (Salaries, Additional Salaries, and Expenses) at the request of the Superintendent.
407 On Tuesday, January 13, 2015, the Finance Subcommittee reviewed the document entitled
408 *FY15 Budget Transfers and Journal Entries* and voted to recommend School Committee
409 approval. See attached.

410
411 Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee vote to approve the second
412 quarter FY15 Budget Transfers, as presented.

413
414 Dr. Gotgart briefly explained the two transfer amounts. The \$695K transfer is from SPED
415 expenses to SPED salaries. This is a carry-over of funds from FY14 and is carried through Circuit
416 Breaker. The second transfer is the undistributed salaries for unanticipated and unexpected
417 items. This is taken from the expense reserve and put into the salaries.

418
419 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Stockless and seconded by Mr. Taggart that the School**
420 **Committee vote to approve the fiscal year 2015 budget transfers of the second**

421 quarter. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Dr.
422 Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.

423
424 **VII. DISCUSSION**

425 **A. FY16 Budget**

426 Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent of Schools, was present to share a presentation on the
427 preliminary FY16 budget.

428
429 Dr. Scott said he is interested in setting up future conversations around the budget for the next
430 SC meeting and thereafter. The financial office has more clarification on the salary numbers for
431 this year, to better project them forward for next year. They used a level service approach to
432 maintain current programs and included funding for the essential positions in the FY15 budget.
433 Steps and lane changes were added in the level service budget as an estimate.

434
435 Dr. Scott said that they included additional salary increases, stipends, expenses, and contractual
436 agreements. Dr. Scott said there is no clarity on the FY16 funding for Circuit Breaker and other
437 state funding. They level serviced these numbers with a conservative estimate for an increase
438 in the next year. Some expense increases are due to tuition increases in Special Education.
439 Schools continue to be level funded for the 4th consecutive year. They are doing well to make
440 ends meet.

441
442 Dr. Scott said the new positions needed for next year are broken into a few categories. These
443 positions are requested by schools and departments, and ranked by essential (King teachers),
444 highly critical (compliance with State guidelines), and other critical needs. Dr. Scott said the
445 challenge of the SC will be to determine what they should give serious consideration. There is a
446 continued need for coaches and aids. Dr. Scott noted that custodians and maintenance have
447 had little increase over the past 4-5 years.

448
449 Dr. Scott said there will be elements highlighted next year that are critical in the long term.
450 Funding for cost of living increase will need to come out of the operating budget. Technology
451 needs are embedded within expenses going forward. Another need is to be ready for the
452 PARCC testing. Out-of-School Time is a placeholder, with a figure of \$680K as a starting point
453 for this investment and is not included in the budget.

454
455 To total for the essential and critical staffing comes to \$1.9M. This brings the total staffing from
456 \$114M to \$115.9M and the Town proposed a 5% increase equaling \$114.9M. The schools are
457 projecting \$1M over the Town's proposal. Dr. Scott recognizes other departments in the Town
458 receive a 4% increase not the 5% that we were offered. Dr. Scott said subsequent meetings will
459 discuss staffing requests for needs and a priority list of these needs. They will detail and outline
460 each of these positions. Dr. Scott said they will also outline residual needs, unmet needs, and
461 ongoing challenges. Dr. Scott said a historical progress for staffing might be useful to see and
462 this will help them move forward and rebuild from the years they have been cut.

463
464 In responding to a question from Ms. Hugo about SIP requests for .5 interventionists, Dr. Scott
465 said they will be included in staff requests but most will not be moved to a level of critical.
466 There is compliance challenges that they need to meet. Ms. Hugo said they look forward to the
467 March 3rd meeting on the FY16 budget and the March 17th meeting for the public hearing.

468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514

B. Advocacy Efforts of Capitol Hill

Chair Hugo and Mr. Stockless updated the School Committee about recent advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Hugo said that she and Mr. Stockless went to Washington, D.C. and were one of 12 SC members from Massachusetts that attended, and learned about current and pending legislation, and how to hone their advocacy skills. With the delegation of 12, they hit every office of the Mass. Congressional delegation and either met with congressmen themselves or their staff. They discussed the impact of their pending legislation and how it impacts Framingham. They talked about fully funding IDEA in SPED, easing the burden of nutritional guidelines, maximizing the Title I resources, and having more local control. Ms. Hugo said she has the information on the workshops they attended. (A copy of the position papers is on file in the School Committee office with the records of this meeting.)

Mr. Stockless said he was very fortunate to attend the gathering of about 800 school board members from throughout the country. One primary focus of attention was the re-authorization of the No Child Left Behind Act and the consensus of the National School Board Association said their effort should be to advocate to not create more unfunded mandates before the current mandates are fully funded. Mr. Stockless said Congresswoman Clark is very supportive of this mission and they will do what they can to hold the line on future unfunded mandates.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Scott thanked the Town for its effective efforts in removing snow throughout the Town. He said the Town does all they can and some of the school maintenance crew has joined the Town in their efforts of snow removal. Dr. Scott said Framingham has had 7 snow days which means they have pushed to the 185th day of June 24th. The 6th and 7th snow days are now being questioned for when they will make them up and Dr. Scott said it is in the calendar that they can take them from the end of April vacation. They cannot use Marathon Monday/Patriots Day as make-up days. If there are any additional snow days, they would look going beyond June 24th but the law does not allow them to go into July. Dr. Scott will put out a notice and short survey about school days and he said the school wants to hear the concerns of the public. Given snow days, Dr. Scott said the State has provided additional time to take PARCC and MCAS. The school is taking advantage of this additional time and is rescheduling the exams.

Dr. Scott said the Out-of-School Time survey was put out and they are looking for parent’s thoughts. A survey on communications from district will also go out this week and asks for the public’s thoughts on what is most effective (i.e. tweets, blogs, Facebook, etc.). Dr. Scott said that surveys will be staggered so each gets its appropriate time and responses. Report cards have been updated and Dr. Scott thanks the team for their effort. Dr. Scott said they will provide support for families on how to interrupt them and concerns can be sent directly to the Office of Educational Operations.

Dr. Scott said they recently met with the MSBA. The Town Manager, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Dr. Scott, Dr. Gotgart, the Town Chief Financial Officer, and the State Delegation Representatives were present. They discuss prior proposals to the MSBA and received

515 consultation to the current proposal that they are revising for the April deadline. Dr. Scott
516 noted that there were 108 submitted proposals and only 13 were accepted. The school feels
517 they have received good advice and made slight adjustments to the proposal. Dr. Scott said it is
518 an obvious need, as the Town has granted funds for the project. Dr. Scott thanked the
519 delegation for their presence and perseverance.

520
521 Dr. Scott said they continue to lease the Farley building to Mass Bay Community College for the
522 short term, until they are ready for a major renovation of that building. Dr. Scott said the
523 Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee will be able to provide more detail in the future. It is
524 clear that they need to replace Fuller and their current focus is to keep it safe while students
525 are still there. Dr. Scott discussed the move to the Perini building and said that data wires have
526 been moved across town and are being connected to the building. Central Administration will
527 be moving there in the next couple of weeks and they are excited by the support of the Town.

528
529 Dr. Scott recapped his previous discussion around the FY15 budget issues. He said that entering
530 this year they had a plan to deal with the shortfall in revenue due to underfunding of homeless
531 transportation and Circuit Breaker funding. Dr. Scott said he is pleased to announce that they
532 have solved the problem through a hiring freeze and an expected breakage savings. The FY15
533 emerging challenges include monitoring transportation costs, SPED costs and unexpected
534 expenses. They are hopeful the state will continue to provide a portion of the homeless
535 transportation funding.

536
537 Ms. Hugo said she would like the book of evidence completed prior to the reorganization
538 meeting on April 8, 2015 and filled out by the current committee. Ms. Hugo said they will have
539 a tutorial on the supervision and evaluation report which has about 41 indicators this year.

540

541 **IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

542 **A. January 6, 2015 – Open Session**

543

544 **MOTION: Moved by Ms. Brosnahan and seconded by Mr. Taggart that the School**
545 **Committee approve the January 6, 2015 open session minutes. Discussion: None.**
546 **Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr.**
547 **Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.**

548

549 **B. January 20, 2015 – Executive and Open Session**

550 Ms. Hugo removed the executive session minutes due to a substance issue, and stated they
551 would be on the March 3, 2015 executive session agenda for revision and approval.

552

553 **MOTION: Moved by Ms. Brosnahan and seconded by Ms. Taggart that the School**
554 **Committee approve the January 20, 2015 open session minutes as amended.**
555 **Discussion: Ms. Hugo noted a typo on line 484. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly,**
556 **Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.**

557

558 **X. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

559 **A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri**

560 No report.

561

562 **B. Buildings & Grounds/Capital Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Connolly**

563 Ms. Connolly said the subcommittee met on February 3, 2015 and discussed capital expenses,
564 the Perini update, Fuller Middle School, and the Farley School. They discussed a number of
565 routine maintenance needed at Farley. Ms. Connolly thanked B&G, and the DPW for clearing
566 the roads following all the snowstorms. Ms. Connolly said that the next B&G meeting will be at
567 end of April or the beginning of May as the Capital Budget is their focus right now.

568
569 Ms. Hugo referred a request from a community member, for a skate park on school property, to
570 the B&G subcommittee. Ms. Hugo received a book of information on February 9, 2015.

571
572 **C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo**

573 Ms. Hugo said the next meeting will be on March 10, 2015 from 6-6:55. They are trying to hold
574 the meeting downtown as the full SC has a joint meeting with the BOS at 7 p.m. Ms. Hugo said
575 that the kindergarten aids grant budget was slashed by 22%. She also said that the next state
576 lobbying day is Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at the Day on the Hill.

577
578 **D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo**

579 Ms. Hugo said it is the same report as last time.

580
581 **E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo**

582 Ms. Hugo said she is a National Delegate alternate to the National School Boards Association.
583 On March 19, 2015 she will be going to Nashville, TN where they will plan the national policy
584 and resolutions.

585
586 **F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman**

587 No report. Ms. Hugo said she has a request from someone in the Town to discuss a policy of
588 posting documents online. This would be documents discussed at a meeting and posting them
589 online the day of the meeting. Ms. Hugo referred this request to the subcommittee to see if it
590 is feasible.

591
592 **G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly**

593 No report.

594
595 **H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri**

596 Ms. Hugo said there is a meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2015 from 7-9 p.m. at the Newton
597 Marriot. It is an important meeting to discuss funding and Chapter 70. Ms. Hugo said they will
598 invite the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen. They recently confirmed that Senator
599 Jamie Eldridge, State Senator Karen Spilka and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito will be
600 attending as well.

601
602 **I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly**

603 Ms. Connolly said that TEC met on January 16, 2015 and they had a lengthy conversation with
604 several TEC members about the schools withdrawal. Dr. Scott said they heard back from TEC
605 who reengineered the rates for the subsequent year and offered a significantly reduced rate,
606 which is fair for the district. Dr. Scott said it is appropriate to bring it back to the SC to for
607 consideration. Dr. Scott said he will recommend that the revised rate should cause the SC to
608 change their initial decision and not withdraw. Ms. Hugo congratulated Dr. Scott and Ms.

609 Connolly for their efforts. Ms. Connolly said the next TEC meeting is on March 20, 2015. Ms.
610 Hugo asked that the TEC vote be added to the SC agenda of March 3, 2015.

611

612 **J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless**

613 No report.

614

615 **K. Communications and Public Relations Task Force – Mr. Stockless**

616 Mr. Stockless said they met on January 22, 2015 and the meeting was well attended. It was a
617 productive meeting and their first step in improving communications is to survey stakeholders
618 (staff, families, and general members of public) to see where communications can be improved.
619 Mr. Stockless said the survey will go out at the beginning of next week and after the survey they
620 will schedule a second meeting to handle the data.

621

622 Ms. Hugo noted a bus transportation issue from today that resulted in a 40-minute delay. She
623 recommended that if a bus will be delayed that long, a notification should be sent to families.

624

625 **XI. MEMBER REPORTS**

626 Mr. Taggart said the Sunday Metro West is running yes/no-educational issues and for the 3rd
627 time in the past 6 weeks Dr. Scott was featured in the yes category, in response to a longer
628 school day. Mr. Taggart said it is interesting reading and the articles can be found online. Mr.
629 Taggart also noted that the Chair was previously in an article, as well as Gen Grieci.

630

631 Ms. Brosnahan said Framingham Pediatrics is holding free classes for parents. The first class is
632 on Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 7-8 p.m. and Dr. Iris L. Miller will be speaking about
633 understanding and evaluating the special education process. The second class is on Thursday,
634 March 26, 2015 from 7-8 p.m. and will discuss helping to organize your child/team and
635 homework tips for parents. Ms. Brosnahan said that pre-registration is required and to call
636 508-879-5964.

637

638 Ms. Brosnahan mentioned teachers were able to see a sample test on PARCC, and asked if SC
639 members could see a test or access some questions online. Ms. Hugo said they can make it
640 available to the SC members.

641

642 Ms. Hugo said March 26, 2015 is Salute to Framingham and the SC usually puts in a half page
643 ad, which costs \$150. The deadline is March 1, 2015 and this would be about \$21 per SC
644 member.

645

646 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**
647 **Committee submit a half page ad for the Salute to Framingham program book.**
648 **Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman, Mr.**
649 **Stockless and Mr. Taggart voted in favor; 6-0-0.**

650

651 Ms. Hugo said the SC usually puts in a report for the Town Annual Report. They typically submit
652 1-2 pages and this is anything within the SC's purview. Ms. Hugo asked that members submit
653 highlights they would like included and the Administrative Assistant will be the point person.
654 Ms. Hugo also mentioned the MASC Presidential Scholarship. It is significant and any child of a
655 current or former SC member can apply. Ms. Hugo said she attended the Rennie Center's

656 policy meeting. Dr. Scott and keynote speaker Andy Hargreaves, who is one of the six most
657 important people in country for education policy for legislation, were both present. Dr.
658 Hargreaves book, "Uplifting Leadership, How Organizations, Teams, and Communities Raise
659 Performance" was given to Ms. Hugo. Dr. Scott said he met Dr. Hargreaves and he has agreed
660 to come to the district as a speaker for the Aspiring Leadership Academy. Dr. Scott said he is a
661 very captivating speaker, reader, and writer. Dr. Scott will provide the date so members can
662 make time to come and listen. Ms. Hugo said Dr. Hargreaves promised to go to the statewide
663 SC convention in November 2017.

664

665 Mr. Taggart said at the upcoming Salute to Framingham on March 26, 2015, Nancy Piasecki will
666 be honored and asked if the SC members can sit at the same table.

667

668 **XII. BILLS AND PAYROLL**

669 The Chair asked members to remain after the meeting to review and sign warrants.

670

671 **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

672 The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

673

674 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Stockless and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**
675 **Committee adjourn the meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms.**
676 **Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voted in favor; 6-0-0.**

677

678 The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

679

680 *These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee at the meeting of March*
681 *17, 2015.*

682

683 *A copy of the minutes was forwarded to the Office of the Town Clerk on March 18, 2015.*

684

685 **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

686 School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 – Brophy Elementary School

687 School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 – Charlotte A. Dunning Elementary School

688 School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 – Miriam F. McCarthy School

689 Policy DBJ (Budget Transfer Policy) – Current

690 FY15 Budget Transfers and Journal Entries

691 FY15 Budget Plan

692 FY16 Budget Worksheet

693 January 6, 2015 Open Minutes

694 January 20, 2015 Executive Session and Open Minutes