

1 **FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
2 **Desmarais Room – King Administration Building – March 17, 2015**

3
4 **Present**

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

11
12 **Absent**

13 Michelle Brosnahan

14
15 **Also Present**

16 Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent
17 Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer
18 Dr. Ed Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer
19 Sarah McKeon, FTA Co-president
20 Mike Koziara, FTA Co-president
21 Lisa Zanella, Teacher, McCarthy Elementary School
22 Linda Renault, Nurse, King Elementary School
23 Andy Aylesworth, FPS parent
24 Kim Comatas, Co-president TWPTO
25 Susan Arndt, Co-chair, SEPAC
26 Jeff Wulfson, Deputy Commissioner of the MA DESE
27 Katie Shander Reynolds, FPS parent
28 Courtney Edmond, FPS parent
29 Magda Geneus, FPS parent
30 Rosemary Jebari, ESL teacher, FHS
31 Scott Wadland, FPS parent
32 Richard Weader, Town Meeting Member Precinct 4
33 Lawrence Wolpe, Assistant Principal, Potter Road Elementary School
34 Julie L'Abbe, ELA Coach, Potter Road Elementary School
35 Hilary Kreisberg, Match Coach, Potter Road Elementary School
36 Sara Hamerla, ELL Coach, Potter Road Elementary School
37 Amy Bright, Principal, Stapleton Elementary School
38 Allison Benabdallah, Assistant Principal, Stapleton Elementary School
39 Michelle Biasells, Literacy Coach, Stapleton Elementary School
40 Julie Gelardi, Third grade teacher, Stapleton Elementary School
41 John Haidemenos, Principal, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
42 Michelle da Costa, Assistant Principal, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
43 Amy Graff, PYP Coordinator, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
44 Tricia Simeone, Administrative Assistant

46 **AGENDA**

- 47 I. Meeting with the Public
- 48 II. Discussion Item
 - 49 A. Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers (PARCC)
 - 50 B. Public Participation
- 51 III. Public Hearing on the Budget
 - 52 A. FY16 Budget
 - 53 B. Public Participation
- 54 IV. School Improvement Plans
 - 55 A. Potter Road Elementary School
 - 56 B. Stapleton Elementary School
 - 57 C. Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
- 58 V. Curriculum Department Highlights
 - 59 A. Woodrow Wilson Elementary School – International Baccalaureate Update
- 60 VI. Action Items
 - 61 A. Make Up of Snow Days – Survey Result
 - 62 B. 2015-2016 School Year Calendar
- 63 VII. Approval of Minutes
 - 64 A. February 24, 2015 Executive and Open Session
 - 65 B. March 3, 2015 Executive and Open Session
 - 66 C. March 10, 2015 Joint Session
 - 67 D. March 10, 2015 Open Session
- 68 VIII. Report of Committees
 - 69 A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri
 - 70 B. Buildings & Grounds/Capital Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Connolly
 - 71 C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo
 - 72 D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo
 - 73 E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo
 - 74 F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman
 - 75 G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly
 - 76 H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri
 - 77 I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly
 - 78 J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless
 - 79 K. Communications and Public Relations Task Force – Mr. Stockless
- 80 IV. Member Reports
- 81 X. Bills and Payroll
- 82 XI. Adjournment

83

84

85 **ACTION**

86 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Beverly Hugo convened the School
87 Committee with six members present. Chair Hugo said the SC previously met in executive
88 session. The Chair announced that the meeting would be recorded and broadcast live with
89 assistance from the School Committee’s FHS-TV Producers and Framingham Access Cable. Ms.
90 Hugo said they received a request to update the streaming on the website and the technology
91 department is working with Framingham Access to update the link. Ms. Hugo reviewed the
92 items on the agenda for this evening.

93

94 **I. MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC**

95 Chair Beverly Hugo noted that the first 15 minutes of every regularly scheduled meeting are
96 reserved for members of the public who want to comment on a topic within the School
97 Committee’s purview.

98

99 Ms. McKeon and Mike Koziara co-presidents of the FTA were present to speak. Ms. McKeon
100 said they wanted to share their concerns about PARCC. Last year she addressed specific issues
101 and presented a petition of over 200 signatures to postpone PARCC. She listed several reasons
102 as to why PARCC should be delayed, including no PD to prepare teachers. Ms. McKeon asked
103 how it is possible to give a test when no one is trained for the Common Core. After this initial
104 meeting they felt they were heard but now believe their opinions were not heard as their
105 questions went unanswered and the SC changed their vote. McKeon said the FTA recently gave
106 a survey and 55% said there was a lack of preparation, 48% were concerned with technology
107 readiness, 74% were concerned with the wording of the exam, and 70% were concerned with
108 the loss of teaching time. Ms. McKeon read several comments from teachers, addressing their
109 concerns and stress around the exam. Ms. McKeon asked if the SC has spoken with teachers,
110 read sample questions, or informed parents about the right to opt out of the test. Ms. McKeon
111 asked that the SC listen to their concerns and take them into serious consideration.

112

113 Lisa Zanella, McCarthy Elementary School teacher, asked why the SC changed their vote in
114 regards to the PARCC exam. She said they are concerned about the needs of the SPED
115 students. Ms. Zanella quoted minutes from June 13, 2015 and said that PD surrounding PARCC
116 should be the heart but claims no PD was given. She said they were told they would receive
117 training but it is not being fulfilled. Ms. Zanella said representatives from DESE were unable to
118 answer their simple questions. She said that if the exam does not affect the schools this year,
119 then it should not be given. Ms. Zanella said her goal as a third grade teacher is to tell her
120 students they are ready for fourth grade, not college.

121

122 Ms. Linda Renault, King Elementary School nurse, came to speak about a concern with
123 members and families regarding taking snow days from April vacation. The FTA leadership has
124 spoken with over 200 staff and family members, and only three expressed the desire to take
125 days from April vacation. She said there was some confusion around the survey and not
126 everyone received it. Ms. Renault said she feels it was a limited snapshot for results. She said
127 the FTA previously stated they would like to take days from the end of the year versus during
128 vacation. Ms. Renault said phones at the FTA have been crazy since the survey came out. She
129 asked that the SC take the survey with a grain of salt.

130

131 Mr. Andy Aylesworth, parent of students at Potter Road Elementary School, said he loves Potter
132 Road School. Mr. Aylesworth said he is an outspoken person for standardized testing and as a
133 college professor he sees firsthand what it does to students. Mr. Aylesworth said PARCC does
134 not prepare students for college and ten days of testing is ridiculous. Having attended a
135 previous PARCC meeting, he believes that the pendulum is swinging too far towards testing. He
136 said the parents need to band together and push against standardized testing. Mr. Aylesworth
137 listed several resources and said he has information sheets for opting students out of the exam.

138

139 Ms. Comatas, co-president of the TWPTO, and two others TWTO members were present to
140 make a statement regarding PARCC. Ms. Comatas said she took a practice exam and found it

141 very confusing. She said students are feeling stupid and inadequate while taking the exam and
142 this is not fair. The TWPTO met with several administrators surrounding this topic and they
143 have come to the conclusion that there are many flaws around the exam. District teachers
144 were given access to supplementing paperwork the day before teaching students and staff
145 cannot learn a new curriculum while simultaneously teaching it. They urge parents to take the
146 test and decide for themselves if their child should take it. Another issue is limited learning
147 devices and she thinks technology is a large hurdle to overcome. Ms. Comatas said the TWPTO
148 recommends that parents opt their children out from PARCC by writing a letter to the school.

149
150 Ms. Susan Arndt, co-chair of SEPAC was present to discuss PARCC and special needs students.
151 Ms. Arndt said these students need special accommodations as teachers use non-standard
152 accommodations to teach the students for the exam. She said students with an IEP should be
153 given similar non-standard accommodations. They are concerned that some children taking the
154 exam in the third grade do not have access to a computer due to economic reasons and are not
155 use to using a keyboard or a mouse. Ms. Arndt said parents need clarification.

156
157 **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
158 **A. Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers (PARCC)**
159 Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson of the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary
160 Education was present to address issues and answer questions surrounding the upcoming
161 PARCC exam.

162
163 Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said he appreciated the opportunity to hear from parents and
164 teachers regarding their issues and concerns surrounding PARCC. He said he is not here to tell
165 the community that PARCC is a great test or that Framingham should adopt PARCC. Mr.
166 Wulfson said he is present to answer any questions.

167
168 Mr. Wulfson said the Massachusetts is the only state that has not made a final decision to
169 adopt PARCC. MA is being more cautious than other states as they have used the MCAS for two
170 decades. They want to make sure PARCC is a better test prior to adopting it and are in the
171 middle of a two-year test drive for the exam. Mr. Wulfson said this year is a full-scale
172 implementation and districts were given an option to take it or not. They are looking to make
173 the final decision on PARCC by next fall.

174
175 Mr. Wulfson said the board wrestles with many of the same questions and concerns that are
176 present in Framingham. They have a large number of studies that have been planned and this
177 includes surveys of both students and teachers. There will be a lot of material for them to
178 digest before the department makes an intelligent recommendation to the State Board. Like
179 most SC's, they will make their own decision and it is by no means a forgone conclusion. He
180 invites and encourages that everyone concerned with the quality of education speak up. He is
181 confident they will come up with a good decision but they want it to be an informed debate.

182
183 Mr. Wulfson said the testing is underway and over 3M tests have been completed so far.
184 Testing began on Monday in MA and 20K students began taking the online exams. They are
185 doing their best to support the districts regardless of the testing choice they made. In some
186 public debate, the Common Core and PARCC have been intertwined. Mr. Wulfson said he
187 would like to separate the two, as they are separate in the minds of the State Board.
188 Massachusetts adopted frameworks like the CC in 2011, in an attempt to make a coherent

189 sequence of curriculum topics through the grades. This is done so students who move to a new
190 district will not lose out on education. A lot of thought went into this framework and each
191 district is working to align them with it. The issue of dropping the CC is not an active topic of
192 discussion within the State. The consensus is that they are happy with the curriculum
193 framework and it will be disruptive to pull the CC.

194
195 Mr. Limeri said he is glad to hear they still do public hearings. Mr. Wulfson said they are
196 finalizing plans now and will have evening meetings throughout the commonwealth. In
197 answering a question from Mr. Limeri about how the public can contact the Board, Mr. Wulfson
198 said the Board prefers written comments which are forwarded to every member. Mr. Limeri
199 asked about accommodations for special needs students and if the state is modifying the
200 process. Mr. Wulfson said they are developing new tests and need to do as much as possible to
201 accommodate students' needs. They had test experts from 12 states around the table and a lot
202 of discussion has happened. There are a large number of accommodations to all students and
203 some for IEP students. The decision was made to not allow reference sheets or graph
204 organizers this year. The commissioner is aware of this concern and it is flagged for review and
205 discussion once the exam results come in. Mr. Wulfson said testing time is available and since
206 most IEP's were written to reflect MCAS, they have advised testing and SPED directors to follow
207 this guideline for PARCC. He said it is up to the SPED directors to make accommodations as
208 necessary. Mr. Limeri said they cannot know the effects of not using graphic organizers if no
209 one takes the exam with them. Mr. Limeri said it is his personal belief that students should be
210 allowed to use them.

211
212 Mr. Taggart asked about the opting out option and if they have any statistics. Mr. Taggart also
213 asked what happens next year if a student does opt out and there is a hole in their record. Mr.
214 Wulfson said they do not offer an option to opt out as they view PARCC as a requirement. They
215 understand that many students will not take the test and they have informed superintendents
216 and principals to use their best judgment on how to handle these students. At this time, they
217 do not have numbers on those who have opted out. An absent student will not have results on
218 their record and they believe it is a disservice to the student.

219
220 Mr. Taggart said another criticism is results being provided next fall and he asked for the
221 timeframe. Mr. Wulfson said that after they receive the raw scores they need to get a panel
222 together to determine what the cut scores are for each level and how to compare them. One
223 of the many goals for the new exam is to take advantage of the emerging capabilities of online
224 testing. The hope is to adopt a test to be given online and will be broken up into two pieces so
225 they can get useful results to teachers prior to the end of the school year. The current plan is
226 for districts to receive results in early fall and then parents will get individual scores towards the
227 end of the fall. Mr. Taggart said he is concerned with non-IEP students who have issues with
228 test taking and how the time limit will affect this. Mr. Wulfson said a complaint of MCAS is how
229 much time it takes and with next generation tests, they can reduce the testing window with
230 very generous time constraints. Research tells them that a student who is struggling to
231 complete an exam in three to four hours will not benefit from any additional time.

232
233 Ms. Connolly asked how a student who previously used a graphic organizer will prepare to take
234 the exam without it. Mr. Wulfson said they need to discuss this with the IEP teachers and see
235 how they are preparing the students.

236

237 Dr. Silverman said he appreciated that Mr. Wulfson detangled the Common Core from PARCC,
238 as he is a proponent for the CC. Dr. Silverman asked if the commonwealth decides to go
239 forward with PARCC, what provisions are there to modify the exam in regards to rewording
240 certain questions. Mr. Wulfson said they have the option to alter the exam and the first couple
241 of years can be very contentious. The exam will most likely evolve over the years. If it is so far
242 off from what they think it should be, there would be a strong push to rethink the strategy. Mr.
243 Wulfson said that Pearson is the contracting publisher but the State controls the content of the
244 exam. The decision is not a done deal and MCAS will be required for tenth grade through 2019.

245
246 Ms. Hugo said they have 17 students who have opted out and four pending. Ms. Hugo asked
247 how this affects the schools overall score. Mr. Wulfson said they measure the school
248 participation and as far as school ranking, participation rates or scores will not be used to
249 negatively change the ranking this year. He said we are all in this together and if a large
250 amount opts out, it is a problem to be dealt with at the State level. They try to make the best
251 decisions in what becomes a politically charged atmosphere. Mr. Wulfson said they want as
252 many students to take the exam as possible so they can analyze if this is a good test.

253
254 **B. Public Participation**

255 Ms. Katie Shander Reynolds said she agrees that the CC and PARCC are two issues. Her concern
256 is that the curriculum should drive the assessment but it feels like the assessment is driving the
257 curriculum. She asked if there was discussion to reduce the amount of testing, for both the
258 amount days and required years. Mr. Wulfson said they try to develop a test that minimizes
259 preparation time and if good instruction goes on there is no need for preparation. Testing is
260 done by federal law and if this is reduced, the State would need to decide if they should as well.
261 They emphasize more on the growth percentiles versus individual scores. By testing every year
262 they can see students advancing and if they do not test yearly they will lose this data.

263
264 Ms. Susan Arndt asked about non-standardized accommodations and the data collection to
265 figure out if this should be put back in or not. Mr. Wulfson said he has made a note to go to the
266 Board with this and they are looking for input results from students and teachers.

267
268 Ms. McKeon said the tests do not affect her students but she is unsure if MCAS is a good exam
269 or not. Mr. Wulfson said this concern came about when PARCC became a discussion. Ms.
270 McKeon said the new governor came in and cut a lot of funding. She questions how much
271 knowledge they have and how much they can be trusted to make these decisions when it is not
272 their background.

273
274 Ms. Courtney Edmond, parent of 3 students, asked when the State Board will vote to adopt
275 PARCC more formally and how they can decide prior to the results being given. Mr. Wulfson
276 said it will be voted in late October or early November, after they examine the results but
277 before parents receive individual scores. In answering a question from Ms. Edmond about the
278 possible adoption of PARCC and when it will be a requirement for graduation, Mr. Wulfson said
279 it would be the class of 2020.

280
281 Ms. Magda Geneus, FPS parent, asked where parents get answers for “frequently asked
282 questions” about PARCC. Mr. Wulfson said they do not have a current forum online but this is
283 possible in the future. Ms. Geneus asked about why the scores will stay on a students’ record if

284 they are not being held against the district this year. Mr. Wulfson said the score will stay on the
285 record, as it was the required exam for this year.

286
287 Ms. Rosemary Jebari, FHS ESL teacher, asked about exemptions for ELL students and Mr.
288 Wulfson said they would be the same as offered to the MCAS students. In answering a
289 question from Ms. Jebari about the languages PARCC will be offered in, Mr. Wulfson said he
290 believes there are options but was unsure of the exact languages.

291
292 Ms. Hilary Kreisberg, Math Coach at Potter Road and Dunning, asked how the exam is being
293 graded with the time constraints. Mr. Wulfson said he does not have an answer for the right
294 strategy on this.

295
296 Dr. Scott said he can call the State department to get answers on the final question from Ms.
297 Kreisberg. Dr. Scott also said that teachers have expressed anxieties around PARCC since he
298 first came to Framingham. Dr. Scott said it is important to realize that since standards have
299 been changing, they have been preparing students for several years. This is seen through
300 academic conversations. With the roll out of the new English Language Arts and the math
301 curriculum over the past few years, there is no way they will have finished the process for
302 preparing teachers for all the testing. Dr. Scott said the federal law requires they do certain
303 things and adding more testing is going down the wrong road. He hears the stress of parents
304 and respects any parents' decision as to how they respond to the testing experience. The
305 mission is to improve the quality of instruction to improve the students learning.

306
307 Dr. Scott said they are working to align the curriculum to next generation standards. They want
308 to be good at assessments and should practice. The challenge is to create optimal conditions
309 for teachers to teach and students to learn. Dr. Scott as they are about to vote for the budget
310 and he is asking for more money for professional development. Dr. Scott said this is a difficult
311 issue and he appreciates parents and teachers for coming to discuss their concerns.

312
313 Ms. Hugo acknowledged the staff and the difficulty during this transitional time. She thanked
314 Mr. Wulfson for his availability to come and answer questions from the Committee and public.

315

316 **III. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET**

317 **A. FY16 Budget**

318 Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent of Schools discussed the FY16 School Department budget.

319
320 Dr. Scott said it is always a pleasure for him to spend time with parents and teachers. Dr. Scott
321 said tonight's conversation is a part of an open dialogue with Town officials so they can go to
322 Town meeting with a consensus on the budget. These have continuous conversations
323 surrounding what the school needs are and they will continue to make sure all stakeholders
324 have as much information as needed.

325
326 Dr. Scott said the first budget sheet was provided in initial conversations but has a few
327 amendments. The budget was done in a few steps and they rolled forward all FY15 salaries and
328 expenses. These are major categories that they used as a part of the budget and are
329 contractual from year to year. They also identified various staffing and program needs. There
330 is approximately \$2M in the overall increases for essential additional staff which is critical for

331 the basic operation of the system, i.e. King Elementary School. Dr. Scott said there is no way to
332 put in all principal requests and there is about \$.5M that could not be listed as essential.

333
334 High Critical needs are vital to the management of programs and services and they would like
335 to identify the High and Moderate staffing items. The Governor made some budget changes
336 which are challenging and are affecting the schools now. There is concern that if these roll
337 forward for next year, they would need to build the cuts into next year's budget. Dr. Scott said
338 these various concerns amount to \$116.5M dollars for a final budget and this is what he is
339 requesting. The Towns current level service projection is \$114.9M.

340
341 Dr. Scott said other general notes include all FY15 salaries with steps and lanes. They have
342 frozen school expenses and are struggling to expand resources at the school level. The King
343 salaries were adjusted and line item differences were included. The superintendent's expense
344 line will decrease. HR will decrease due to the one-time purchase of the AESOP software. Dr.
345 Scott said that the Business Office expenses were up due to the Perini Lease and the B&G
346 increase is due to utilities. Transportation expenses are also up and this is based on contractual
347 increases and additional runs for the new elementary school. Dr. Scott said technology is up
348 \$500K due to a four-year contract with the Town, to build the capital infrastructure. SPED
349 tuition increases for both known students and possible/pending placements. The Circuit
350 Breaker cuts affected the schools this year and need to be rolled forward next year for a \$441K
351 net difference from what they expected versus what they received. Dr. Scott said the
352 undistributed budget and salaries was \$300K last year with \$150K in expenses. This will also be
353 carried over for next year and they always use all of these funds.

354
355 Dr. Scott spoke about items not listed in the budget that they are hesitant to ask for during this
356 difficult financial time. They have not been able to include a negotiated cost of living increase
357 but would like room to honor their teachers work and to keep up with the cost of living.
358 Funding for staffing to support the increased infrastructure was not included. The \$2.3M
359 technology funding is not enough to meet the five-year vision. There are significant losses to
360 the Kindergarten grant and Circuit Breaker cuts are an issue. The \$685K figure, for a
361 placeholder on Out-of-school time programming, is not included but needs to be added in the
362 future. Finally, they need to begin to provide reasonable increases to the expense budget for
363 teachers. Dr. Scott said that between now and March 30, 2015 the committee will have
364 questions brought to the table and they will be answered by then.

365
366 (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the School Committee office with the
367 records of this meeting.)

368
369 **B. Public Participation**

370 Mr. Scott Wadland, parent of Fuller Middle School students, asked if the SC is relying on the
371 \$1.6M proposed increase in Chapter 70 funding to balance the budget and if so, how much of a
372 risk they are assuming. Dr. Scott said it is coincidental that they are asking for \$1.5M more in
373 the budget and there is no guarantee the Governor's numbers will stay the same. Dr. Gotgart
374 said the Governor 9C cuts made it clear that Chapter 70 funding is top priority. It reflects
375 increases in enrollment and a pattern for grants to offset these cuts. They are unsure what the
376 legislature will do but know that they will still receive underfunding.

377

378 Ms. Hugo thanked several members for attending the Chapter 70 testimony. She said
379 Framingham is an outlier and it is prudent to increase our Chapter 70 funding. Mr. Limeri said
380 Mr. Halpin produced a chart that shows what every school district should be receiving for
381 Chapter 70 funds. Framingham was the outlier of several communities that are underfunded
382 and was \$4M less than what the law says they should receive.

383
384 Ms. Kim Comatas, co-president of TWPTO, said she heard confusing information around
385 kindergarten aides and asked what will happen if the money is not replaced. Dr. Scott said that
386 there were 9C cuts of \$68K. They had several choices on how to handle this but figured out a
387 way to use emergency provisions to make sure the need was sustained for this year. They are
388 concerned it will be cut further but hope that Chapter 70 funding will make up the difference.

389
390 Dr. Scott said they need to continue to grow the Kindergarten aides across the district. Dr.
391 Scott said the capital funds are not in this budget, but are included in the Capital Investment
392 proposal. Ms. Comatas asked about China and how much the trip cost the district. She also
393 asked for a cost analysis. Dr. Scott said the China trip was included in his budget for
394 conferences throughout the year. They are, for the most part, covered by the government of
395 China, with the exception of each participant paying a \$900 fee and hotel fees. It was
396 approximately \$1,200 per person. Dr. Scott noted that Framingham is also discounted \$13K for
397 Daisy Hau's salary.

398
399 Mr. Richard Weader, Town Meeting Member Precinct 4, commented on the \$1.6K for Chapter
400 70 funding and this amount being larger than the Town's CFO proposal. Mr. Weader said he
401 believes it is bad news that there might be a \$1M roof repair request and the CFO believes that
402 will come out of the bottom line number from the capital appropriation for the schools.

403
404 **IV. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS**
405 Under the Education Reform act, all public schools are required to develop school improvement
406 plans. The plans must be developed and approved by their School Council. The School Councils
407 are comprised of staff members, parents and community representatives.

408
409 Tonight, the School Committee heard a review of the School Improvement Plans for three
410 schools. Each school has been allotted 15 minutes for its presentation and 10 minutes for
411 questions from the School Committee.

412
413 **A. Potter Road Elementary School**
414 Larry Wolpe, Assistant Principal, Hilary Kreisberg, Math Coach, Julie L'Abbe, Literacy Coach, and
415 Sara Hamerla, ELL coach were present to share the Potter Road SIP.

416
417 Mr. Wolpe said collaboration is the key to the plan development at Potter Road. They analyze
418 data and goals to come up with action plans. In regards to improvements, the school is well
419 maintained due to the custodial staff. The building is locked 24/7. An ongoing issue is space for
420 the 25 classrooms but other areas have been created into breakout space. Like many other
421 schools, they have parking issues. In the future, they would like the library and computer labs
422 turned into media space or STEAM labs. Mr. Wolpe noted that all teachers do something
423 STEAM related regardless if they are not in the program.

424

425 Mr. Wolpe said Potter Road is a level 2 school. Their student growth percentile has grown over
426 the past few years. The proficiency levels are there but not improving as quickly as they would
427 like. Mr. Wolpe said that their 57.5% high needs population is lagging behind the white
428 students.

429
430 Ms. L'Abbe reviewed their five improvement goals. The ELL strengths were identified in each
431 grade level and it was noted that Potter Road is particularly proud of the third grade open
432 response questions. The ELA Goal is to increase the student growth percentiles by 5%. They
433 anticipate this with consistent readers and writers workshops, supportive lab classrooms, and
434 collaborative planning. Potter Road has increased student access to non-fiction books, RazKid
435 Accounts, and Chrome books. Engaging students in reading is a top priority. They have a family
436 reading night and a book fair.

437
438 Ms. Kreisberg spoke about the math goal and said common trends and targeted areas for
439 growth include a need of improvement for the measurement of data and fractions. Potter
440 Road would like the median SGP to increase by 5% on standardized testing, followed by a
441 tremendous math growth, to continue in upcoming years. Parental involvement included a
442 math night that was more geared towards parents, for the shift in mathematics and the
443 Common Core. The students are able to use several online courses and hands on math
444 tools/manipulatives. For PD they offer workshops per grade level so teachers can see how the
445 curriculum should be implemented. Ms. Kreisberg noted that collaboration time is really
446 valuable.

447
448 Ms. Hamerla discussed ELL students the third goal and an increase of 5% on the ELL and math
449 assessment. The state overall percentage of progress is 61%, and Framingham is ahead of the
450 curve. For PD and instruction, they have added additional ELL teachers and noted that
451 collaboration time is key. Due to the recent drop in scores, Mr. Wolpe said the fourth goal is
452 around science MCAS. They would like the scores to increase by 5%. The action plan includes a
453 Lego league, robotics club, engineering club, and continued support of the school library.

454
455 The fifth goal states that by June, Potter Road will collaboratively address the needs of
456 everybody through the collaboration schedule with Ms. Kreisberg and Ms. L'Abbe. They
457 surveyed the teachers to see what is or is not working. Mr. Wolpe noted that the inclusion
458 model does not look the same from classroom to classroom. They created a song called
459 "Effort" and played it for all to hear. Mr. Wolpe said their plan is not perfect but they want all
460 teachers goals aligned with the school SIP. Mr. Wolpe thanked the Committee for the time to
461 speak.

462
463 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for all they do for the kids. Mr. Limeri asked what their additional
464 needs are at the school. Mr. Wolpe said they need an additional fifth grade teacher due to
465 enrollment, they would like the ELL coach to be full time, a full time math coach due to the
466 adoption of the new math curriculum, and some SPED aides as the students with disabilities are
467 increasing.

468
469 Dr. Scott said the Potter Road ESL coach position is listed on the FY16 budget request.

470
471 (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation and School Improvement plan are on file in the School
472 Committee office with the records of this meeting.)

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B. Stapleton Elementary School

Amy Bright, Principal, Allison Benabdallah, Vice Principal, Michelle Biasella, Literacy Coach, and Julie Gelardi, third grade teacher, were present to share the Stapleton SIP.

Ms. Bright said that she and Ms. Benabdallah are new to the school this year. This past summer they analyzed a multitude of data points for the school and came up with five goals for the FY14-15 school year. These goals include reading, math, science, PBIS, and the school culture. The big picture with each goal is to focus on data collection and analysis, the inclusion model, support personnel, professional development, and expectations.

Ms. Bright gave the data analysis for recent MCAS testing. She noted that they need to address open-ended response questions. The goals for reading, math, and science state that they will increase these open-ended response questions by 5%. The action steps for reading include supporting teachers in the development of Readers Workshop and meeting with teachers weekly. They have model classroom in several grades. The school provides grade level and appropriate rubrics to teachers. The action steps for math include collaborative coaching cycles, utilization of the TenMarks program to assist with fractions, PD for Engage NY concepts, and teaching both multi-step and one-step problems. The action steps for science include investigating addition opportunities to expose students to vocabulary and science standards.

Ms. Bright said that as a part of the action steps, they want to provide PD for MAP assessments, Mastery Objects, Engage NY, and THINK Math. They will also provide PARCC accommodations. Ms. Bright noted that Mr. Fardig has assisted with many of these practices in the building. Stapleton will continue to use T-chards at all grade levels.

The fourth goal is around the implementation of PBIS. Ms. Benabdallah said they began to implement this support based on the core values of being respectful, responsible, and ready. They maintain a productive and safe environment for all students and teachers, and have reduced office referrals by 25%. They developed a matrix for all behavioral settings in the school and how to be ready. The lesson plans were designed to be used to explicitly teach students defined behavioral lessons. Correct procedure models have been implemented to define minor versus major behaviors. They also record and document staff management of these behaviors. The most recent faculty meeting identified strengths and weaknesses in the schools handling of behaviors. The next steps are to use this information moving forward. They want to introduce rewards and incentives this spring.

Goal 5 is for staff to demonstrate an increase in positive responses to questions pertaining to the school culture. Action steps include faculty and staff meetings, PD, an open door policy, and an analysis of data to improve instruction. Following all meetings, the staff complete exit tickets to determine the next step and follow up items. They receive feedback on all planned and unplanned walkthroughs.

Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for their presenting their SIP. Mr. Limeri asked how the SC can help them. Ms. Bright said Stapleton is a fantastic team and several Central Office staff has helped them get off on the right foot. They could use a full time math coach and have also asked for a full time behaviorist and a .5 ELL coach.

521 (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation and School Improvement plan are on file in the School
522 Committee office with the records of this meeting.)

523

524 **C. Woodrow Wilson Elementary School**

525 John Haidemenos, Principal, Assistant Principal Michele da Costa, and Amy Graff, PYP
526 Coordinator were present to share the Woodrow Wilson (WW) SIP.

527

528 Mr. Haidemenos said they changed the model at WW from “every child is a star” to “striving for
529 excellence”. The school’s mission statement also changed and it is in alignment with the
530 International Baccalaureate Programme (IB). Mr. Haidemenos outlined the school vision, core
531 values, IB attitudes, and the IB Learner Profiles. He noted that WW applied for full IB
532 authorization and has a scheduled visit on April 9 + 10, 2015. They are continuing with the
533 Program of Inquiry (POI), conducting DSAC walkthroughs and introducing several new programs
534 at the school.

535

536 Mr. Haidemenos said they still have the bilingual strand and are trying to meet the needs of the
537 families and students. They have five ELL teachers and one coach. A Portuguese modern
538 language program, for K-5 for non-Brazilian students, was recently introduced. The United Way
539 gave WW a \$25K grant to attend a PD conference in Atlanta and they were able to send sixteen
540 teachers. The school also received the United Way Community Impact Award in 2013. Mr.
541 Haidemenos listed several programs at WW that support both students and parents, including a
542 non-perishable food pantry in the school. Mr. Haidemenos said they held a large workshop on
543 immigration and the Ron Burton Program provides scholarships for students after they
544 graduate high school. Other school updates include the upcoming Jungle Book musical and the
545 establishment of Student Council in grades four and five.

546

547 Mr. Haidemenos said the CPI targets for ELA have improved but are still below the target.
548 Students with disabilities have declined but they are working to improve these scores. In Math,
549 WW improved in most sub groups but there was a slight drop in ELL. The staff is very proud
550 that 59% of WW is ELL and had an 80% growth for ELL students this past year. Their SPG
551 comparisons show they are above the state in several categories.

552

553 Mr. Haidemenos detailed the schools five goals and their projected outcomes. Goal 1 for
554 English/Language Arts is to increase the student growth percentile and proficiency levels by
555 10%. They can see students using academic language in the classrooms and are promoting the
556 growth mindset. The students take increased ownership of inquiry and ask “why” questions.
557 Goal 2 for mathematics is to also increase by 10%. This includes constructing oral and written
558 arguments, increasing problem-solving skills, and improved classroom discussion.

559

560 Goal 3 is to improve the instruction climate. Outcomes include inquiry-based approaches,
561 expansion of vocabulary knowledge and concepts, and to make connections with other
562 subjects. Parent/teacher conferences will include students taking partnership and they will
563 explain to their parents how they are learning in the classroom. Goal 4 is to build a culture of
564 trust and accountability through increased ownership and a commitment to IB standards. The
565 staff will have an additional 45 minutes of PD per week and are enrolled in IB training. Parents
566 ask more questions on student learning and they have shifted PTO meetings to now include a
567 parent-teaching piece versus just fund raising.

568

569 Goal 5 is around health and nutrition, and to promote awareness and behavioral changes
570 around healthier eating habits. WW has partnered with UMASS Amherst and they are
571 educating students on making healthy choices. Items are placed on bulletin boards throughout
572 the school that support healthier snack and lunch options. Mr. Haidemenos said they are
573 starting to see a shift in food that students bring to school and the portions are more
574 appropriate.

575
576 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for the excellent presentation and said she recently went to a PTO
577 meeting that was packed. Mr. Limeri asked what the school needs from the SC. Mr.
578 Haidemenos said they are fortunate to have the supports they have at the school. Their current
579 needs are around the IB requirements and a five-year budget plan which includes certain
580 expectations once they are approved. Due to expansion, they need a grade two and grade
581 three teachers. The standard classrooms are pretty full. Mr. Haidemenos said they appreciate
582 the custodial staff and the school is relatively new.

583
584 Mr. Limeri congratulated WW for getting to the point where they can apply for IB. Mr. Limeri
585 asked if the parents get one-on-one time with the teachers. Ms. da Costa said they go by a
586 mind set for what will be productive. They do a self-assessment with the student prior to the
587 conference and make it a three-point conversation. As this is new, they will see how it rolls out.

588
589 Dr. Scott congratulated them for their hard work.

590
591 (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation and School Improvement Plan are on file in the School
592 Committee office with the records of this meeting.)

593
594 Dr. Scott said he is proud of the work and effort from each school. They are creative with space
595 and the work that they do is both significant and important. Dr. Scott said the work with the
596 curriculum department is very helpful and he recommended that the SC vote to accept the SIP
597 for these three schools.

598
599 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Mr. Limeri that the School**
600 **Committee vote to accept the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan for Potter Road,**
601 **Stapleton and Woodrow Wilson Elementary Schools. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms.**
602 **Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in**
603 **favor; 6-0-0.**

604

605 V. CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

606 A. Woodrow Wilson Elementary School – International Baccalaureate Update

607 Principal John Haidemenos and Ms. Amy Graff were present to update the School Committee
608 on the process of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School becoming an International
609 Baccalaureate School.

610
611 Ms. Graff gave an update on the IB program and said it offers three primary programs.
612 Framingham is moving forward with the Primary Years Program (PYP) which is for students
613 aged 3-12. Ms. Graff listed the top eight states with IB schools and said WW hopes to be the
614 third IB PYP School in Massachusetts. To be authorized as a PYP school, all teachers need to be

615 trained in Category 1, “Making the PYP Happen”. They have a program of inquiry (POI) which
616 aligns the six transitional themes and will be subject to a self-reflection assessment cycle every
617 five years. They visited a Connecticut school going through the assessment and Ms. Graff noted
618 that it was good to see Framingham is on track for the IB process.

619
620 Ms. Graff provided a sample for the second grade program and said the written curriculum is
621 what they want students to learn. Teachers and students came up with research questions and
622 the teachers taught the students how to interview their parents and to gather information.
623 Students worked both at home and in school on this project, and the parents were involved.
624 The students need to identify two IB attitudes they exhibit and self-assess their work. The
625 twelve attitudes include appreciation, commitment, confidence, cooperation, creativity,
626 curiosity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect, and tolerance. Ms. Graff said
627 each fifth grade student has a mentor that comes in and works with him or her on a research
628 project. They are establishing a research library and they work on the twelve IB attitudes daily.

629
630 Ms. Hugo said the IB process is exciting. She asked what percentage of continuing success is
631 owed to the IB program. Ms. da Costa said they look at the needs of the community, and
632 empower the students and parents to own their school and curriculum. The tones of attitude
633 and value are very powerful.

634
635 Mr. Taggart asked how long the school has been going through the IB process and Ms. da Costa
636 said their first meeting was four years ago. Mr. Taggart asked if students are being drawn to
637 WW through school choice and this program. Dr. Scott said it is too soon to determine this, and
638 Ms. da Costa said they have had more visits from parents and other districts but think it will be
639 a while before they draw more interest due to the schools location.

640
641 Mr. Limeri said that for those who are not familiar with the school, the increase in parents who
642 show at PTO has increased drastically. Dr. Silverman thanked all schools for their SIP and said
643 he is thrilled to hear other districts/states are interesting in what Framingham is doing. He said
644 it is great to see the district nationalize themselves in multiple ways.

645
646 (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the School Committee office with the
647 records of this meeting.)

648
649 Dr. Scott said the product is a result of ongoing conversations with the school council. They
650 refine their focus, using data, to see what they need to do to get that next step forward.

651
652 **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

653 **A. Make Up of Snow Days – Survey Results**
654 The 2014-2015 School Year calendar allowed an extension of the school year by five (5) days to
655 allow for school cancellations due to inclement weather. As of this date, the district has
656 cancelled classes for seven (7) days due to snow events. The School Committee approved the
657 addition of two (2) school days to the 2014-2015 school year calendar. See attached survey
658 results.

659
660 Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee approve the additional two (2)
661 school days to the 2014-2015 school year calendar as June 25 and June 26. If there are

662 additional snow days, they would then dip into April vacation beginning with Friday moving
663 back through the week as needed.

664
665 Dr. Diaz said that with the snow days for this year they have a lot of information from both the
666 survey and Dr. Scott. Mr. Limeri said it is late to take away from April vacation and he would
667 prefer to continue into June. Mr. Taggart agreed with Mr. Limeri and said April vacation is so
668 close that the implication to staff is critical and will cause a great deal of problems. Mr. Taggart
669 noted that they cannot predict what the weather will be like in June.

670
671 Dr. Diaz said her office is recommending that the preferred method is to use the end of June.
672 Ms. Connolly asked if Good Friday or half school days is an option. Dr. Scott said anything is in
673 the purview of the SC and they will require a waiver of the policy. Dr. Scott said they are willing
674 to forgo Good Friday and the state made is clear that ½ days cannot make up for full snow day
675 losses. Dr. Scott said he is in agreement with the SC wanting to use added days in June and he
676 supports the direction of the Committee. Ms. Hugo noted they will not be able to please
677 everyone and this is a difficult decision.

678
679 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Limeri and seconded by Mr. Taggart that the School**
680 **Committee use June 25 + 26, 2015 to make up for current snow days and if further**
681 **snow days are needed they would then use June 29 + 30, 2015. Discussion: None.**
682 **Vote: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr.**
683 **Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.**

684
685 **B. 2015-2016 School Year Calendar**

686 At its meeting on March 3, 2015, the School Committee approved the 2015-2016 School Year
687 Calendar. The calendar allows for an extension of the school year by five (5) days to allow for
688 school cancellations due to inclement weather. The School Committee voted this evening to
689 determine which days will be used if the district exceeds five (5) snow days.

690
691 Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee approve the days to be used
692 for snow days, should the district exceed the five (5) snow days calculated into the 2015-2016
693 school year calendar, as Option 1: June 23-24, 2016 and then Monday, June 27 – Thursday, June
694 30, 2016. For the record, Dr. Scott also read Options 2 and 3.

695
696 (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the School Committee office with the
697 records of this meeting.)

698
699 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Limeri and seconded by Mr. Taggart that the School**
700 **Committee vote to approve the days to be used for snow days, should the district**
701 **exceed the five (5) snow days calculated into the 2015-2016 school year calendar as**
702 **Option 1: June 23-24, 2016 and then Monday, June 27 - Thursday, June 30, 2016 for**
703 **any additional days. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr.**
704 **Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.**

705
706 **VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

707 **A. February 24, 2015 and March 3, 2015 Executive and Open Session**

708

709 MOTION: Moved by Mr. Limeri and seconded by Mr. Taggart that the School
710 Committee approve the February 24, 2015 and March 3, 2015 executive and open
711 session minutes as a consent agenda item. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Connolly, Ms.
712 Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.
713

714 **B. March 10, 2015 Joint and Open Session**

715
716 MOTION: Moved by Mr. Limeri and seconded by Mr. Stockless that the School
717 Committee approve the March 10, 2015 joint and open session minutes as a consent
718 agenda. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman,
719 Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 6-0-0.
720

721 **VIII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

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

723 Mr. Limeri said there is a group of administrators getting together to discuss the Dashboard and
724 it should be heard at the next SC meeting. Ms. Hugo said Mr. Limeri is retiring from the SC after
725 3 terms and there will be a reception and period of recognition on March 30, 2015.
726

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

728 Ms. Connolly said a meeting has not yet been scheduled. The school offices will be moving on
729 Thursday, March 19, 2015 to 73 Mount Wayte Avenue, Suite 5, also known as the Perini
730 Building. Dr. Scott said PIC will stay at King through the end of the SY and their movement to
731 Fuller will be in July. Dr. Scott said emails and phone numbers will remain the same. The
732 Superintendent’s Conference Room will also remain the same and the Desmarais Room will be
733 going through construction but the community will be fully informed of any changes to the
734 meetings.
735

736 **C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo**

737 Ms. Hugo said they are preparing the budget and will be making rounds with standing
738 committees from the Town. The next subcommittee meeting is April 14, 2015.
739

740 **D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo**

741 Ms. Hugo said they are working on adhering to the nutritional guidelines and reducing student
742 stress. In conjunction with student wellness and the MASC they will be putting on a student
743 violence seminar on April 30, 2015.
744

745 **E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo**

746 Ms. Hugo said she will be attending the National School Boards Association meeting to find out
747 about upcoming federal legislation and its impact on Framingham. Ms. Hugo said they are
748 going to the state house for the annual Day on the Hill on April 29, 2015 for an all day event.
749

750 **F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman**

751 Dr. Silverman said they will convene on March 24, 2015 and the agenda will be posted online.
752

753 **G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly**

754 Ms. Connolly said there was no report.
755

756 **H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri**

757 Mr. Limeri said there was a meeting on March 12, 2015. Karen Polito discussed a \$750.8M gap
758 in the state budget. For the FY16 budget, they are looking to do some savings by reforming
759 Mass Health and the retirement program. They will fully fund McKinney Vento. The
760 Community Compact Cabinet for Municipalities will provide more feedback and Tom Cronin is
761 the contact person. Karen Spilka talked about the budget process being difficult and said Mass
762 Health is a very large part of it. There are \$67M cuts that concern her and she is looking for
763 priorities. Ms. Spilka is interested in the Chapter 70 Foundation Review. It was noted that the
764 educational formula is out of date, there are concerns around Chapter 70 budgeting, SPED, and
765 health insurance. They need to make a connection between costs and taxes, and questioned if
766 a structural change should be made in how taxes are collected.

767
768 **I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly**

769 Ms. Connolly said she is heading to East Walpole for a meeting on Friday, March 20, 2015. Ms.
770 Hugo thanked Ms. Connolly and Dr. Scott for saving Framingham \$20K after TEC reformed their
771 membership fees.

772
773 **J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless**

774 Mr. Stockless said there is no scheduled meeting but would like one prior to April break.

775
776 **K. Communications and Public Relations Task Force – Mr. Stockless**

777 Mr. Stockless said the TF met last night and Greg Palmer signed on as co-chair to help manage
778 the process. The first meeting minutes and survey data have been posed on the FPS website.
779 The next four Monday meetings will be held in the Superintendent’s Conference Room.

780
781 **IX. MEMBER REPORTS**

782 Ms. Hugo said a member would like to postpone the evaluation due date until April. She asked
783 for the consent of the Committee and Mr. Taggart said he would not mind pushing it further.
784 The consensus was that they can push the evaluation due date to April 30, 2015 to give
785 members a chance to gather more information.

786
787 Ms. Hugo said they want to do a 360 Survey of the district, to help with goals for next year. This
788 will inform the SC what is working and what needs to be improved. The survey will be used for
789 the planning of the goals at the summer retreat. Ms. Hugo asked for a consensus and the
790 Committee said they should do the survey.

791
792 Dr. Scott said he has begun conversations to look at models for the survey. He will continue
793 this research and update the Committee to possible strategies in the near future.

794
795 **X. BILLS AND PAYROLL**

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

797
798 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

799 The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

800
801 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Mr. Stockless that the School**
802 **Committee adjourn the meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo,**
803 **Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voted in favor; 6-0-0.**

804
805 The meeting adjourned at 11:18 p.m.
806
807 *These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee at the meeting of April 8,*
808 *2015.*
809
810 *A copy of the minutes was forwarded to the Office of the Town Clerk on April 10, 2015.*
811

812 **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

813 FY16 Budget
814 Potter Road Elementary School - School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation
815 Stapleton Elementary School – School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation
816 Woodrow Wilson Elementary School – School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation
817 Woodrow Wilson Elementary School International Baccalaureate Presentation
818 Proposed 2015-2016 School Year Snow Days
819 February 24, 2015 Executive and Open Session Minutes
820 March 3, 2015 Executive and Open Session Minutes
821 March 10, 2015 Joint Open Session Minutes
822 March 10, 2015 Open Session Minutes