



Town of Framingham SCHOOL COMMITTEE

73 Mt. Wayte Avenue, Suite 5
Framingham, Massachusetts 01702

Beverly Hugo
Chair

Heather Connolly
Vice Chair

Don Taggart III
Clerk

Michelle Brosnahan
Jim Kelly
Dr. Eric Silverman
Jim Stockless

April 10, 2015

On Wednesday, April 8, 2015 the School Committee held its regular meeting, in the Desmarais Room of the King Building, with seven members present. Below is a list of highlights from the meeting:

Reorganization of School Committee – Election of Officers

The School Committee congratulated Beverly Hugo on her re-election and Jim Kelly for his appointment to the board. In a 4-3 vote Ms. Hugo was re-elected as Chair, in a 7-0 vote Heather Connolly was voted as Vice-Chair and in a 7-0 vote Don Taggart III was elected as Clerk.

Community Recognition

Dr. Diaz thanked Ms. Sandy Thomas for her work in donating over 6,000 books to FPS. Ms. Thomas worked at Barnes and Nobles for the past 15 years and was always looking for ways to donate books to less fortunate students. Dr. Diaz said that Ms. Thomas is making the transition from retail to wholesale, in the hopes of expanding her efforts. Ms. Thomas said she was honored for the recognition and enjoys working with schools and students.

Math 180 Program

Ms. Maguire and three Math 180 Program graduates came to speak about the program. Ms. Maguire said it is offered to struggling math students in grades 6-9 and its goal is to make them algebra ready. The program offers 9 blocks of study and each block has its own real world theme. Math 180 consists of warm-up exercises, small groups and individualized training.

FY16 School Department Operating Budget

Dr. Scott recommended that the SC move forward with their final vote on the FY16 Budget in the amount of \$116,517,639. He said it is important to create consistent supports across all schools. The SC voted in favor of the \$116,517,639 budget amount.

Gen Grieci, Director of Bilingual Education, answered several questions from Dr. Scott in regards to the need for requested positions. Ms. Grieci, who is a proud product of Framingham's ESL program, put a personal spin on the importance of bilingual and ESL programs. These supports are both internal and external. Ms. Grieci noted that Framingham has been at the forefront of ELL programming in the state.

School Improvement Plans

Cameron Middle School: Michelle Melick, Jen Eisenberg, and Megan Maguire presented the Cameron SIP. They are currently a level 2 school and their goals were developed to support the progress they are making and to continue moving forward. Each goal is centered on targeting areas that they struggle with the most. It was noted that their school is above or on target with the growth of schools across the state.

Fuller Middle School: Sharon Seyller, Mike Stevens, Barbara Rappaport, Lori DiGisi, and Lisa Cogliandro presented the Cameron SIP. Their goals are focused on individualized learning and this includes developing strong relationships, using data points, and practicing the Growth Mindset. The vision statement is to “create a caring learning community dedicated to preparing students to be productive members of a global society”.

Middle School Math Updates

Sarah Guernsey, Megan Maguire, and Barbara Rappaport highlighted the math programs for grades 6-8. During PD they focus on student-centered classrooms where students can grapple with math concepts. They use real world situations and encourage students to solve problems using multiple strategies. There are mathematical standards with the common core and this includes reasoning abstractly, variable arguments, and modeling.

Support for Students

Rosemary Jebari and Glenda Cohen presented a proposal for a collaborative program with technical schools, in support of students with limited or interrupted formal educations (SLIFE). Many of these students are dealing with financial responsibilities and difficult living situations. Their only option is college preparatory classes and enrollment restrictions make it difficult to register. Ms. Jebari asked that the district open a dialogue with neighboring vocational and technical schools.

Education Reform Act of 1993

At the recommendation of Dr. Scott, the School Committee vote 7-0 to not participate in the State’s School Choice Program. Dr. Scott noted that the recommendation was based on budgetary concerns and will be looked into further this year.

Policy BEDH (Public Participation at School Committee Meetings)

Dr. Silverman, Policy Subcommittee convener, read a proposed revision to Policy BEDH. The revisions included a broadening of topics that the public may comment on during the SC meetings, and a statement that all topics will be accepted as advice and taken under advisement. The SC approved the revised policy for a first reading.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Scott said Framingham has enrolled 677 new students in the district. Kindergarten registration is currently 673 students and they anticipate it quickly reaching 700 students. Dr. Scott noted that sibling rates are not fixed in the schools and increases as families register.

Dr. Scott gave an update on PARCC and said the area of difficulty was with the ELL students. Beyond that, he has heard positive stories and from a technology standpoint it was a smooth testing period. Dr. Scott said the Capital Budget request of \$1.15M is to add additional technological devices in the next few years.