

1 **FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
2 **Desmarais Room – King Administration Building – April 27, 2015**

3
4 **Present**

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

12
13 **Absent**

14 None

15
16 **Also Present**

17 Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent
18 Jordan Cline, FHS Student Representative
19 Jackson Cote, FHS Student Representative
20 Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer
21 Dr. Ed Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer
22 Donna Maxwell, Potter Road Elementary School teacher
23 Katie Wang, Potter Road Elementary School student
24 Gail Chancey, Stapleton Elementary School teacher
25 Dr. Robert Langdon, FHS Science teacher
26 Joshua Werblin, FHS student
27 Jacob Schneiderman, FHS student
28 Priyanka Roy, FHS student
29 Varun Tekur, FHS student
30 Gerry Brody, Retirees School Volunteers Association (RSVA)
31 Patrick Johnson, Walsh Middle School Principal
32 Beth Herrmann, Walsh Middle School Vice Principal
33 James Bergeron, Walsh Middle School Vice Principal
34 Emily Parks, Walsh Middle School
35 Barbara Maglione, Walsh Middle School
36 Jodi O'Rourke, Walsh Middle School
37 Sarah Guernsey, Walsh Middle School
38 Elyse Torbert, FHS Interim Principal
39 Mark Albright, FHS 9th Grade Vice Principal
40 Jeff Convery, FHS 10th Grade Vice Principal
41 Greg Lagan, FHS 11th Grade Vice Principal
42 Sarah Redbord, FHS 12th Grade Vice Principal
43 Ms. Amy Bright, Stapleton Elementary School Principal
44 Ms. Alison Benabdallah, Stapleton Elementary School Assistant Principal
45 Rosemary Jebari, FHS Bilingual/ESL Department teacher
46 Matthew Corcoran, FHS teacher
47 Susan DeSimone, FHS School Counseling Department teacher
48 Alyse Lepkowski, FHS School Counseling Department teacher

49 Paul Spear, FHS teacher
50 Anne Ludes, FHS Math Department teacher
51 Will Cook, FHS English Department teacher
52 Tricia Simeone, Administrative Assistant

53

54 **AGENDA**

- 55 I. Meeting with the Public
- 56 II. Student Highlights and Recognitions
 - 57 A. Potter Road Elementary School Student
 - 58 B. Stapleton Elementary School Teacher
 - 59 C. Framingham High School Department
- 60 III. Recognition of STEM Grant Award
- 61 IV. School Improvement Plans
 - 62 A. Walsh Middle School
 - 63 B. Framingham High School
- 64 V. Action Item
 - 65 A. Policy Revision – BEDH (Public Participation at School Committee Meetings)
- 66 VI. Discussion Item
 - 67 A. FY16 Budget Discussion
 - 68 B. FY16 Technology Funding Request
- 69 VII. Superintendent’s Report
- 70 VIII. Approval of Minutes
 - 71 A. March 17, 2015 – Executive Session
 - 72 B. April 8, 2015 – Executive and Open Session
- 73 IX. Appointments to Boards, Committees and School Liaisons
- 74 X. Report of Committees
 - 75 A. Academic Data Dashboard –
 - 76 B. Buildings & Grounds/Real Property Subcommittee –
 - 77 C. Finance/Capital Budget Subcommittee –
 - 78 D. District Wellness Committee –
 - 79 E. MASC Legislative Liaison –
 - 80 F. Policy Subcommittee –
 - 81 G. Suburban Coalition –
 - 82 H. TEC Board of Directors –
 - 83 I. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force –
 - 84 J. Communications and Public Relations Task Force –
 - 85 K. Superintendent’s Evaluation Task Force –
- 86 XII. Member Reports
- 87 XIII. Bills and Payroll
- 88 XIV. Adjournment

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91 **ACTION**

92 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Beverly Hugo convened the School
93 Committee with seven members present. The Chair announced that the meeting would be
94 recorded and broadcast live with assistance from the School Committee’s FHS-TV Producers
95 and Framingham Access Cable. Ms. Hugo said the Committee met in executive session and

96 apologized for the late start of the meeting. Ms. Hugo reviewed the items on the agenda for
97 this evening.

98

99 **I. MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC**

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

103

104 No members of the public came forward.

105

106 **II. STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOGNITION**

107 **A. Potter Road Elementary School Student**

108 Potter Road first grade student Katie Wang was awarded the Sargent Art Elementary Art Award
109 at the Massachusetts Art Education Youth Exhibition. She was honored during the Family
110 Celebration on March 22, 2015 and her artwork, along with eight Potter Road Elementary
111 School students, was on exhibition in the Transportation Building through April 24, 2015.

112

113 Ms. Donna Maxwell, Potter Road Elementary School art teacher, introduced her student Katie
114 Wang. Katie held up a photo of her Georgia O’Keefe sunflower painting. Ms. Maxwell said she
115 could choose up to 5 paintings to send to the Art Show in Boston. It was not a contest but an
116 opportunity to celebrate visual arts in the Commonwealth. Ms. Maxwell said that Sargent Art
117 Company selects one piece of artwork from each school level to give recognition to the student
118 and provide them with art supplies. Katie was selected for the Elementary School. Ms.
119 Maxwell read a letter she wrote to the Sargent Art Company in regards to Katie’s honor.

120

121 Ms. Hugo thanked Ms. Maxwell for her hard work and inspiration. The Wang family received a
122 round of applause. Ms. Brosnahan told Katie’s parents that all of the Framingham art teachers
123 are wonderful. Ms. Hugo asked that a letter of recognition be sent to Katie and her teacher,
124 Ms. Maxwell.

125

126 **B. Stapleton Elementary School Teacher**

127 Ms. Gail Chancey, first grade teacher at Stapleton Elementary School, will be representing
128 Framingham Public Schools in China this summer as part of the SABEH program where she will
129 be sharing best practices from Framingham with her counterparts in China.

130

131 Ms. Chancey said she is excited to represent Framingham in China. She applied for the
132 opportunity in November. SABEH is a non-profit organization and the teachers will be going to
133 several providences in China. Three skills they will be teaching include thinking, interacting, and
134 comprehension skills in practice. After teaching, they will be given 10 days of travel and the
135 goal is to bring Chinese educators back to Framingham to show them what is done here. Ms.
136 Chancey provided an information packet on SABEH to the Committee members.

137

138 Mr. Taggart congratulated Ms. Chancey on being selected. He said this is a continuation on the
139 work of Dr. Scott and staff over the past two years.

140

141 **C. Framingham High School Science Department**

142 Dr. Robert Langdon, FHS science teacher, was present to share an update on the FHS student
143 participation on the WGBH (Channel 2) television show, “High School Quiz Show”.

144
145 Students Joshua Werblin, Jacob Schneiderman, Priyanka Roy, and Varun Tekur were present
146 with their teacher Dr. Langdon to discuss the High School Quiz Show. Elijah Bondar was unable
147 to attend. Mr. Werblin thanked the Committee for the recognition as Sports usually take the
148 forefront. He said that as the quiz team they are tested on several topics. Ms. Roy said 120
149 schools met in November for the Qualifying Round and the top 14 public and top 2 private
150 schools made it to the televised round. Mr. Schneiderman said that while Framingham
151 ultimately lost, they made it to one of the top 8 teams in the state. Mr. Tekur noted that they
152 attend other quiz shows and had a lot of fun this year. Dr. Langdon said the television show can
153 be found on YouTube and he is very proud of the hard work of the students.

154
155 Ms. Hugo said she was proud when she watched them. Mr. Cline said he has had the privilege
156 of knowing these kids and said he commented on the hard work and contributions of each
157 student. Ms. Hugo asked that a letter of recognition be sent to each student and Dr. Langdon.

158
159 **III. RECOGNITION OF STEM GRANT AWARD**
160 Mr. Gerry Brody, with the Retirees School Volunteers Association (RSVA), was present to award
161 the Framingham Public Schools, specifically Walsh Middle School, a \$1,000 STEM Grant.

162
163 Mr. Brody thanked the Committee for the invite. He said he is a member of the RSVA and a
164 volunteer of FPS for over ten years. He was pleased to inform the Committee and the Town of
165 the \$1,000 grant to the Robotics Club bus trip to Kentucky. He said this is the second year that
166 they have provided support to defray the cost of registration and travel expenses. Mr. Brody
167 said they support the students of the Framingham School District by providing an RSVA STEM
168 award to each middle school each year and a Barnes and Noble Gift Certificate to each school
169 for one boy and one girl (the names are on a leaf plaque at each school).

170
171 Ms. Hugo thanked Mr. Brody for his community service and she noted that Congresswoman
172 Clark was impressed with his work at the High School.

173
174 Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee accept the \$1,000 STEM Grant
175 and thank the Retirees School Volunteers Association for its support of Fuller Middle School
176 and its STEM Program of studies.

177
178 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**
179 **Committee accept the \$1,000 STEM Grant and thank the Retirees School Volunteers**
180 **Association for its support of Fuller Middle School and its STEM Program of studies.**
181 **Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kelly, Dr.**
182 **Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-0.**

183
184 **IV. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS**
185 Under the Education Reform act, all public schools are required to develop school improvement
186 plans. The plans must be developed and approved by their School Council. The School Councils
187 are comprised of staff members, parents and community representatives.

188

189 Tonight, the School Committee heard a review of the School Improvement Plan for Walsh
190 Middle School and Framingham High School. The schools were allotted 20 minutes for their
191 presentation and 10 minutes for questions from the School Committee.

192

193 **A. Walsh Middle School**

194 Patrick Johnson, Principal, Beth Herrmann, Vice Principal, and James Bergeron, Vice Principal,
195 along with staff Emily Parks, Beth Herrmann, Barbara Maglione, Jodi O'Rourke, and Sarah
196 Guernsey presented the Walsh Middle School SIP.

197

198 Mr. Johnson introduced his leadership team, and thanked the SC and Dr. Scott for their support
199 over the years. He extended an invitation for Town members to visit Walsh. Mr. Johnson said
200 that the students now use laptops, document readers, and online curriculum. The school
201 opened in 1969 and they currently have 679 students. They offer a comprehensive educational
202 curriculum with special activities. Their goal is to support all students so they can achieve the
203 best that they can.

204

205 Ms. Maglione said that PBIS is something that keeps them going and they have created a
206 reward system for students who exhibit their core values (ROAR - respect, ownership,
207 acceptance and responsibility). Ms. Maglione said another concern is feeding their students.
208 Mr. Johnson said the food services department is under regulation as to what they can or
209 cannot do and so Walsh provides a ticket to students who cannot pay for meals. The school is
210 then charged through their Revolving Student Account. Mr. Johnson noted that there is never a
211 hungry student at Walsh.

212

213 Ms. Herrmann said that Goal 1 is to increase student time on learning and to reducing office
214 referrals by 10%, as well as increase the yearly attendance to 97%. Mr. Bergeron said students
215 were referred to the office too often and they are using PBIS to come up ways to reduce these
216 numbers. Since last year, they have reduced office referrals and suspensions significantly. Ms.
217 Herrmann said they have several programs that they are proud of and one includes the
218 mentoring program which has over 40 faculty members who meet with students on a weekly
219 basis. This provides each student with a "go-to" adult to bounce ideas off or to get advice.
220 They were able to take students to a Celtics game and to see the movie Shrek.

221

222 Ms. Parks said that Goal 2 is to improve the school wide awareness of Global Citizenship.
223 Several teachers have taken this course over the past few years and it is incorporated in 6th
224 grade social studies classes. They also have school wide announcements and bulletin boards in
225 the lobby. Mr. Johnson said they made a partnership with FSU for a two-way program for ELL
226 parents to have access to technology. With the help of Dr. Diaz, they secured a grant for a
227 Chinese Mandarin teacher who will teach four classes. Mr. Johnson said that at the beginning
228 of the year they did a Veterans Thank You program. Ms. O'Rourke said this began five years
229 ago and is an annual event. Chorus students sing songs, local veterans march in, and they have
230 guest speakers. An assembly took place in November and they also did a read-a-thon which
231 raised money for Wounded Warriors.

232

233 Ms. Guernsey said that Goal 3 is to decrease the percent of math students in warning from 14%
234 to 12%. They have an enrichment block where students receive target interventions and they
235 pull one unit out of the sequence to provide more time for the core instruction of the math
236 class. This allows students to master the standard before they move on to the next. They also

237 have a teacher collaborative where the teachers look at how their classroom compares to the
238 others and they can see what did or did not work. Lastly, they focus on vertical integration with
239 the Common Core and how far to go in one grade and where it picks up in the next.

240

241 Mr. Johnson said that Goal 4 is around science and technology. They will review, create, and
242 align trimester units and assessments based on the Massachusetts State Science and
243 Technology Framework. He said this is important since science does not have a voice in the
244 middle school due to a lack of department heads. They have tried to determine what their gaps
245 are and how to improve them through a collaborative effort between the science teachers. Mr.
246 Johnson noted that the Robotics team won three tournaments this year.

247

248 Ms. O'Rourke said that Goal 5 is to demonstrate proficiency by incorporating evidence based
249 claims in constructed responses. This is measured by the customized school rubric that is
250 aligned with PARACC, student reading notebooks, and observations. Their work with the
251 Teachers Learning Alliance has helped them as well. Mr. Johnson said they have a growing list
252 of community partnerships and they are trying to build these relationships.

253

254 Ms. Hugo thanked the Walsh staff for their work and passion. Mr. Taggart said that he would
255 like to see how the numbers play out at the end of the year, in regards to the goal on
256 decreasing referrals and suspensions. Mr. Taggart asked how a student earns the math warning
257 distinction/list and Ms. Guernsey said that this is specifically MCAS data regarding the test
258 results. In answering a question from Mr. Taggart about the social studies program moving
259 forward, Mr. Johnson that said part of this goal is the Global Initiative and the curriculum is
260 continually being rewritten for improvement.

261

262 Dr. Silverman said that he is thrilled with goal two and it should be a model for the entire
263 district. Ms. Brosnahan said the social studies team of teachers does magic. Mr. Cline thanked
264 his previous educators for their hard work. Mr. Cline asked if the staff could expand on their
265 comment that the grading system keeps them up at night. Mr. Johnson said the grading system
266 is based on the A-F scale and this is "past its time". He said it puts a student behind the curve if
267 they have one bad semester or test. He is passionate about a standard based report card and
268 hopes this can be used in the future.

269

270 **B. Framingham High School**

271 Elyse Torbert, Interim Principal presented the Framingham High School SIP.

272

273 Ms. Torbert said the HS SIP is a culmination of work from the faculty, staff, and school council.
274 They began by defining what FHS is. She detailed the infrastructure of the HS and noted that
275 the grade principals follow their students throughout all four years. They are proud that they
276 mirror the state percentages. Ms. Torbert noted that approximately 1 in 3 students learn
277 English as a second or third language and FHS is unique as they receive a large number of
278 students after the year begins.

279

280 They have four student support teams, which meet once a cycle, to address students in need.
281 They offer many programs that include but are not limited to the Phoenix Program, learning
282 center, Resiliency for Life, writing center, academic development center, peer leadership
283 program, work/study opportunities, wellness center, college counselor, "blended learning"
284 models, Seniors helping Freshmen, etc.

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Ms. Torbert said FHS is a level 1 school and they are very proud of this. In math/history 89% scored advanced or proficient and in science 88% scored advanced or proficient. The ELA gap is narrowing and they are above target for every category, while the ELA growth is on target for most categories. The math growth is above target in every category and science on or above category for GAP narrowing. The DART comparisons from DESE show that FHS far exceeds comparable schools, regardless of their size. They had 100% of African American students graduate in the four-year cohort. They want to improve the dropout rate and will strive to close this gap. Ms. Torbert noted that FHS runs 44 classes of advanced placement in 18 areas and the number of AP exams is increasing.

Ms. Torbert said that Goal 1 is to continue to reduce the overall dropout rate from 2% to 1.7% (a 15% reduction). They want to pay attention to the retention rate as these students have the least consistent educational team due to changing grade levels. Their plan is to continue to work with Thayer, create an advisory homeroom, create a referral program, and develop a program oversight committee to review current programs.

Goal 2 is to create and implement a system of target Special Education supports to match individualized students' needs. Approximately 50% of retained students are special needs and the plan is to provide collaboration and develop content driven study strategies. Goal 3 is to create a system of programs and supports to help new students maximize their success by decreasing discipline rates. The plan is to increase collaboration and communication with middle school department heads, vertically align the middle and high school curriculum, and collaborate with PIC to create consistent protocols for the attainment of previous records.

Goal 4 is to reduce the absentee rate by creating a system of supports for those who are absent for a significant amount of time. In six-months they have had over 60 referrals for therapy. The plan is to create a permanent critical care coordinator position, create a program to help students with concussions, and increase communication with hospitals and families.

Goal 5 is to create a platform for supervision and evaluation protocols. They will analyze data frequency and through the use of best practices. The plan is to educate teachers on common best teaching practices, work with collaborators, and continue to use walkthroughs. Goal 6 is to expand the use of technology and they would like to have a 1-to-1 technology environment for the 2016-2017 SY. The plan is to provide PD for faculty and staff, and for students to create electronic writing folders.

Ms. Torbert said that FHS wants to provide a school culture where conversations about best instructional practices are the norm and all students are supported to achieve to their fullest potential, despite external factors. While the HS is a students' final stop in Framingham, the product is a result of the entire district.

Ms. Hugo thanked Ms. Torbert for the excellent presentation and a round of applause was given to the HS staff. Ms. Torbert introduced each member who was present: Rosemary Jebari, Sarah Redbord, Dr. Robert Langdon, Matthew Corcoran, Mark Albright, Jeff Convery, Susan DeSimone, Alyse Lepkowski, Paul Spear, Greg Lagan, Anne Ludes, and Will Cook.

332 In answering a question from Ms. Hugo about the Newcomers' Academy, Ms. Jebari said the
333 "Getting Started" program is comprised of four teachers and is about 24 students. Each
334 teacher teaches a module with six students and provides what they need to immediately
335 survive in school. The modules include introduction to the American Education Systems,
336 Computers, and Consumer Math. They also offer Academic Spanish for SLIFE students and the
337 modules adjust based on the needs of the students. The second semester will offer a
338 newcomer strand course and will begin at the beginning of the year versus mid-way through.

339
340 Ms. Brosnahan asked for an explanation of blended learning. Ms. Ludes said blended learning
341 is based on material needs but includes a video and practice questions that are completed at
342 home versus being done in the classroom. In the classroom they work more on extension
343 problems and have individualized questions answered. Ms. Connolly asked how this compares
344 to "flipped" and Ms. Ludes said "flipped" is the extreme to where every video is done at home
345 and the classroom is for practice problems. Blended learning varies day-to-day.

346
347 Ms. Brosnahan asked what the 63 therapy referrals were for and Ms. Torbert said this is the
348 socio-emotional help. They have independent therapists come to the HS to work with the
349 students. Ms. Brosnahan asked where they are on Goal 5, supervision and evaluation
350 protocols. Ms. Torbert said that ½ of a faculty meeting is about one area that they dissect. The
351 other ½ is interdepartmental PLC's where they do activities together. Teachers can then
352 provide anonymous feedback and this is addressed at the next faculty meeting. Ms. Brosnahan
353 said she heard that new students entering late in the year are further behind in their education
354 and she wanted to know how it is addressed. Ms. Torbert said this is a challenging process but
355 they have requested additional support for this in the future.

356
357 Mr. Taggart said that he would like additional information on updated data points at the end of
358 the year for Goals 3 and 4, and he is concerned that 43% of freshman are being retained. He
359 would like to know the reasons why they are retained. Ms. Torbert said most entered too late
360 in the SY to obtain enough credits to move to the next grade level. The other part is the
361 difficult transition into HS and student placement. Mr. Taggart said he would also like more
362 information on the dropout rates. He asked where the HS is heading in the future and said he
363 would like information on socio-emotional supports.

364
365 In answering a question from Mr. Kelly about the arrival of 205 new students and the number
366 of students leaving the district, Ms. Torbert said 134 students exited during that same period.
367 There was an overall gain of 105.

368
369 Dr. Silverman said his two kids are in the HS and the HS is outstanding. Dr. Silverman said goal
370 6 is really important and they need to move forward with this goal, as it is crucial for future
371 careers and aspirations. He said he would like to hear, at some point, about the expansion of
372 the curricular offerings and what direction they are moving.

373
374 Ms. Connolly thanked Ms. Torbert for the comprehensive overview and the staff for attending
375 the meeting. She asked what five things they are requesting for funding. Ms. Torbert said ESL
376 and Special Education department teachers are needed, and they would like to change the
377 Critical Care Coordinator to a permanent position. Ideally, they want the school to be a one-
378 stop-shop for all student needs. The science, language, and history staff could use more

379 teachers, and lastly they need after school busing for students to be able to participate in
380 events and after-school programming.

381
382 Mr. Cline said Goal 1 addressed the socio-emotional aspect. He commends the entire team for
383 recognizing this need and creating the social environment. He deeply thanks the educators of
384 FHS and said he is glad he did not choose to go to a private school. The educators are
385 influential and he thanked them for their hard work.

386
387 Dr. Scott said he is proud of both teams for their hard work and continued work moving
388 forward. Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee vote to accept the
389 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan for Walsh Middle School and Framingham High School.

390
391 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Connolly that the School**
392 **Committee vote to accept the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plans for Walsh Middle**
393 **School and Framingham High School. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms.**
394 **Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in**
395 **favor; 7-0-0.**

396

397 **V. DISCUSSION ITEM**

398 **A. FY16 Budget Discussion**

399 Dr. Stacy L. Scott, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Edward Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer,
400 continued discussions with the School Committee on the FY16 School Department Operating
401 Budget Request.

402
403 Dr. Scott updated the committee on Town Meeting. Ways and Means supported the Town's
404 \$114.9M budget and rejected the SC budget of \$116.5M. The Finance Committee supported
405 the Town's \$114.9M. The Education Committee voted in favor of the \$116.5M. The Capital
406 Improvements Committee voted to improve the budget with the exception of the technology
407 item, as they had questions in regards to the technology dialogue.

408
409 Dr. Scott said there have been ongoing conversations for a fall Town Meeting to be put in place
410 where the issue of additional needs can be met based on contract stipulations. Dr. Scott said it
411 is difficult to backtrack from the current numbers, as there are many things they need and they
412 have critical items that they did not put in the current budget. Dr. Scott said they need to make
413 contingency plans based on the prospect of getting the Town's number since they might not
414 grant them the full amount they are requesting. Dr. Scott said that unless they significantly
415 hold back on new positions for the next SY, it would be very difficult to meet the contractual
416 needs for the current staff with the Town's budget recommendation.

417
418 Dr. Gotgart said in FY15 they began the year with a budget gap and for the upcoming SY they
419 want a plan that works from day one. Ms. Hugo asked for an update on the State Budget
420 numbers. Dr. Gotgart said they are trending in a positive direction. Dr. Scott said the Town
421 CFO, Mary Ellen Kelly, projects \$2.3M for Chapter 70 Funding and the Governor is proposing an
422 additional \$1.5M. Dr. Scott said this is up to the Town to decide how to distribute the funds
423 and they might not go directly to the Schools.

424
425 Ms. Connolly asked Dr. Gotgart to explain the gap for the FY14 SY. Dr. Gotgart said their
426 request was \$111M above the Town's number. They explained that the delta would be funded

427 through a variety of services or grants but they did not receive the expected Circuit Breaker
428 Funding, Circuit Breaker cut mid-year, and Homeless Transportation was not received in full.

429
430 Mr. Kelly asked how they receive funding from the State. Dr. Gotgart said the state has a
431 revenue list on the Cherry Sheet (pink sheet of paper) which is a list of revenues and expenses
432 debited and credited to the Town of Framingham. Dr. Scott said that last year the overall
433 problem was that it was a challenging year in terms of bills, as both the utilities and expenses
434 were high. In the course of this year, they slowed down spending and hiring which saved over
435 \$400K and \$225K respectively. At the end of the year, they anticipate using residual funds to
436 make up for the remaining amount and hope to end the year in the positive.

437
438 Ms. Brosnahan said that in researching the budget, she wants to know how the funds are
439 divided by school and if this is done to provide level services across the board. Dr. Scott said
440 the Town CFO's 4% figure is to move current staff forward. Additional requests are based on
441 significant needs and are not equal across the board; they are based on student growth or
442 programmatic needs/shifts, and to meet the priority list of the program as a whole.

443
444 Dr. Gotgart said the biggest difference in the budget is driven by salaries. People change within
445 the schools and the salaries go up and down, as replacements are less expensive than those
446 who are leaving. Dr. Gotgart said the Town's number is a 4% increase while the schools
447 number is an increase that includes steps and lanes. Ms. Brosnahan said there is a disconnect
448 between the schools budget and the Town's budget numbers. She asked if the school can
449 present this to the Town in a different way to show how level 3 schools need more aides, etc.

450
451 Ms. Hugo said this can be placed on the agenda of Monday, May 4, 2015 for further discussion.
452 Ms. Hugo asked if the SC can see the presentation. Dr. Gotgart said the level service number is
453 a \$300K difference between the Town's number and the schools number. The difference is the
454 positions that the school is asking for, in addition to level service. Ms. Brosnahan said they
455 need to stress that 4% is to maintain the current numbers and not what they will be next year,
456 as 90 new students is equal to two additional buses. Dr. Scott said this is a good approach to
457 use to describe what the additional students mean to the program as a whole.

458
459 Ms. Hugo stated that the newspaper said the tax payers will have to pay the cost difference if
460 the SC gets their budget number. Dr. Gotgart said it comes down to the trust they have in the
461 governors and legislatures numbers and will not cost the taxpayer additional money. Mr.
462 Taggart said the article makes the presumption that the increase will be paid for by the
463 taxpayer and it does not need to come from there, as other funds could be used.

464
465 **B. FY'16 Technology Funding Request**
466 Dr. Stacy L. Scott, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. George Carpenter, Head of Technology,
467 updated the School Committee on the School Department's FY'16 Town Meeting request for
468 technology needs.

469
470 Dr. Scott said the technology request was accepted by the Town, with the exception of \$1.15M
471 in technology components that would pay for the additional technology devices. Their
472 questions were around the devices that would be deployed for the teachers and how they are
473 configured. Dr. Scott said that once the funds are approved, the Head of Technology will go
474 back to the vendor to make appropriate adjustments for what they need. Dr. Scott noted that

475 the devices tend to last five-years. With the support of the Town CFO, they have begun
476 conversations to make sure they have answers to their questions and why the schools are
477 seeking these items.

478
479 Dr. Gotgart said one thing to remember is that Capital Budget is developed in October of the
480 previous year and it is a place holder. The big push back is the replacement laptops for faculty
481 and they keep this consistent over the years.

482
483 Mr. Carpenter said that historically they have bought mid-level business range computers.
484 Based on the concern from the Committee, they received quotes from Dell and HP that
485 significantly dropped these figures as they try to build a partnership. Mr. Carpenter said that if
486 they skimp out on the devices, they will pay more for support and repairs. Thus they have
487 decided on a mid-range device with an extended warranty. Mr. Carpenter said there are six
488 projects that they requested funding for and they all address infrastructure or student learning.
489 These include updating the phone system, Chromebook Carts and the learning devices, staff
490 laptops, upgrading the VMware host, and a wireless expansion.

491
492 Mr. Taggart asked which part of this request was not approved by the Town's Capital
493 Committee. He also commented that if they cannot provide the infrastructure then there is no
494 need for additional equipment. Dr. Scott said the staff laptops were the focal question and how
495 they are outfitted and the longevity of them. There is significant attention being addressed to
496 the infrastructure. The buildup of devices is modest versus what they need and is
497 approximately 4-1 or 3-1. Mr. Carpenter said the infrastructure is important to build first and is
498 being worked on in the current fiscal year. They are building stability at each building and
499 increasing the bandwidth. He noted that this is a modest request and building the
500 infrastructure is an invasive process that needs to be done around the school day.

501
502 Ms. Brosnahan said this was moved to Capital Budget and segmented \$500K this year and to
503 continue for a few years forward. She said this is an agreed line item from here on out, and she
504 wonders if they are working with the Town and what the potential cost savings could be. Mr.
505 Carpenter said he has reached out to the Town's Technology Department to see how they can
506 share resources and ideas but it comes down to priority and security levels. They are looking to
507 work together but need to find the opportunities to do so. Ms. Brosnahan asked about the
508 communication nodes the Town wants to attach to the buildings. Dr. Scott said these nodes
509 are already around the Town for emergency vehicles. Mr. Carpenter noted that they are
510 located at Stapleton, Potter Road, and Juniper Hill.

511
512 Dr. Scott said he will keep the Committee informed of the ongoing conversations with the
513 Town.

514

515 **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

516 **A. Policy Revision – BEDH (Public Participation at School Committee Meetings)**

517 Policy Sub-committee convener, Dr. Eric Silverman presented policy revision for BEDH: Public
518 Participation at School Committee Meetings for a second reading.

519

520 Dr. Silverman said there have not been any revisions since the last meeting. This is just to
521 tweak the current policy and make it clearer that the public can address any issue that falls
522 under the legal purview of the SC and not just what is listed on the current agenda.

523

524 Dr. Scott recommended that the Framingham School Committee approve Policy BEDH: Public
525 Participation at School Committee Meetings as a second reading.

526

527 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Stockless and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**
528 **Committee vote to approve Policy BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee**
529 **Meetings as a second reading. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly,**
530 **Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-**
531 **0.**

532

533 VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

534 Dr. Scott said they have set aside funds to meet the need at McCarthy to move the aide
535 positions from 19 to 30 hours a week, effective September 1, 2015. He has informed staff of
536 this decision and noted that it will take approximately two weeks to be put in place.

537

538 Dr. Scott said a data report was created two years ago and they have a draft of the updated
539 version which will be completed in the next few days. He said this is prepared in preparation of
540 Town Meeting and includes demographics, awards, data points, DART comparisons, and testing
541 updates. The pamphlet is given to real estate agents and some of this material will be used in
542 updating the Academic Data Dashboard.

543

544 Dr. Scott said he went to Fuller and saw what students were working on in the STEAM
545 classrooms. They are learning how to make paper and he was able to see the different steps of
546 the process. The students sent Dr. Scott a book thanking him for attending and it was written
547 in several different languages. Dr. Scott said that moving forward, he would like to partner with
548 Staples on this project.

549

550 Dr. Scott said that over the past few days his team was helping people understand the needs of
551 the system now and how things have changed over time. Some of the statistics that Dr. Scott
552 presented for "now" include all classrooms being defined as inclusion classrooms, 192 autistic
553 students, less student referrals, 210 out-of-district students, 39% of students are low income,
554 28 SPED mini buses, 61 paired buses, 307 door-to-door pickups and 17 crossing guards. Dr.
555 Scott noted that there are also dramatic cost savings measures for utilities.

556

557 Dr. Scott said negotiations are moving along very effectively and they are about to begin
558 discussions with additional Units very soon.

559

560 Dr. Scott provided an update on PARCC. He noted that 157 students opted out and the ELL
561 students struggled with the exam. Dr. Scott said that overall, they need to reconsider the
562 impact testing has on schools as it is disruptive to the entire school day based on the volume
563 and frequency each year. With respect to PARCC, it is very similar to how they are learning in
564 the Middle School. There is more developmental inappropriateness at the Elementary School
565 level due to the vocabulary that is used. As they continue to look at the challenges of PARCC,
566 they need to advocate for the sensibility of testing and that they have less of it.

567

568 Mr. Taggart said that he appreciated the news about the McCarthy aides, as well as refocusing
569 the testing and length of time for it.

570

571 **VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

572 **A. March 17, 2015 Executive Session**

573

574 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Connolly that the School**
575 **Committee approve the March 17, 2015 executive session minutes. Discussion: None.**
576 **Vote: Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in**
577 **favor; Ms. Brosnahan and Mr. Kelly abstaining; 5-0-2.**

578

579 **B. April 8, 2015 Executive and Open Session**

580

581 **MOTION: Moved by Ms. Connolly and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**
582 **Committee approve the April 8, 2015 executive session minutes. Discussion: None.**
583 **Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless**
584 **and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-0.**

585

586 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**
587 **Committee approve the April 8, 2015 open session minutes. Discussion: None. Vote:**
588 **Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and**
589 **Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-0.**

590

591

592 **IX. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND SCHOOL LIAISONS**

593 Chair Hugo provided her proposed appointments to Boards, Committees and School Liaisons
594 for the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Hugo noted that the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee
595 is being retitled as “Buildings and Grounds / Real Property” and the Finance Subcommittee is
596 being retitled as “Finance / Capital Budget Subcommittee”. The final list will be read at the
597 meeting of May 4, 2015. (Note: Copies of the Chair’s proposed appointments for the 2015-
598 2016 school year are on file in the School Committee office with the records of this meeting.)

599

600 **X. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

601 **A. Academic Data Dashboard**

602 Ms. Hugo said there was no report.

603

604 **B. Buildings & Grounds/Real Property Subcommittee**

605 Ms. Connolly said there was no report.

606

607 **C. Finance/Capital Budget Subcommittee**

608 Ms. Hugo said there was no report.

609

610 **D. District Wellness Committee**

611 E. Ms. Hugo said there was no report.

612

613 **E. MASC Legislative Liaison**

614 Ms. Hugo said that she and Mr. Stockless will go to the State House on Wednesday, April 29,
615 2015 for the Day on the Hill.

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F. Policy Subcommittee

Dr. Silverman said they commenced work on a social media policy and it will need to be reviewed.

G. Suburban Coalition

Ms. Hugo said there was no report.

H. TEC Board of Directors

Ms. Connolly said there is a meeting on Friday, May 15, 2015.

I. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force

Ms. Hugo said there was no report. She reminded the Committee that Resolutions are due by June 1, 2015.

J. Communications and Public Relations Task Force

Mr. Stockless said that the Task Force met concurrently and they still plan to present their recommendations to the School Committee at the meeting of May 18, 2015.

K. Superintendent's Evaluation Task Force

Ms. Hugo said there was report.

XI. MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Hugo reminded the Committee of the upcoming Retreat on Friday, June 12, 2015 and Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Ms. Hugo said the HS graduation is June 7, 2015 and traditionally the Chair speaks, unless a member has a graduating senior. She announced that Dr. Silverman would be the speaker this year.

Ms. Hugo reminded the Committee that the Superintendent's Evaluation was due tonight but she can extend the deadline until Friday, for those who did not complete it in time. She noted that a composite of the evaluation will be read at a meeting in June.

XII. BILLS AND PAYROLL

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair said the committee will reconvene in Executive Session.

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Brosnahan and seconded by Mr. Stockless that the School Committee return to executive session to conduct a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voted in favor; 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

664
665 *These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee at the meeting of May 18,*
666 *2015.*

667
668 *A copy of the minutes was forwarded to the Office of the Town Clerk on May 20, 2015.*

669
670 **MEETING DOCUMENTS**
671 Walsh Middle School – School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation
672 Framingham High School – School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation
673 Policy BEDH (Public Participation at School Committee Meetings – Current and Revised
674 March 17, 2015 Executive Session Minutes
675 April 8, 2015 Executive and Open Session Minutes
676 Copy of SEBH Program Information Packet