

FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Desmarais Room – King Administration Building September 16, 2014

Present

Beverly Hugo, Chair
Dr. Eric Silverman, Vice Chair
Heather Connolly, Clerk
Michelle Brosnahan
Andy Limeri
Jim Stockless
Don Taggart, III

Also Present

Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent
Dr. Ed Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Grace Wai, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development
Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Ernest Moreau, Assistant Director Buildings and Grounds

Absent

None

AGENDA

- I. Meeting with the Public
- II. Recognitions and Announcements
- A. Gay Straight Alliance at Framingham High School
- III. Action Items
- A. Special Town Meeting Warrant Article
- B. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career
- C. Vision 2020: Excellence and Equity
- IV. District Improvement Plan
- V. Superintendent Report
- VI. Minutes for Approval
- A. August 23, 2014 – Executive & Open Session - Retreat
- B. September 2, 2013 – Executive & Open Session
- VII. Report of Committees
- A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri
- B. Buildings & Grounds/Capital Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Connolly
- C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo
- D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo
- E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo
- F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman
- G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly
- H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri
- I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly
- J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless
- VIII. Member Reports

- IX. Bills and Payroll
- X. Adjournment

ACTION

At 7:12 p.m., Chair Beverly Hugo convened the School Committee with seven members present. The Chair announced that the meeting would be recorded and broadcast live with assistance from the School Committee's FHS-TV Producers.

Ms. Hugo reviewed the open session agenda. The first agenda item at each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting is the Meeting with the Public.

I. MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. Jerry Bloomfield addressed the Committee and stated school enrollment has increased at the same time the average family size is decreasing. Framingham is a magnet town in a magnet state and he predicted that school performance will decline and school costs will increase. He was concerned with the enrollment numbers and the position of the Committee in terms of Fuller School. He questioned where the students would be housed if Fuller were to be demolished and a new building constructed in its place. He wondered if the Committee believed in the long-range school replacement program. He also questioned if the Committee was aware of the high costs to renovate Farley and that the roof at Fuller is no longer under warranty after 2015. He said that alone is a \$4,000,000 exposure. He would like to see timelines and will raise these types of issues at Town Meeting.

Sarah McKeon, formerly Smith, said many questions remain unanswered and many concerns are unaddressed. She said she had concerns about internet accessibility and traveling devices between buildings. There is a price for that and she was not sure the District has the funds to roll this out properly. She said that students themselves may not be technologically prepared for this. Students' scores do not affect teacher ratings. Some teachers who are in support and those against are in stark contrast. Many teachers do not believe it is a worthwhile endeavor.

Another teacher spoke against PARCC and referred to the petition that was presented to the School Committee in June with 170 signatures against PARCC. Tamara said that they had just been given a new curriculum, common core aligned, in math and reading. They were not given any training or professional development on the curriculum. The new math curriculum in from Engage New York. She said teachers had not received proper resources and some materials were not available. She did not believe that the State's vote to accept PARCC was inevitable. Students enter school and spend a few days taking MAP assessments in ELA and math and that is problematic as it is. Now to introduce a new test, on top of new curriculum, with no training, was a problem. She said she would have liked to have more forums to ask questions and learn more. She

also said that her class was part of the cohort who participated in the field test of PARCC last year and they have never seen the results from that test.

Pat Prizak, a grade 3 teacher at Barbieri said in terms of the new curriculum, on day one they were introduced to the new unit and only given paper copies of the curriculum and no professional development. There were some materials that called for materials that they did not have. Some of the vocabulary was particular to New York and assumed students had taken earlier units of the materials so instructions were difficult to understand. As a two-way school, homework is sent home with Spanish and one side and English on the other. There are no translations of the new curriculum. There were a lot of questions and confusion from parents. She felt as though they were being rushed into curriculum, that is aligned to the common core, in order to fit the test and she thought that was backwards.

Jae Goodwin spoke in favor of PARCC. She did not feel as if it was punitive. Teachers are teaching students with a lot of rigor and that is how they should be tested. After her students had taken the MCAS last year, she asked them what they thought. Students thought the MCAS was easy and did not challenge them. She thought it would be good to sign up for PARCC in the first year and be held harmless. She also did not think \$135,000 was too much money to spend on new electronic devices. She did agree that students need to learn technology skills if they would taking the test on a computer but she said that is a school issue. Teachers need to teach students technology to be college career ready. They need keyboarding skills but that is not a PARCC issue but a curriculum issue. The test will not prepare the students. Effective skilled teachers who inspire students to inquire and thirst for knowledge will make them college and career ready.

II. RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair stated that Mr. Limeri had asked for a moment to address the School Committee.

Mr. Limeri thanked all the teachers who addressed the School Committee earlier this evening and hoped they would stay engaged regardless of whatever vote is taken this evening on PARCC.

Mr. Limeri said that this is his third year of a third term on the School Committee and he was not running for re-election in the spring.

A. GAY AND STRAIGHT ALLIANCE AT FRAMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Last year, the Gay Straight Alliance at Framingham High School petitioned the School Committee to recognize October as LGBTQ History Month. The School Committee will continue the tradition this year in recognizing the month of October as LGBT History month.

A teacher at the High School thanked the School Committee, school administrators, Adam Goldberg and Dr. Scott who has been very supportive. Last year at the School Committee meeting, they announced they would be reviewing books for young children and she was happy to report that two former teachers, volunteers, reviewed dozens of books and all elementary and middle schools will receive 3 carefully chosen books this week. Last October was a very successful history month for LGBTQ with collaboration with Cameron and Walsh who have very strong clubs. The clubs have increased self-esteem for the students. There are five trained students that are now out and LGBTQ is seeking support as they go through this change. A raffle will be held in October to set up scholarships and support service activities. FHS was represented at the youth pride parade in Boston over the summer. LGBTQ has established a public scholarship donation site and includes the mission statement.

The Chair stated her heartfelt gratitude for staff who are leading this effort. Mr. Limeri said he remembered inviting the group back to a meeting in November or December to talk about activities and he hoped they could come back again and tell the Committee about another great month. Dr. Silverman said last year at this time, he said he was proud to vote in favor of this and he still is today. He supported the effort and all the efforts in the district to make our students and staff feel welcome, valued and safe. Jordan Cline, FHS Student rep the efforts of the group last October was unifying and educational. He expressed thanks and pride for being in a Town and School where students are respected.

Recommended Action: Moved by Ms. Connolly and seconded by Dr. Silverman that the Framingham School Committee vote to recognize the month of October as LGBTQ History Month. Discussion: None. Vote: 7-0-0 with Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE

At its meeting of September 2, 2014, the School Committee heard a report about an a warrant article for school and municipal security communications enhancement. Town Departments were requested to submit a preliminary request to place an article before the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Ernest Moreau, Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds and Dr. Edward Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer were present to answer any questions.

Dr. Gotgart said that credit was due to Mr. Moreau for his leading the charge on upgrading security in the district. Mr. Moreau is also a licensed electrician. Shortly after the events in Newtown, Connecticut, the School Department in collaboration with the Fire and Police Departments approached Town Meeting in the spring of 2013 for security funds. Town Meeting requested that it be spread over a three year period.

This year at Town Meeting, we were asked to bring it to the fall Town Meeting. The 3-year proposal was for \$450,000. The request this year will be to combine phase 2 and 3 and totals a little over \$200,000. The Police and Fire have completed their work on security and this year, the School Department will be requesting these funds in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. Dr. Gotgart said a new mandate requires schools to have direct access to the Police Department and local law agencies. Our current system does meet that mandate and expands on it.

This article is for the expansion of the existing security system. It includes 22 access door packages. This expands our card swipe system that is used for teacher access through the ID badging system. It includes recess doors. The doors identified will no longer need keys and will prevent teachers from placing rocks or other things in the door to keep it open while they are out at recess with the students. It also includes repeaters in 3 schools. That equipment is necessary to mirror the repeaters the District already has. One master radio is for the Superintendent's Office. The 3300 radio is for nurses, assistant principals and custodians. It does not have the Police function on it. Mr. Moreau stated that Barbieri is unique in his construction and radios cannot communicate from the office to the gymnasium. Now, with these new radios, Barbieri can talk to the gym or another school's gym. The VY40 model is for in-house communication or staff/teacher radios. These are used in the elementary schools. The District is trying to discourage purchase of radios at Wal-Mart, etc., because it cannot support them when they break down. This will be a capital request. Ms. Brosnahan asked why it would be important for the Barbieri gym to talk to the Cameron gym. Mr. Moreau said that was only an example of the importance for the District to say there are other values for the uses of this equipment; 99% of communication is in the buildings. They are there for emergency purposes but in the meantime. Ms. Brosnahan asked if this was an unfunded mandate. Dr. Gotgart said it was probably was. He said the District would inform the legislators to reimburse the District.

Recommended Action: Moved by Ms. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Stockless that the School Committee vote to support the submission of a warrant article possibly co-sponsored with the Department of Public Works for the October 21, 2014 Special Town Meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: 7-0-0 with Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor.

B. PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers. These high quality, computer-based K–12 assessments in Mathematics and English

Language Arts/Literacy give teachers, schools, students, and parents better information whether students are on track in their learning and for success after high school, and tools to help teachers customize learning to meet student needs. The PARCC assessments will be ready for states to administer during the 2014-15 school year. Dr. Grace Wai, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development will be present to discuss and answer any questions.

Dr. Scott said that he was on the state board of education when we commissioned the MCAS. At that time, the state was going through significant curriculum reform. It was a different time and process the state went through. Now, curriculum reform process is underway, and will continue for several years, the national dialogue and ongoing process relates to the common core is both related but disconnected from state-wide process. State wide standards have informed the rest of the nation as to how they should go. It is important that we differentiate from common core and the Mass Curriculum Frameworks. We are driven by the Mass Curriculum Frameworks, he said. Fourteen months from now the state will take a vote as to whether to move forward or not but it is most likely it will, he said. Dr. Scott stated that this is not taken lightly. While there may be too much testing going on in the classroom, we have to be able to answer the questions that come from the state level, the district level and local level as to how are our students doing and how do they demonstrate what they know. We will continue to assess and should be doing that at the beginning of the year to identify where students are in their learning and then at the end of the year to see where they have grown. PARCC is an incremental step our state is taking, he said.

Dr. Wai, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development said students in grades 3-8 would be participating in PARCC in ELA and math. Framingham can still opt in to take PARCC but we must inform the state by October 1st. Our acceptance will be dependent on whether the resources are available at the state level. About 50% of the state has opted to take the PARCC this year, she said. The district will be held harmless, e.g., if we do better, we will get credit; if we do worse, the score will not change. The District has been doing better every year and she said she would like to see an opportunity to try it out; use the enhanced technology that we have in order to give the tests. Schools have option to choose paper/pencil or computer based test. Dr. Wai held two teacher forums last week and a forum for parents. Teachers that attended were happy to actually see the test. There are more accommodations for students with disabilities or those on a 504 plan. It is a timed test of 60 minutes although it is 90 minutes for students on an IEP or 504 Plan. She said that the MCAS test can take all day. Having PARCC timed, makes it fair for all students.

Fourth and 7th graders will have the long composition on the MCAS and on PARCC that is no longer tested. Teachers of those grades are spending as much as 40 hours teaching in the classroom and 40 hours of preparation time outside of the classroom.

That is time that could be spent working on more meaningful instruction. Focus in PARCC is increased thinking and understanding of students; to argue and debate are the strongest aspects. Curriculum has moved in that direction with Readers Workshop and the new math curriculum. It is shifting toward a 'thinking curriculum'. She thought the range of support that students can have is important e.g., if you need headphones, or need the test read to you, extra time for students with an IEP, etc. The paper/pencil test is always available for students with disabilities if they need it. Dr. Wai said the District is teaching towards standards and not the curriculum. After 20 years of MCAS, it is time to re-up; Framingham has done well and now it is time to think about what is the 21st century student going to be doing in the next decade. Some of it is on focus. She said the question is do we want to work on spending time this year working toward the MCAS kind of testing versus the higher order thinking and challenging test we might be giving.

Ms. Brosnahan said it was her understanding that with this test, the questions are asked and answered in a different format than MCAS. The questions could be more open ended and less multiple choice, replied Dr. Wai. Students might have to explain their answer as to why they chose it. Ms. Brosnahan asked how the test would be scored. Dr. Wai said there will be right and wrong answers but many will be the type where you are having to manipulate items or you have a list of tools available to you, e.g., a drop down menu to assist you with choices. Accommodations need to be written into an IEP plan. Ms. Connolly asked if the students would be provided more time on computers and if they would be taught how to use a pull down menu. Students last year did receive a practice test on the PARCC page and teachers showed the students what those drop down menus looked like. They did not have time to really practice beforehand. Dr. Wai said there were some challenges with math but for the most part, teachers found that the students were able to handle the computer based test. This year the District will be enhancing the accessibility of technology for students. As a result, we will be able to have control of the testing schedule. We will know in advance when the test is coming and students will definitely have time to practice. We do not practice just for the test, she said, but because we want our students to be capable and able to use the tools they have available to them.

Dr. Silverman said he was a strong proponent of the Common Core; however, he was not a fan of testing. He said he bemoaned the fact we live in a culture of testing and if he could do anything, he would increase the opportunity to teach to the whole child. We do live in a culture of testing and for us to take a stand against the culture of testing or to turn this down would not be in the best interest of our students, he said. Dr. Silverman said he embraces the better test rather than the mediocre test. PARCC does encourage teaching our students to think about the problems in a higher order. Mr. Taggart said he voted against PARCC last June and he was not yet convinced to change his mind. He did not believe that administration had helped prepare the teachers. He said last spring he asked administration to make the staff ready and he has not yet heard that. He said he had not heard the support from the staff that he

needed to hear to change his vote. Ms. Hugo asked what plans the administration has in place to train teachers between now and March/May. Dr. Wai said the district does need the Engage New York units. The original curriculum was realigned to the Common Core last year but there were gaps, particularly in 4th grade fractions. Teachers tried Engage New York fraction unit and as a result of that, they worked to fill in other gaps using Engage New York. There are a few units in every grade that the District needs to fill. With coaches in every building, she felt strongly that the District could prepare the teachers enough.

Mr. Jordan Cline, FHS Student rep asked if students could have paper during the test. Dr. Wai said they can have blank paper. He said his biggest worry at the high school, is thinking for the younger students, to have successive tests of that rigor in March and then May can be daunting. It spurs an environment of 'we are teaching to the test', he said. Also, he said he was against timed tests. It stimulates a culture of rushing and causes anxiety, he said. Mr. Cline suggested using PARCC on grades 6-8 rather the younger grades. Dr. Wai said the District already tests in March and May. It tests ELA in March and math in May, along with science and technology. Ms. Hugo stated concern about technology and if the District was ready. Dr. Scott said the schools will choose whether they want to take the test by paper/pencil or computer. The paper/pencil option will be available through 2019. Dr. Scott said that Town Meeting members wanted to measure the District's progress and in speaking with the DESE, their process is fairly standardized comparable scores from one test to the other. He was convinced, listening to their experts presenting calibrating the assessments, that we will get comparable scores. Dr. Wai said DESE will still use student growth percentiles and the composite. Earlier in June, there was state funding available for technology purchases if districts chose to sign up for PARCC before the spring deadline. That deadline has expired and will not be extended.

Dr. Scott reported that the Technology Department has done an assessment of current capacity and has begun devising a plan to allow for sufficient devices at every level. There is a clear plan to develop enough resources, he said. We know there are parts of the District where there are 'dark spots' and there is an opportunity to use paper/pencil or to boost the signals in those areas, he said. This year two additional computer carts will be added to each of the elementary schools. The District is at 5:1 or 4:1 capacity but in 2-3 years, it will be 1:1. Mr. Stockless said he voted in favor of PARCC in June and heard from some people who were interested in that change and it was not until tonight that he heard from someone who wanted to remain with MCAS. He asked Dr. Wai what she thought the overall level of support from faculty was. She thought if the faculty felt more informed like Mr. Taggart had said they would probably be more convinced. She said in the end, we will see that moving to PARCC is a good choice. No one liked the MCAS when it was introduced 20 years ago yet some are holding on to it today out of fear of PARCC. Mr. Limeri thought it misrepresenting staff to be clinging to MCAS but rather what the staff is expressing is they do not feel prepared to be successful to PARCC. He said the School Committee was given a petition in June with 170 signatures, and also heard from some who are against and some who are in favor of PARCC but for him, it was the issue of staff readiness. Mr. Limeri said there should

be a professional development plan for this or modification of what professional development exists, if there is a vote in favor. Dr. Wai said in terms of Readers Workshop, there are academic conversations going on in the District. Readers Workshop will teach students to be able to express their thinking verbally and in writing. That is a precursor to PARCC, she said. By digesting and reading texts and then respond to the test, that is what is demanded on the PARCC.

Dr. Wai said that work continues this year on the Common Core and strengthening reading skills in science and social studies. Dr. Wai said there are lab classrooms in each school this year, coaches in every building and continued professional development, focusing on what should be taught in the classroom, the District was in good shape. Sarah McKeon addressed the Committee and said that the buildings are not equal in terms of ELL and SPED populations. She asked how those schools were going support with the test. Cheryl Penny, 4th grade teacher, piloted PARCC in the spring and supports it. She said that 4th and 5th grade teachers at Dunning are in support of PARCC.

Dr. Scott said as curriculum and assessments evolve, districts have to evolve with it. As a District, we take into consideration the needs of the teachers, the work continues and it continues in a way that he was confident that this is a desirable step to take the District one step closer to being ready for the assessment a year later, he said. Dr. Scott did not think students or teachers will be harmed or overly stressed as we should go forward.

Dr. Wai said in terms of supporting ELL and SPED students the District does that now with tests that are given. It is just a different focus on a different test.

Mr. Limeri said the vote was an awkward one for him as this is a purely academic decision. In the end it is about the students, he said. Chair Hugo said she had 3 children who attended the SAGE program where they learned higher order thinking skills and they were engaged. She believes that is what PARCC will do. Mr. Limeri said as a School Committee member, the Committee sets policy. It does not choose tests and he resented it. Mr. Taggart said he did not resent it but did feel uncomfortable about this position.

Recommended Action: Moved by Mr. Stockless and seconded by Dr. Silverman that the Framingham School Committee vote to participate in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career assessments for students in grades 3 through 8 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Discussion: None. Vote: 4-3-0 with Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Dr. Silverman and Mr. Stockless voting in favor; Ms. Brosnahan, Mr. Limeri and Mr. Taggart voting against.

C. VISION 2020: EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY

The School Committee has previously received a verbal report on the District's Strategic Plan for Achieving Educational Excellence in the Framingham Public

Schools: Vision 2020: Excellence and Equity and will vote this evening to accept the plan.

The plan speaks to the broadest concerns we have a District, Dr. Scott said. It clearly outlines three strategic goals: 1) Promote student learning with excellence in the curriculum, instruction and professional development; 2) Promote a positive culture of consistency, accountability and empathy with effective leadership at all levels; 3) Promote community support for a high-performing system with appropriate resources, strong partnerships and broad-based communication. It also includes a five year mapping process for how we intend to reach those targets.

It has impacted the District Improvement Plan and the School Improvement Plans as well. It will help us on critical topics and making sure we are a high performing district that we strive to be, he said. Dr. Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, said the District has worked arduously to prepare a document that applies the vision for students and staff to engage in 21st century learning and teaching. Mr. Limeri said it was a great document and asked about advocating the document. It was used to form the District Improvement Plan and to individual school plans. There were some opportunities to talk about the plan this year and will make sure it is broadly broadcast. The critical goals and targets for this year, which will be on posters in every school as is done every year, will become the focal point for the vision for this year. Mr. Limeri was glad it would be rolled out widely. His concern is not all staff is involved in the School Improvement Plans. Dr. Scott said data teams and math teams in the buildings are discussing data and those discussions roll up to the District level conversations. Dr. Diaz said it is an opportune time to clarify the School Improvement Plan process. The plans should be a living document. March, April and May the Principals will be presenting their plans to the School Committee. Prior to that they will be presenting to their peers and colleagues to hear feedback and improve. Mr. Limeri asked that Dr. Scott find ways to get the document to every staff member.

Recommended Action: Moved by Ms. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Limeri that the Framingham School Committee vote to approve and accept the Long Range Strategic Plan: Vision 20/20. Discussion: None. Vote: 7-0-0 with Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor.

IV. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, joined the School Committee to present the District Improvement Plan (DIP) for the School Year 2014-2015. The document is aligned to the Long Range Strategic Plan as the District moves to improve instructional leadership. The DIP emphasizes the work of leadership development, student growth, and organizational facilities and serves to ensure that every single student who graduates from Framingham is college ready. FPS will continue to align its resources with the Strategic Plan. The DIP has been aligned with three strategic goals of Vision 2020. 1) Promote student learning with excellence in curriculum, instruction and professional development; 2) promote a positive culture of consistency, accountability

and empathy with effective leadership at all levels; 3) promote community support for a high-performing system with appropriate resources, strong partnerships and broad-based communication.

This year the District will address every component of the supervision and evaluation model, preparing teachers to address all the components. We have adopted Teach Point as the platform that will help facilitate the entire evaluation process. The District will be providing training in the next few weeks to make sure supervisors are prepared to use that platform. The DIP has defined quality instruction, to establish a consistent definition across the District. Dr. Diaz said Educational Operations Office has worked arduously in making sure departments are working on issues collaboratively. Special Education, Gifted and Talented and Bilingual are all connected and they have consistent weekly conversations to be sure they are all informed of what their colleagues are doing. There will be extensive professional development on supervision and evaluation. The District has contracted with outside vendors, WestEd and Research for Better Teaching so that staff is trained to use the same language. Part of the DIP addresses the initiative of STEAM in kindergarten, 5th grade and at Fuller. It will continue with a focus on the high school and the other two middle schools this year. Educational Operations has created a multi-year cycle for reviewing curriculum.

A matrix has been created for the Curriculum Management Team the different assessments which will help us learn which assessments can be deleted or added. Dr. Diaz said the District is evaluating second language learning opportunities as we roll-out Portuguese as a second language at Woodrow Wilson and Mandarin at the High School and King Elementary. The District has also increased opportunities for teacher collaboration time to be able to develop lessons and have the kinds of conversations that will help with the delivery of rigorous instruction. Administrators are evaluating second language learning opportunities are it rolls-out Portuguese at Woodrow Wilson and Mandarin at King and FHS. Much work has been done in terms of balanced literacy and the District continues to work with Teaching and Learning Alliance as it rolls-out Readers Workshop this year. We are in the process of working on universal learning design and how we deliver services to a classroom of very diverse students, by providing more differentiation, she said.

Goal #2 is to promote a positive cultural of consistency and part of the work has been improving social emotional capacity. We have dedicated energy to make sure we are building that capacity in cultural proficiency by improving communication and collaboration through different departments. The District has continued to build on the Aspiring Leaders Academy, created last year, to identify staff who have aspirations to be leaders. We have consistently worked on MCAS performance and she hoped shortly she would be able to make a presentation to the Committee when the embargo is lifted. College and career readiness is a primary focus for FPS, and building a multi-tiered system of support to ensure we are addressing the needs of all students. The district has been working on revising its wellness policy to ensure that again, every component of student development is it its best. Dr. Gotgart's office continues to look at continued enrollment increases. Educational Operations is supporting level 3 schools, to ensure

they have resources and focus on leadership development, special programming designed to support improvement. Educational Operations is also looking into increased on-learning opportunities through Edgenuity at the High School and Thayer.

Goal #3 promotes community support and under this goal there are action steps. Over the last two years, administration has promoted a culture of data analysis, working with the District data team and identified specific data points. Dr. Gotgart has developed a multi-year financial plan, predicting salaries and expenses and the capital improvement plan will become critical in the budgeting process to address the educational challenges including the needs of the buildings. In collaboration with Ed Ops, Dr. Gotgart has also been looking at space and facility needs in conjunction with enrollment trends and demography. Dr. Diaz said the DIP is provide the Committee with information on the goals the Superintendent has established for the District. It is completely aligned with Vision 2020 and it is her hope that it provides information about what the District is doing to improve services and outcomes.

The Chair thanked Dr. Diaz for her work. Mr. Taggart said he was interested in seeing schedules for collaboration time. Dr. Diaz and Dr. Scott said the District worked over the spring and summer to resolve the scheduling of collaboration time. Dr. Diaz said she could share that information with the Committee. Ms. Connolly thanked Dr. Diaz for the comprehensive presentation and she wondered if the goals in the School Improvement Plans would be similarly aligned as Vision 2020 and the DIP. Dr. Diaz said they will be but may not be stated exactly the same; there will be a connection. Mr. Limeri also thanked Dr. Diaz and said it was great that the collaboration time was resolved. Collaboration time is one of the best things we can do because it makes a big difference to students, he said. Dr. Diaz said administration has conveyed how collaboration time should look and how teachers have to talk about instructional strategies to drive their teaching and improve student learning. At some point in the future, specialists may be involved in collaboration time. Mr. Limeri said it might be helpful if the plan linked specifics with DIP and Vision 2020. Dr. Diaz said it made sense for it to be discussed by the leadership team and it is critical that the vision is spread throughout the system.

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Scott said it was his goal to create a natural, long-range plan, Superintendent goals, DIP, school goals, teacher goals, that all intertwine. He said this has been a thoughtful process and is intended to ensure all the elements in the system are connected. His goals will focus on the three primary goals from DIP and Vision 2020. Those goals will elaborate on the issues from the Superintendent perspective and give opportunity to monitor professional practice. The goals will be formally discussed at the next meeting. Dr. Scott said it was important that the Committee and ultimately the public see the connection between all the documents.

Comcast

Dr. Scott said the District has given a large piece of landscape on the homepage of its website to promote what Comcast is doing for families in the District. Comcast, based

upon qualifications for free/reduced lunch, is offering those families low cost Wi-Fi and 6 months of free internet. They are also making electronic devices available for under \$200.00. Mailers have also gone home through the Friday folder method in the elementary schools.

Registration

Registration through the Parent Information Center has been ongoing through the summer and the beginning of school. Between the end of June and last week, we welcomed 309 new students. Dr. Scott said a report can be prepared from time to time to allow the School Committee to track variables. Majority of new students are coming from within the United States; 10% are receiving Special Education services; 33% are limited English proficiency and 125 are coming from Brazil. It is a challenge but it is one we are embracing and he can provide the School Committee more information throughout the year.

Listening Tour

Dr. Scott will spend time going to PTO meetings at schools, some monthly town-wide PTO meetings, to hear what parents are thinking and saying about their concerns and what is happening in the District. He will also entertain opportunities to go into less formal settings by visiting homes within the Town to listen to concerns.

Board of Selectmen and School Committee Task Force: relocation of FPS Central Administration Offices

He stated that there is a Task Force that was a result of a recent Board of Selectmen meeting that involves members of administration and the School Committee to look at relocating administrative offices. The District continues to look forward to replace the Fuller Middle School and re-submitted a revised application to the MSBA, making sure it had the support of all the supporters from the State House, local and regional level. He said that for the District, it is about building the next generation of middle school in the district and possibly elementary school. The District was successful in opening the 9th elementary school and will add a grade each year and in order to accommodate that, administration offices must vacate. It is his desire to maintain the cohesiveness of central office, which is at the core of what we do to guide instruction, he said.

VI. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Chair Hugo asked for a consent motion to approve the School Committee meeting minutes for its meeting of August 23, 2014, Open and Executive Sessions and September 2, 2014 Open Session and Executive Sessions.

CONSENT AGENDA: Moved Mr. Limeri and seconded by Ms. Connolly to approve the minutes of August 23, 2014 executive session meeting minutes as amended, August 23, 2014, open session, and September 2, 2014 executive and open session minutes. Discussion: None. Vote: 7-0-0 with Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor.

VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri

None

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

There will not be a meeting in September.

C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo

Next meeting is September 23 at 6:00 pm at the King Building in the Superintendent Conference Room.

D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo

This year the Committee is talking about stress, depression, prevention of at-risk behaviors and adhering to the nutritional guidelines and emotional wellness of our students.

E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo

There was a ruling from state-wide attorney that says we must have four or more people signing warrants. We have taken steps with the Business Office to do that and begun the process, she said. There is a joint meeting with the geographical area of school committees along with suburban coalition on October 16th at 6:30 at the Newton Marriott. The resolutions will be presented on November 5 at 3:00 pm in Hyannis at the Conference Resort Center. If this is the first time attending the MASS/MASC conference, members may attend an overview in West Bridgewater on November 1st.

F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman

No report; will meet on September 23 at 7:00 pm.

G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly

None

H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri

The next meeting is October 16th at Newton Marriot. Dr. Whitmore will be the guest speaker and his financial forecasts are often used by the legislators when they create the budget. The Town Manger will attend and a BOS member has been invited.

I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly

TEC Board will be meeting on Friday at the new TEC Campus. TEC Campus opening ceremony will be Friday, October 3rd. They opened their virtual school and it is gathering great momentum and Framingham does have access to some courses in the District. Adam is looking into more participation at FHS. This year is an evaluation year for continued membership in TEC. Dr. Scott said the District would take advantage of the access we have this year and will evaluate our membership. TEC is moving in an extraordinary direction this year, he said. The District has to let them know by December 31st if Framingham will renew.

J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless

None.

VIII. MEMBER REPORTS

Chair Hugo said the subcommittee meeting night is September 23 6:00 finance, 7:00 policy, 8:00 is executive session. Full school committee is October 14.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn this evening's meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Taggart to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

2014-2015 District Improvement Plan

Vision 2020: Excellence and Equity

**These minutes were approved with no changes or amendments, at the Framingham School Committee meeting of October 14, 2014.*

The Town Clerk's Office was forwarded a copy of the minutes on October 29, 2014.