



**Framingham Public Schools**  
**Robert A. Tremblay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Adam Freudberg, Chair • Tiffanie Maskell, Vice Chair • Priscila Sousa, Clerk  
Jessica Barnhill • Karen Dempsey • Geoffrey Epstein  
Beverly Hugo • William LaBarge • Scott Wadland  
Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor  
73 Mount Wayte Avenue, Second Floor, Framingham, MA 01702  
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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE: OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE AND TIME:** February 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Memorial Building-Blumer Room  
150 Concord Street, Framingham

**MEETING CALLED BY:** Chair Adam Freudberg

**PRESENT:** Jessica Barnhill  
Karen Dempsey\*  
Geoffrey Epstein  
Adam Freudberg  
Beverly Hugo  
William LaBarge  
Tiffanie Maskell  
Priscila Sousa  
Scott Wadland  
Mayor Yvonne Spicer

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent  
Nicholas Small, Student Advisory Committee Chair  
Lincoln Lynch, Executive Director of Finance and Operations  
Anne Ludes, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education  
Joseph Corazinni, Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Diversity  
and  
Community Development  
Stephen Schmuck, Durham Senior Vice President  
R. J. Castagno, Durham Regional Manager for New England

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46 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He noted that this meeting was being  
47 broadcast live on local cable, as well as for later playback, and on Facebook Live. He noted that  
48 the committee met in executive session earlier for approval of Executive Session minutes  
49 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 30A, s. 22(g)(1), specifically January 15, 2020, to  
50 conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to  
51 conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel  
52 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2); Specifically for a grievance hearing on a personnel issue filed  
53 pursuant to Article 3 of the Committee's collective bargaining agreement with the Unit A  
54 Framingham Teachers Association related to teacher's preparation time and to discuss strategy  
55 with respect to collective bargaining and litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental  
56 effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declared  
57 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3); specifically for Units A, S, and T. He announced that the  
58 committee has gone to paperless packets, so members will be using devices during the  
59 meeting. He said that the Mayor will be joining in progress, and some items will be moved on  
60 the agenda, as well as there may be a recess due to calendar being updated tonight and to give  
61 members time to review before discussion.

62

#### 63 Public Comment

64 FTA President Christine Mulroney said that on March 3rd there will be a Professional  
65 Development Day with workshops taught by FTA members and spoke about different  
66 workshops that are being offered. She gave many thanks to Anne Ludes who helped with the  
67 schedule, and Joseph Corazinni who brought in some very valuable workshops. She also  
68 thanked the dedicated staff members who are sharing their expertise. She said a link will be  
69 sent on February 7th to sign up.

70

71 Anne Fernandes said she is a Stapleton parent, and the past three School Committee meetings  
72 have been filled with Stapleton families with heartbreaking stories pleading on behalf of  
73 children, and the problems still persist. She said that Stapleton requires strong leadership and  
74 significant resources now, and they remain united for a better Stapleton.

75

76 Gerry Bloomfield said that the country is going through difficulties and so is Framingham. He  
77 said that we have a lot of problems and issues that need to be resolved in a timely matter. He  
78 said that 65% of the City Budget goes to schools and in return the public expects excellence. He  
79 said that to ensure success all parts need to be properly functioning; day to day and long term.  
80 He suggested that the committee address high impact matters first on their agendas, and those  
81 that have the most impact on the community.

82

83 Sarah McKeon said that teachers are participating in data chats to discuss their student's  
84 progress, and have to gather as much information as they can, and try and explain why I-ready  
85 data doesn't match classroom assessments, which seems to fall on deaf ears. She said that they  
86 put together a lot of information on what describes their students, their needs, and what they  
87 have done to support their learning. She asked why questions on students' social emotional  
88 concerns are not the first questions in the meetings, instead of academic scores that do not

89 define their students. She said that younger students are building their foundation for learning  
90 and for living, and each school has children with individual needs. She said that we are losing  
91 staff, but are also losing students who are more than a score, and besides just measuring the  
92 academics we need to start measuring the whole student.

93

#### 94 Announcements from the Chair

95 The Chair announced subcommittee appointments and liaisons, and said they are all listed on  
96 the website. He said that the Mayor and members of the Student Advisory Committee are  
97 welcome to join any subcommittee at any time.

98

#### 99 Remarks from FPS Student Advisory Committee

100 Nicholas Small said that there is a new Poetry Out Loud Competition where individual  
101 classrooms held individual competitions, and selected one student to perform in the school  
102 wide competition, and then select students are sent to the State Competition. He said that in  
103 coordination with the League of Women Voters there is a new campaign to register students to  
104 vote so they can vote in the primaries. He said that the next Student Advisory Committee  
105 presentation will be on February 26th and will be a followup on the survey on safety and  
106 security from last year, where they had students complete surveys and conducted interviews.

107

#### 108 Transportation Update

109 Lincoln Lynch said that due to uncovered bus routes a letter of a Breach of Contract was sent to  
110 Durham on December 18, 2019, and since that letter most routes have been covered. He said  
111 that the continued communication has been huge between Durham and the District, including  
112 daily reports from Durham for times every bus gets to every school, to track if they are on time  
113 or not. He said that they are working on getting bus numbers matched, which will help with the  
114 bus route app for parents to be able to track their child's bus. Durham Senior Vice President  
115 Stephen Schmuck and the Regional Manager for New England R.J. Castagno said that they  
116 acknowledge that they had less than stellar service, and worked quickly to change market  
117 competitiveness with retention opportunities, incentives, and paid training. They said that they  
118 have 81 drivers on the roster as of today, 3 more coming in, 4 in the pipeline in the classroom,  
119 and 7 are entering the hiring process. He said that they are trying to help support behaviors on  
120 the bus, and work with the schools with routes.

121 **Questions.** Mr. Wadland said that even if they are doing better than in the fall, even two  
122 uncovered routes are around 100 kids that aren't able to start their day off in a way we want  
123 them to be able to. He asked how many driver absences amount to two routes uncovered,  
124 including spare drivers. Mr. Schmuck said it would be about 10 percent; 5 to 7 drivers. Mr.  
125 Epstein asked why it took so long to get daily in and out reports on the bus timing. Mr.  
126 Schmuck said there is an EID number for a GPS device which gets installed into a vehicle, and  
127 they had to pair that with the asset number which is where the complexity lies, as they have to  
128 take part of the dashboard apart, and then it has to be recalibrated and fixed to make sure they  
129 match up correctly. Ms. Dempsey asked about the feedback from drivers regarding student  
130 behaviors. Mr. Castagno said student behaviors have been a challenge, last week they had a  
131 safety meeting, and found that even if drivers are reporting behaviors, they are not hearing  
132 what the response is, so communication in that area would help. Dr. Tremblay said that they  
133 are working on an initiative on managing student behaviors including on busses, and he would

134 like to propose a survey to be sent to bus drivers. He said that he wants to work in partnership  
135 with Durham to be able to help retain and gain drivers. Mr. Wadland asked about the problem  
136 with drivers being given two different instructions, as Durham provides the bus and driver, and  
137 the District provides routes and dispatch. Mr. Schmuck said this has been better with the  
138 increased communication, and it is a unique situation. Members thanked Durham for their  
139 hard work and better driver coverage, but also expressed concern that there is still a need for  
140 improvement, as well as the length of time it took to improve, and how it seemed that it took  
141 the letter for them to make the changes. Mr. Freudberg expressed frustration that the GPS app  
142 has been talked about since November, and the rollout has been delayed twice. Mr. Lynch  
143 recommends sending out a letter that was drafted with the City Solicitor to Durham, which was  
144 shared with members, noting that there will be no financial penalties or termination at this  
145 time, but that their performance will continue to be monitored and if it reverts back, the  
146 District will take action. Mr. Wadland said he is leery about taking the back charge off the  
147 table. Mr. Lynch said a financial penalty is a huge deal for a vendor and for a district to enforce.  
148 He said that he also wants to recognize the promising improvements, and maintain the  
149 relationship with Durham. City Solicitor Chris Petrini said this action would still reserve the  
150 right in future months for financial penalty if problems should occur. Mr. Freudberg noted that  
151 this letter was reviewed in the Finance and Operations Subcommittee with no concerns  
152 expressed.

153 **Motion:** To accept Mr. Lynch's recommendations of no financial penalties or termination at  
154 this time, but to continue to monitor uncovered routes on a daily basis and timeliness of busses  
155 at all schools, and if reverts back District will take swift action, and also send the City Solicitor's  
156 letter to Durham with this information included.

157 **Moved:** Ms. Dempsey      **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge      **Vote:** 8-1-0  
158 (Yes: Hugo, Dempsey, Freudberg, Sousa, Epstein, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge. No: Wadland)

159

#### 160 Superintendent's Update

161 Dr. Tremblay gave a **Stapleton** update including a change in leadership status - Principal Diaz  
162 has stepped down for health concerns, and Ms. Brenda Mauraio will be serving as principal from  
163 now through the end of next school year. He added that she would be happy to come give an  
164 update at the next meeting. He said that they are looking to take some students off one of the  
165 busses and on to smaller vans, as well as have a new full time monitor riding another bus. He  
166 said there is a new support protocol about tracking data, as well as for monitoring bathrooms,  
167 and now have bathrooms for each grade. He said that staff from the Explorers Program will be  
168 joining several recesses to get feedback from staff, observe student interactions, and then  
169 design a plan. He said that Stapleton is now participating in the Doc Wayne Program, and have  
170 also started a series of parent workshops through the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community  
171 Development.

172

173 Mr. Freudberg noted that the Mayor brought a five year lease proposal to the City Council for  
174 the Central Office lease at the Perini Building, and the City Council voted to refer this to the  
175 School Committee. Dr. Tremblay said that according to **Perini** the Central Office Lease expired  
176 on January 31st and the district is currently a tenant in sufferance. Ms. Dempsey asked what  
177 the process was, as far as other locations being looked at. Mr. Freudberg said that a RFP went  
178 out for a long term lease last Fall and Perini was the only bidder. He said that the challenge is

179 that when the five year lease proposal was submitted to the City the School Committee did not  
180 receive or review it. Members spoke about how great it has been to be at Perini for  
181 communication and having a lot of staff all in one place, and how Perini has been a good  
182 landlord for the past five years. Ms. Barnhill said that she does not feel that a five year lease or  
183 buying the building is a responsible decision when there are four underperforming schools, a  
184 need for a new southside school, bus monitors, and other items, and instead should be putting  
185 dollars to students. She asked if there is a district wide utilization plan that could show space  
186 throughout the whole district, and provide some options for the 61 employees that are at  
187 Perini. Dr. Tremblay said the space utilization study is for the high school specifically; for  
188 student population forecasting and to look at relocating the technology space. He said he is not  
189 aware of available space for employees anywhere else in the existing school facilities. Mr.  
190 Freudberg suggested that the five year lease proposal should be looked at further before a  
191 vote, as it is an increase in price, as well as he suggests not losing sight of the one year lease  
192 extension option.

193 **Motion:** To refer the five year lease with Perini, as referred to the School Committee by the  
194 City Council, to the Building and Grounds Subcommittee.

195 **Moved:** Mr. Epstein                    **Seconded:** Ms. Maskell

196 **Discussion:** Mr. Wadland suggested that the subcommittee also look retroactively at how it got  
197 to this point, the procurement process and the committee's role in it, to improve the process in  
198 the future to achieve educational goals.

199 **Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

200 City Solicitor Chris Perini said that the City's legal position is that the District does have a one  
201 year lease extension by virtue of Dr. Tremblay's October 30, 2019 memo, although Perini  
202 disagrees. Members spoke about how it would be beneficial to have all involved - the City  
203 Council, Mayor, School Committee and City Solicitor - meet with Perini to help resolve this.

204 **Motion:** To request that the Mayor request a meeting with Perini with the City Solicitor, a  
205 member of City Council, a member of the School Committee and the Superintendent or his  
206 designee, with the purpose of exploring a settlement to the current lease issue.

207 **Moved:** Mr. Wadland                    **Seconded:** Ms. Sousa

208 **Discussion:** Mayor Spicer noted that she will reach out, but all parties need to be open to have  
209 this meeting. Discussion on who should be included from the City Council and School  
210 Committee, and friendly amendment to the motion accepted stating that the representative  
211 from both will be chosen by the Chair of the City Council and Chair of the School Committee, if  
212 the Chairs themselves cannot attend.

213 **Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

214

215 The Chair asked for a ten minute recess for members to review the updated calendar that was  
216 submitted before the meeting individually, all in agreement.

217 The Chair announced the meeting recessed at 8:31 p.m.

218 The Chair called the meeting back to order at 8:41 p.m.

219

220 Dr. Tremblay said there was a quick turnaround after first reading on the calendar, they  
221 considered a lot of public feedback - 162 responses from the community. He said some of the  
222 changes included pushing the start date back, and some changes to professional development  
223 days and observance of some holidays. He said that in the future they will start on the

224 calendar earlier, and it will be a two year calendar to be submitted in the fall. Mr. Wadland  
225 asked if lunch is available on half days, and suggested that the calendar list where additional  
226 snow days would be taken from if needed, as had been done in the past. Ms. Hugo suggested  
227 that programs be put into place on half days when parents may have a hard time looking for  
228 childcare.

229 **Motion:** To approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented, with November 25th and  
230 the last day of school to be early release days rather than half days, contingent upon Dr.  
231 Tremblay making sure lunch can be served to students.

232 **Moved:** Mr. Epstein                    **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge

233 **Discussion:** Mr. Wadland asked for a friendly amendment for November 25th and whatever  
234 the last day of school is to be early release days rather than half days, contingent upon Dr.  
235 Tremblay making sure lunch can be served to students. No objection. Ms. Ludes said only  
236 elementary is served lunch on early release days, and not middle or high schools at this point.

237 **Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

238

239 Student Achievement Update: Dr. Tremblay recognized counselors for National Counselor  
240 Week. He recognized Framingham for Engineering by Design which involved performing arts  
241 and physics where students showed samples of toys that they developed. He said that there  
242 was a Resiliency for Life Gala where great student successes were shared, and the program is  
243 thriving. He said that Fuller held a Multicultural Night which was a great community event.

244

245 Director of Equity, Diversity and Community Development Joseph Corazzini gave an update  
246 from his department. Updates included that the Adult ESL program has 800 students currently  
247 enrolled and the need is growing, at BLOCKS 47% of students are special education students,  
248 the Explorers Program has over 50 clubs with 230 students and an additional 500 at the middle  
249 school level, among other updates. He said that they have had conversations with families  
250 regarding the recent shootings at Pelham Apartments, and there is a lot of concern, fear, and  
251 trauma. He said that there is a need to be conscientious to create access and supports for all,  
252 and it is important to think critically of individuals who are part of this process. He said that  
253 there is an Equity Reporting Form online, where if anyone has an issue they can enter it in the  
254 form and it will open up conversation or investigation. He said that this is a means for those  
255 who do not feel comfortable calling, or to provide easy access. He said that there is an Equity  
256 Audit and a Title IX audit currently in process.

257 **Questions.** Ms. Sousa asked how long the Equity Reporting Form has been available and what  
258 engagement has been like. Mr. Corazinni said it has been around since September, they are  
259 hoping to market it more, and have had probably 50 forms submitted. Mr. Epstein asked how  
260 they determine what priorities are and what investments are needed for budget decisions. Mr.  
261 Corazinni said that the costs are hard to predict, and if they are not creating flexibility in the  
262 process they are not going to be able to be responsive to the need. He added that the Equity  
263 Audit should be able to help as well. Mr. Epstein suggested items that could be discussed  
264 further in the Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Subcommittee such as booster clubs, girls in math  
265 and science, and internet access. Ms. Dempsey asked if along with the early college program, if  
266 any vocational programs are being looked at. Mr. Corazinni said they need to find resources  
267 and partnerships, and they are hoping to build a technical arm with a built in certification.

268

269 Mr. Lynch said that the FY20 YTD Budget is under 55 percent encumbered or spent. He said  
270 that the next meeting will be focusing on the FY21 budget.

271

### 272 Mayors Report

273 Mayor Spicer said that the coalitions of youth service workers met this morning to make sure  
274 residents are aware of the services that are geared towards youth. She said that she spent the  
275 afternoon as part of the climate change initiatives occurring in the state, and added that  
276 Framingham received a study grant for Walnut Street with how to mitigate flooding. She said  
277 that the library is showing the movie Harriet for Black History Month on February 12th. She  
278 said that the voter registration deadline is coming up, and encourages residents to get  
279 registered to vote. She said that the Census Committee has been meeting for many months  
280 working with all local service providers such as BRACE, and working on everyone that is usually  
281 hard to be counted, such as the elderly and homeless, be counted. She said that she read at  
282 Woodrow Wilson with police officers and it was wonderful for students to see police in a  
283 different venue and develop trusting relationships with them. She said that boards and  
284 commissions and appointed seats are at a 95% fill rate right now, looking at another round  
285 opening up and will be looking for districts 7, 8, and 9 as there usually are not many applicants  
286 from those districts. She said that on Thursday there will be a General Chemical meeting at  
287 Woodrow Wilson to address site cleanup in that area.

288

### 289 School Committee Goals and Objectives

290 Mr. Freudberg said members can discuss how they want to develop goals and objectives. He  
291 said the previous term they had unofficial goals such as getting Fuller Project funding approved,  
292 finalizing union contracts, and for meetings to be no more than three hours. Mr. Wadland  
293 suggested that they be developed in a workshop with a facilitator. The Executive Assistant will  
294 reach out to MASC and coordinate.

295

296 \*Ms. Dempsey left the meeting at 9:54 pm.

297

### 298 Subcommittee Reports

299 Mr. Epstein said that one warrant was signed.

300

### 301 Approval of Minutes, Gifts, and Scholarships

302 **Motion:** To approve the Open Session minutes of January 15, 2020.

303 **Moved:** Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Sousa **Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

304 **Motion:** To approve the January 15, 2020 Executive Session minutes as approved previously in  
305 Executive Session.

306 **Moved:** Ms. Sousa **Seconded:** Ms. Barnhill **Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

307 **Motion** to accept \$500.00 donation approved from the Exxon Mobil Corporation Educational  
308 Alliance Program to support Math and/or Science at the High School and a \$309.00 donation  
309 check from Wellesley College for the Out of School Time Department.

310 **Moved:** Ms. Hugo **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

311 **Motion:** To approve the creation of an account for \$500.00 for a Marilyn (Maggie) Kelber  
312 Memorial Scholarship.

313 **Moved:** Ms. Hugo **Seconded:** Mr. Epstein. **Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

314

315 Adjournment

316 Mr. Freudberg said that there are two upcoming events: February 27th at Cameron there will  
317 be a special education discussion with F-SEPAC and the Special Education Department, and on  
318 February 13th there will be a new center named after Representative Chris Walsh at  
319 Framingham State. He noted that tomorrow was the Superintendent's birthday and noted  
320 there was dessert available to all.

321 **Motion:** To adjourn.

322 **Moved:** Ms. Barnhill                   **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge                   **Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

323 Meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

324

325 Meeting Materials

326 Agenda

327 Durham Breach of Contract Letter

328 Letter from Durham

329 Durham Provided Update

330 Spreadsheet on Driver Shortage

331 Letter Sent to Durham 02.11.20

332 Draft 2020-2021 School Year Calendar for Vote

333 Update from the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Community Development

334 FY20 YTD Budget

335 Food Services Negative Balance Report

336 Tutor Perini Executed Lease

337 Letter to City of Framingham from Perini

338 Notice of Lessee Intentions and Potential Holdover Tenancy from Perini

339 Notice of Tenant at Sufferance from Perini

340 MASC School Committee Goal Slides

341 Warrants

342 Draft January 15, 2020 Open Session Minutes

343 Gift Forms from Exxon and Wellesley College

344 Marilyn (Maggie) Kelber Memorial Scholarship Form

345

346 *These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee in Open Session on .*

347 *These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on.*