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

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Priscila Sousa, Chair • Jessica Barnhill, Vice Chair • Richard A. Finlay, Clerk  
Adam Freudberg • Beverly Hugo • William LaBarge  
Tiffanie Maskell • Jennifer Moshe • Valerie Ottaviani  
Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor  
Farley Building, 19 Flagg Drive, Framingham, MA 01702  
Telephone: 508-626-9121 | www.framingham.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE: OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	January 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Remote
<b>MEETING CALLED BY:</b>	Chair Priscila Sousa
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Jessica Barnhill Richard A. Finlay* Adam Freudberg Beverly Hugo William LaBarge Tiffanie Maskell* Jennifer Moshe Valerie Ottaviani Priscila Sousa Mayor Charlie Sisitsky
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent Nilufar Noorian, Student Advisory Chair Lincoln Lynch, Executive Director of Finance and Operations Joanna Hastry, Executive Assistant for the School Committee

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and noted all in attendance. She noted that this meeting was being held remotely in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Actions Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. She announced those in attendance and said that Mayor Charlie Sisitsky and School Committee Advisory Chair Nilufar Noorian were joining remotely. She said that the meeting is being broadcast live on the Government Channel and can be viewed Live on Facebook on the Framingham Public Schools Facebook Page. She noted information on how to participate in public comment through Zoom and said that Facebook comments are not the formal way to participate in public comment since there are voice options through Zoom. She asked for a moment of silence to think about all those lost and who are suffering in our community, nation, state, nation, and world.

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## Public Comment

Deidra MacLeod-Richardson spoke to her concerns around nurse staffing shortages and how it affects students with medical issues. She spoke to data on how many students may have disabilities within schools and how the large numbers show the need for school nurses. She said that we are adding to the workload of staff if there is no nurse in the building. She said that the District should seriously consider what safe staffing levels are and be transparent with families about contingency plans if staff are out.

Mary Memmott said that she is here to speak about the Framingham Families for Racial Equity in Education (FFREE) report card on the District that they completed, the poor grades that were received, and said that she wanted to make sure that the concerns in that report are being addressed by the District. She said that she specifically would like to know if there is anything being done to prevent hate speech, if not the reason why not, and if there is she suggests that there be a more organized approach to make parents more aware of it.

Jill Weller said that she is the Communications Chair of the FTA and said that it is upsetting that it is this late in the year and Units A, S, and T do not have successor contracts. She said that some Unit A members were not credited for a full year for the 2020-2021 school year by the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board, deductions were taken from each paycheck to be sent to the retirement board, and staff are asking what happened to the money and accurate regular reporting of data by the District on the staffs' behalf. She said that this deserves immediate attention, needs to be corrected immediately, and it needs to be looked into how this happened.

Sarah Guernsey said that she is the Building Representative Chair for the FTA and here sharing thoughts on behalf of the FTA President on DESE's recent announcement on the updated testing structure that is available for districts where rapid COVID-19 test kits can be sent home with staff and students who opt in. She said that this would be a good addition to other health protocols and would appreciate the District re-examining plans and processes as things evolve.

Dhruba Sen said that there was a MLK Day of Action and Community Service co-hosted by the Framingham League of Women Voters where they distributed N95 masks, rapid antigen home tests, and hand sanitizer. He said that they will continue to distribute those items in downtown Framingham to help those who do not have computers or internet to be able to order the items.

## Announcements from the Chair

The Chair noted that the School Committee met on January 12, 2022 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2), specifically regarding the Superintendent's nominee Tiffany Lillie for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Diversity, and Community Development and for approval of Executive Session minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 30A, s. 22(g)(1), specifically December 8, 2021 and December 15, 2021, and met earlier tonight in Executive Session to discuss the deployment of

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security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(4), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining because an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declared pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3), specifically for Units A, B, C, N, S, & T, and for approval of Executive Session minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 30A, s. 22(g)(1), specifically January 12, 2022. She said that there were two previous votes that need to be read into the record and recorded in the minutes in order to comply with OML. This included a vote to authorize the administration the opportunity to create an incentive plan for vaccinations and boosters for all staff, up to a total cost of \$1 million of federal funding, and to not be distributed until staff vaccination rates in the District are at 95% voted on on December 15, 2021, and a vote on December 8, 2021 to support and approve the Quarantine Learning MOU with Unit A, as recently communicated by the District.

### Mayor's Update

Mayor Sisitsky said that there is now a masking mandate in Framingham in effect starting today to remain at least through the end of February. He said that the new CFO will start work on Monday and in the next couple of weeks they will start budget talks with the Superintendent.

### Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian said that this week is midterms week at the high school and the pause on extracurriculars was lifted this past Friday so activities have resumed.

### Superintendent's Update

#### COVID-19

Dr. Tremblay gave an update on COVID-19 protocols in place including that there is still a mask mandate per DESE for schools until February 28th, the waiver to consider not having masks is only allowed if 80% of the staff and student population are vaccinated, which Framingham is not at, and the District continues to promote vaccinations and are exploring options for clinics in schools. He said that this week DESE has provided an opportunity for districts to participate in a program where rapid antigen test kits are given to staff and students who opt in weekly, and districts who choose to participate in this program would no longer be able to participate in the Test and Stay or contact tracing programs. He said that there is currently a policy in place that requires Test and Stay and contact tracing so that would have to be considered and changed if the decision was to participate in this program. He spoke to the challenges that have arisen from the current testing practices, including timing of getting results, and how things have changed since the policy has been put in place. He said that he would like to participate in this new program and although districts can join all the way up until April he would like to be able to join sooner than later.

Mr. Freudberg said that he is glad that there is time to study what this means and not need an immediate decision as he has some questions including what the number is for those participating in Test and Stay and not testing positive for COVID-19 as the state numbers are around 98% and if we could change pool testing to only opting out instead of opting in if we are no longer using Test and Stay. He noted that the new at home testing program only provides a test one time a week while Test and Stay is testing five days a week, and suggests that this and

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the policy are looked at within the Policy Subcommittee including looking at how the District will know if students are actually using the at home tests, if instructions will be translated, if there will be any difference in distribution based on vaccinated or not, asymptomatic or not, etc., and what the Board of Health thinks of the plan. Discussion occurred on timing and when the Policy Subcommittee could meet, if in the meantime the old members of the Policy Subcommittee could meet on this while subcommittees are being assigned, and the possibility of the full committee discussing this policy and waiving the need for the Policy Subcommittee review and two readings. Director of Health and Wellness Judy Styer said that we need to be adaptable to the current conditions we are facing within a surge, how with the number of positive cases it has not been sustainable to continue Test and Stay, and how the new program is a good opportunity to shift what we are doing to meet needs of our community and current conditions we are facing with COVID-19.

**Motion:** To give Dr. Tremblay the authority to use his judgment to decide what will benefit the students and staff and to waive review by the Policy Subcommittee and regular second readings of the policy in order to expedite his authority.

**Moved:** Ms. Hugo                      **Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani

**Discussion:** Ms. Maskell said that she would like to make sure the distribution is equitable as in the past when test kits were distributed it did not seem to be, with keeping in mind that the schools are based on school choice and not students' locations. Mr. Freudberg said that he thinks the State is being a bit premature, as when the variant goes down districts could go back to contact tracing and Test and Stay which was working. He said that there needs to be a clear written procedure, whether through a School Committee policy or not, and asked if we could continue with contact tracing and if students need to be opted in for pooled testing to participate in the new program. Dr. Tremblay said that to participate in the new program the District would have to stop contact tracing, and students do not have to be opted in to pooled testing to participate in the new program, they would just need to opt in to the testing kit program.

**Roll Call Vote:** 7-2-0

(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge. No: Freudberg, Maskell)

**Motion:** To refer the policy regarding COVID-19 testing (Policy EBCFC) to the Policy Subcommittee for future follow up.

**Moved:** Ms. Hugo                      **Seconded:** Mr. Finlay                      **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

### Summer Programming Review (Policy IHCA)

Director of Community Resource Development Tiffany Lillie reviewed the summer programs that will be offered, updates to the program such as increasing summer staff rates and new programs, and a comparison of the programs over the years. Mr. Finlay asked if all the programs are free for students to attend. Ms. Lillie said they are all free, except for out of district students who attend the high school programs and receive credits.

**Motion:** To approve the summer programming plan as presented per Policy IHCA.

**Moved:** Mr. Finlay                      **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge                      **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

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Vote to Appoint Tiffany Lillie as the New Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Diversity, and Community Engagement

Ms. Lillie spoke to her experience including within Framingham and what she would like to do within this position if she is appointed.

**Motion:** To appoint Tiffany Lillie as the Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Community Development at a salary of \$155,000 with a contract start date of January 12, 2021 and an end date of June 30, 2025.

**Moved:** Mr. Finlay                      **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Vote to Increase the Maximum Balance of ACCEPT's Capital Reserve Fund from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch said that the School Committee previously voted to approve the creation of ACCEPT's Capital Reserve with a balance limit of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of accumulating funds for the acquisition, maintenance and improvement of capital items. He said they are now asking for this increase due to a greater surplus this past June. He said he would support this increase so they can complete any capital project improvements. He said that the School Committee only needs to vote if they did not support this. No vote taken.

## Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

### FY22 Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Lynch said that the FY22 YTD shows 52.1% of funds expended or encumbered. He said that some categories are showing as negative due to the ESSER III budget needing to be approved by DESE and once approved they will move some charges to that budget and out of the operating budget, such as the summer salary charges. He said that he will have end of year projections at upcoming meetings.

### FY23 Budget Discussions

Mr. Lynch said that they are continuing to work with Directors, Principals, and staff to iron out the FY23 requests and the budget book is in process. He said that he is looking forward to speaking with the new City CFO about the current budget and increases to look at for FY23 and will have more specific updates for public discussion in the future.

## 10 Minute Break/Recess

The Chair said that unless there were any objections she recommends not taking the scheduled break due to the time. No objections.

## Appointment of Adam Freudberg to Continue as a Voting Member on the Fuller School Building Committee

The Chair spoke to Mr. Freudberg's experience on the Fuller School Building Committee, his interest in continuing on as a representative, which she is in agreement with, and noted that the attorney has reviewed this with no issues.

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**Motion:** To approve the School Committee appointing Adam Freudberg as a member of the Fuller Middle School Building Committee as a voting member on behalf of the Chair.

**Moved:** Mr. Finlay                      **Seconded:** Ms. Barnhill

**Discussion:** Mr. Freudberg gave thanks for being allowed to continue to be a representative and spoke to his four years on the Fuller School Building Committee.

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Discussion on former School Committee members continuing on the School Building Committee as is allowed for their memberships in other committees.

## Appointment of Warrant Signers (Policy DGA)

Mr. LaBarge, as the current primary warrant signer, spoke about the process.

**Motion:** To appoint William LaBarge to be the primary warrant signer, Adam Freudberg for deputy, and Jessica Barnhill, Valerie Ottaviani, and Jennifer Moshe to be backup warrant signers consistent with law and Policy DGA.

**Moved:** Mr. Finlay                      **Seconded:** Ms. Barnhill                      **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

## Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed for a total of \$4,851,193.58 and a payroll total of \$9,897,110.68 on the dates of December 13th, December 20th, December 27th, January 3rd, and January 11th.

Mr. Finlay, as the Co-Chair of the Rules and Administration Subcommittee, said that they will be meeting twice in January, with Ms. Hugo as the Co-Chair and Ms. Moshe and Ms. Barnhill as members. He said that if any members have suggestions they can send them to the Executive Assistant and the shared drive has the previous report.

## Discussion and Vote on Unit N Framingham School Food Services Staff MOU (if approved in Executive Session)

\*Mr. Finlay and Ms. Maskell recused themselves at 8:38 p.m.

**Moved:** To approve the Unit N Framingham School Food Services Staff MOU as presented.

**Motion:** Ms. Hugo                      **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge                      **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

\*Mr. Finlay and Ms. Maskell returned to the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

## Approval of Minutes and Gifts

The Chair said that there can be a motion for a consent agenda for the minutes and gifts listed on the agenda, except for the January 12, 2022 Executive Session minutes which are not yet ready.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes and gifts listed on the agenda except for the January 12, 2022 Executive Session minutes (Open Session minutes of November 17, 2021, Executive Session minutes of December 8, 2021 and December 15, 2021 as approved in Executive Session, and creation of accounts for gifts including \$100 donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. for field trips and educational materials (non-curriculum), \$500 donation from Edwards Church UCC for

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the FAESL+ Program, and \$51,566.00 donation from Schwab Charitable made on behalf of an anonymous donor to cover the cost of Advanced Placement exams from High School Juniors and Seniors).

**Moved:** Mr. Finlay                      **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge                      **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)  
(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

## Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn.

**Moved:** Mr. LaBarge                      **Seconded:** Mr. Finlay                      **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)  
(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)  
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

## Meeting Materials

Agenda

Vaccination Update Memo

Policy IHCA: Summer Schools

2022 Summer Programs Presentation

2022 CRD Summer Programs Master List

Memo to Appoint Tiffany Lillie as the new Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Community Engagement

ACCEPT Letter Regarding Capital Reserve Fund

FY22 YTD

Policy DGA: Authorized Signatures

Warrants

Draft November 17, 2021 Minutes

Gifts Memo

Unit N MOA