



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

DATE AND TIME: March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Remote
MEETING CALLED BY: Chair Priscila Sousa
PRESENT: Jessica Barnhill
Richard A. Finlay*
Adam Freudberg
Beverly Hugo
William LaBarge
Tiffanie Maskell
Jennifer Moshe
Valerie Ottaviani
Priscila Sousa
Mayor Charlie Sisitsky
ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: 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 7:02 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 School Committee member Tiffanie Maskell, 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.

Public Comment

Robert Bolles said that he is happy that the public are allowed to be back to attending meetings in person, and said that everyone has a lot of work to do, including the Superintendent.

Dhurba Sen said that this Friday from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in downtown Framingham there will be a rally to support the people of Ukraine and invites everyone to join the rally and vigil in support.

Announcements from the Chair

There were no announcements from the Chair.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Sisitsky said that after July 1st the vendor for the website is providing a free service to update the website and improve the way the City presents material and the public is able to give input on items they want to see improved on the website beforehand. He spoke to other updates within the City including upcoming votes by the City Council on committee appointments, a groundbreaking for a new dog park, a Code Enforcement Program, and a new Record Access Clerk who can be available to help the School Department as well.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian said that she has no updates.

Superintendent's Update

COVID-19

Dr. Tremblay said that starting Monday masks will be optional and the packet included a presentation that staff will be using, especially in elementary schools, to stress the importance of personal choice. He said that this decision is in line with other guidance including around transportation and City Ordinance. He said that they are working on revising the website with COVID-19 reporting including vaccination rates by percentage, the number participating in testing, among other information. Mr. Freudberg asked that the information on the website be updated weekly and asked if tours for the Kindergarten Class of 2025 could be in person on a case by case basis, to go along with the video presentations, to help parents with their selection process. Dr. Tremblay said that the orientation in June will be in person and if parents would like an in person tour they can reach out to the building administrators.

Update on Additional Recess Time Implementation

Dr. Tremblay said that an update was given in the packets on the additional recess time implementation and said that it was implemented within the timelines voted on by the School Committee. He said that it is up to the schools' discretion if there are two 15 minute recess times or one 30 minute recess. Ms. Maskell said that she looks forward to being able to compare data before the implementation and after, and thanked everyone for making it possible.

Announcements

Dr. Tremblay said that they are reinstating school visits with School Committee members where they can see the daily work in schools with Principals, the Assistant Superintendent of PreK-12 Education, and himself, and to participate in building walkthroughs.

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

Vote to apply for MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program for Roof Replacements at Potter and Dunning Elementary Schools

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch said that they are looking for a vote to approve the submission of the accelerated roof repair applications for Dunning and Potter Road Elementary Schools and the City Council also has to approve, hopefully at their meeting on March 15th. Director of Building and Grounds Matt Torti said that these roofs are on an extended warranty currently and qualify for the MSBA program due to the age of the roofs.

Motion: To approve applying to the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program for roof replacements at Potter and Dunning Elementary Schools.

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

Discussion: Ms. Maskell said that roofs are leaking at other schools and asked why these two were chosen, if they are the ones in most dire need, and what are the next roofs in need of repair or replacement. Mr. Torti said that some roofs do not qualify for the program due to being a preschool or not being old enough, and spoke to the need of upcoming roof replacements or repair as there are eight roofs coming off of warranties within the next three years. Mr. Freudberg said that the draft Capital Plan included funding for schematic design for McCarthy and Dunning roof and there were applications to MSBA for those roofs, and asked for an update on that. Mr. Torti said that they made the shift due to the age and conditions of the roofs, as well as due to MSBA increasing the age requirement of roofs for eligibility. Mr. Freudberg suggested that there be future conversations during the Capital Budget process in case any plans need to be changed and spoke to the need to advocate for roofs to be redone and look to see if they can be made to be solar ready.

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

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

FY23 Budget Presentation

Mr. Freudberg, as the Chair of the Finance and Operations Subcommittee, spoke to the two Finance Subcommittees where they reviewed the budget presentation and annual fee reviews, as well as a Joint Annual Meeting with the City Council. He said that the School Committee should think about the upcoming meeting schedule, look at the new position requests, and think about if any additional information is needed, if there are staff that would be helpful to have present at future meetings, or if any changes are recommended. Mr. Lynch shared the FY23 Budget presentation that included the preliminary budget status of an 8.20% increase, school department funding of Chapter 70 State Aid and Local Contribution, the FY23 budget drivers and budget offsets, potential additional budget offsets, and FPS Operating Budget history.

Members asked if any potential increases in utilities are included in this budget, what the Farley Revolving Account is, and why a new custodian is listed in the budget if it is not costing more to

the Operating Budget. Ms. Maskell said that if new positions have to be cut she would like to see the positions being cut be from the district based ones and not from the student facing positions. Mr. Lynch said that the City is looking at the utility costs and projections, and need that information to help know if there will be any increases, but included in the budget is the current costs plus potential for some increase. Mr. Lynch said that the rent that MassBay pays goes into a separate revolving account that the school oversees and can expend from, and that would be the account used to pay for the proposed new custodial position. He said that it is included in the budget book as the City needs to be aware if the position is approved as it could be a cost to the City for health insurance. Mr. Freudberg noted that the School Committee voted to create the revolving account last Fall in order to be in state compliance. Mr. Freudberg said that it would be helpful to have feedback from the CFO on the City's targeted number before the budget book submission on the 11th, as well as information on their thoughts on how the Chapter 70 increase will be used and the and effects on the Special Education carry forward number, and said that we need to be clear in budget book with more information on the new position list to advocate for them.

Annual Fee Reviews: Bus Fee (Policies EEAA and JQ), Athletic Fee (Policy JQ) and FHS Parking Fee (Policy JQ and Regulation JQ-R-3)

Ms. Sousa said that there will be separate votes for each fee due to recusals.

*Mr. Finlay recused himself at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Lynch said that his recommendation for the parking fee is for no change, and for it to remain at \$125 for the upper lot and \$75 for the lower lot with the funds going to upkeep the parking lot and that can only be used for the parking lot. He said that there was discussion in the Finance and Operations Subcommittee to look into the effects of changing it to no charge. He said that this would not create any real change to the operation on how they assign spots as the demand would stay the same with 75-100 more requests than spots they have, which is why they use a lottery. He said that if there were to be no charge there would need to be another funding source for the approximate \$225,000 a year for the parking lot upkeep, and one possibility would be using the Building and Grounds Revolving Account. Ms. Maskell said that she has concerns with the lottery system as students could be picked and not even have their license or a car, and asked to see how other schools handle this. Mr. Freudberg asked if the Building and Grounds Revolving Account would be able to sustain funding for the upkeep of parking lots, and suggested that there be a written policy or procedure on the lottery and other parking rules. Mr. Lynch said that the revolving account would only be able to sustain it for this year and it would then have to be taken from the Operating Budget starting next year. Discussion on if the lottery is within the School Committee purview or if it is more operational.

Motion: To accept the Executive Director of Finance and Operations' recommendation to keep the parking fees the same.

Moved: Ms. Barnhill **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-1)

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

*Mr. Finlay returned to the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Mr. Lynch said that the current athletic fees are a zero cost to all students and his recommendation would be to keep it at no cost.

Motion: To accept the Executive Director of Finance and Operations' recommendation to keep the athletic fees at zero cost.

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

Mr. Lynch said that the transportation fees are \$250 per student with a \$500 maximum family cap and he recommends to keep the fees and make no change. He said that these fees are projected to be \$300,000 which offsets the Operating Budget and is included in the draft FY23 Budget.

Motion: To accept the Executive Director of Finance and Operations' recommendation to keep the transportation fees the same.

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

New Position Review

Mr. Lynch said that the new positions requested are in the provided document and broken down into different sections including noncompliance positions and the multiyear plan to shift salaries from ESSER-III to the Operating Budget. He said that all increases are included in the budget presentation.

Mr. Lynch asked for member feedback on the proposed FY23 Budget in order to be as close to accurate for the Budget Hearing on March 16th, including thoughts on what percentage increase they would like to see and the potential offsets included in the presentation. He noted that he would be comfortable making the reductions listed in the potential offsets which would make the budget increase closer to 6%. Members spoke of being more comfortable with the 6% increase as the 8% increase seems high. Members expressed concern with cutting any new proposed positions when looking to decrease the percent increase. Mr. Freudberg said that the legislative intent for the Chapter 70 funds are to go to the school district or to support public education, such as with insurance which is paid for by the City, and said that he would like to see what the specific number is of the 20% of new Chapter 70 increase, what that will mean for overall City finances when it comes to the School Department, such as what the local year to year increase will be as that is where the tax base is located. He noted that if the budget increase were to go down to 6% he would expect a minimal impact on the tax base depending on where things stand with the Circuit Breaker funds and ongoing conversations with the CFO.

Motion: To continue the discussion on the FY23 Budget in a meeting next Wednesday with the budget as the only topic.

Moved: Ms. Hugo **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge

Discussion: Discussion on how there will be another Finance and Operations Subcommittee meeting to discuss the budget, how there is a hold for an additional meeting on the budget if needed on March 23rd, and what would work for Mr. Lynch to revise the budget to still remain in the timeline. Mr. Lynch said that he can provide a revised budget with any feedback after the meeting on March 16th, and can provide a budget with the potential offsets included for the March 16th meeting.

Ms. Hugo **withdrew her motion.**

Athletic Department Funding and Title IX Compliance

Title IX Coordinator Dr. Saundra Edwards and Director of Athletics Paul Spear spoke to the Title IX Update in the packets including information on the Gender Equity Working Group, the Athletics Audit and OCR Complaint, Title IX planned training, and the increase in the coach's stipend proposal. Mr. Lynch said that the proposed FY23 Budget also includes an increase of \$55,000 in the Athletics Department and \$20,000 in the Equity Department budget for additional professional development for staff. Mr. Freudberg said that he would suggest that any work that can be done now be started or items be included in the budget book that align with recommendations from the audit, such as equity with uniform and equipment purchasing. He said that to start now with Title IX in mind could come at a small cost to the community and would be a big deal for families. Mr. Spear spoke to having the District fund uniforms, equipment, and coaches, and for it not to be paid for by fundraising. Mr. Finlay asked how we will continue monitoring to make sure items are not paid for by fundraising. Mr. Spear said that they will be working with the Gender Equity Working Group on fundraising and parameters for it.

School Committee Department Budget Review & Vote, including the Annual Review of School Committee Memberships and Subscriptions (Policy BK), a Review of the FY22 Department Budget Status

Motion: To accept the Finance Subcommittee's recommendation to accept the School Committee Department Budget as recommended.

Moved: Mr. Freudberg **Seconded:** Ms. Hugo **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 \$1,616,322.17 and a payroll total of \$4,999,577.98 on the dates of February 14th and February 18, 2022.

Mr. Freudberg, as the Chair of the Finance and Operations Subcommittee, said that the next meeting will be on March 15th and the draft agenda includes looking at the draft budget book, a legal services review, and continued discussion with NRT on the referral to review routing and dispatching. He said that he encourages all members to reach out to their PTO liaisons about the budget for their feedback.

Ms. Ottaviani, as the Chair of the Health and Wellness Subcommittee, said that they had their first meeting on Monday where they worked on goals for the subcommittee and they will have a meeting in May to include the new Food Services Director.

Subcommittee Chairs gave updates on dates for upcoming meetings including Policy Subcommittee on March 17th, Building and Grounds on March 10th, Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability and March 21st, and dates being worked on for Teaching and Learning and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Approval of Minutes and Gifts

Motion: To approve the Open Session minutes of January 19, 2022 and the Creation of an account for a Waldo B. Lyon Memorial Scholarship.

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

Discussion: Mr. Freudberg spoke in support of this scholarship and the students it is intended to benefit, as well as noted that it is in honor of a former School Committee member.

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

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

Additional Public Comment

FTA President Christine Mulrone said that the Unit A MOA was ratified and 90% of the membership voted. She said that this was a difficult and long process, they are glad to have reached a consensus with the committee, and hope the process is smoother with Units S and T.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

FPS Personal Choices - Masks Lesson

Update on Additional Recess Time Implementation

Memo on the Request to apply for MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program for Roof Replacements at Potter and Dunning Elementary Schools

Dunning and Potter Road Roof Statements of Interest

FPS Roof Replacement Spreadsheet

FY23 Budget Presentation

Memo on Annual Fee Reviews

Policies EEAA and JQ and JQ-R-3: Policies Regarding Annual Fees

New Position Review

Memo on Athletic Department Funding and Title IX Compliance

Memo on School Committee Department Budget

Policy BK: School Committee Memberships and Subscriptions

Warrants

Waldo B. Lyon Memorial Scholarship Form

Draft January 19, 2022 Minutes

These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee in Open Session on April 6, 2022.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on April 11, 2022.