



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: April 6, 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
ABSENT: Mayor Charlie Sisitsky
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 7:00 p.m., noted all in attendance and said that School Committee members Tiffanie Maskell and Jessica Barnhill and Student Advisory Chair Nilufar Noorian were joining remotely, and Mayor Sisitsky would not be in attendance due to a conflicting City Council meeting. 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

FTA President Christine Mulroney said that students across the state are taking the MCAS this week, and spoke to how passing it is a graduation requirement. She said that MCAS is a poor measure of a child's intelligence, measures a narrow range of academic achievement, is a poor measure of school quality, is racially biased, measures family wealth, knowledge, and privilege, results in degradation of quality education, and diverts \$30 million from needed school funding. She said that we should take a stand together to demand DESE put a moratorium on high stake testing and find more reasonable and practicable ways of assessing progress. She said that our students are more than just a score and teachers shouldn't be teaching students how to take a test.

Noval Alexander said that he is a District 5 City Councilor and Chair of the Subcommittee on Education, Library, Arts & Culture, Elder & Veteran Services and they are trying to be proactive and hear from each relevant group to collaborate with, hear from them on things of interest, and welcome them to attend their subcommittee meetings.

Announcements from the Chair

The Chair said that the School Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the deployment of 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 February 9, 2022.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian said that there will be a motivational speaker at FHS tomorrow and on April 12th.

Superintendent's Update

COVID-19

Dr. Tremblay said that he had nothing new to report on COVID-19.

Announcements

Dr. Tremblay said that this weekend kicks off the Give Kids a Smile Program which is a collaboration with the Community Resource Department, Health and Wellness Department, and Regis College and provides free dental hygiene care for FPS students.

He said that the District is partnering with Keep Framingham Beautiful for a district wide effort of a massive cleanup over a span of days up until Earth Day, including Sunday which is a school wide cleanup. He said that on Earth Day on April 23rd the District will have a table that is student driven with administration and School Committee members.

He said just this week an opportunity came up to submit an application for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASC/MASS) Joint Conference for a panel and he would like to submit one around our equity

work with a joint panel of School Committee members and leaders to moderate. He said that he will include information on this for the next meeting.

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

FY23 Operating Budget

Dr. Tremblay said that he will be covering this section for the Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch who is not available tonight. He said that the FY23 Operating Budget was submitted to the Mayor and sent to the City Council. He noted that the City Council approved the deed filing for the Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) for the Framingham High School and the Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest for the Hemenway Elementary School that the School Committee approved at the last meeting.

Federal and State Support (Community Eligibility Provision CEP) for Food Services

Dr. Tremblay said that being a part of the Community Eligibility Provision would provide free lunch and breakfast to all students, regardless of what happens legislatively in the future, and he is asking for support to participate in this as it is important for Framingham.

Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Executive Director of Finance and Operations for the District to go full Districtwide CEP and all students, even though the USDA program will end, will get free breakfast and lunch at every school next year 2022-2023.

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

Discussion: Ms. Maskell thanked those involved for looking into this, making this recommendation, and said that it is a real benefit to students, some who may not have food at home. Mr. LaBarge said that there is a cost to having this in place, but there is also a cost to not having it such as having to have resources to track down lunch money and kids being deprived of proper lunch. Dr. Tremblay confirmed, from a question from Ms. Moshe, that this program would be for four years, which is the longest that a District is allowed to commit to it, and will be supported through the revolving account.

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

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

Discussion and Vote on Unit C Framingham Teachers MOU (if approved in Executive Session)

Mr. Finlay and Ms. Maskell recused themselves at 7:20 p.m.

The Chair said that this was voted on and approved in Executive Session earlier tonight.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Inna London said that this was a half year of negotiations and 100% of the Unit C membership ratified the MOA. She said that the MOA provides substantial changes and full alignment with the strategic plan and items include incentives for work attendance, commitment to increase the diversity of staff, cultural competency of all entering employment, and training and eligibility for tuition reimbursement, among other items.

Motion: To approve the Unit C MOA as presented

Moved: 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 at 7:25 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed for a total of \$821,832.26 and a payroll total of \$4,470,676.29 on the date of March 28, 2022.

Ms. Maskell, as the Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, said that the policies listed on the agenda are up for a second reading.

Motion: To approve Policies LA: Education Agency Relations Goals, LB: Relations with Other Schools and School Districts, LBC: Relations with Nonpublic Schools, and LDA: Student Teaching and Internships for a second reading.

Moved: Ms. Hugo **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (9-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Finlay, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)
She said that the next meeting will be on April 14th.

Subcommittee Chairs gave updates including that the Finance and Operations Subcommittee will be looking to meet in April to review goals, the end of year available balance, and anything to help with the FY23 Budget going forward, the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee will be meeting next week and the agenda and goals document has been sent for feedback, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee met and went over goals with a plan to vote on them in April, and the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee have tentative next date of April 28th.

Approval of Minutes and Gifts

Motion: To approve the Open Session minutes of March 2, 2022 and the Executive Session minutes of February 9, 2022 as approved in Executive Session.

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

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 7:31 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda
FY22 Year End Projections Memo
Community Eligibility Provision Memo
Warrants
Second Readings of Section L Policies
Draft March 2, 2022 Open Session Minutes
Unit C MOA

These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee in Open Session on May 18, 2022.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on May 23, 2022.