

DRAFT



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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Priscila Sousa, Chair • Jessica Barnhill, Vice Chair
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:	May 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Remote
MEETING CALLED BY:	Chair Priscila Sousa
PRESENT:	Jessica Barnhill 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 Committee 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 7:14 p.m., announced those in attendance, and noted that School Committee member Tiffanie Maskell, Mayor Charlie Sisitsky, and Student Advisory Committee Chair Nilufar Noorian were joining remotely. She said that the meeting is being broadcast live on the Government Channel, can be viewed Live on Facebook on the Framingham Public Schools Facebook Page, and noted information on how to participate in public comment in person and through Zoom. She said that Facebook comments are not the formal way to participate in public comment since there are voice options through Zoom. She noted that there were technical issues which led to starting the meeting late and due to that there will be an additional public comment section offered after the Mayor’s report. 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.

DRAFT

Public Comment

FTA President Christine Mulroneo thanked all the staff who are working to provide a warm, welcoming, and enriching educational environment for our diverse scholars. She spoke of her experience as a teacher, how she grew each year with diverse learners in the classroom, and said that appreciation from families and students goes a long way. She thanked all educators who are truly committed to Framingham's future.

Carolyn Milaszewski said that she is here on behalf of the FHS Environmental Club and said that the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Policy would be a great step to take in our efforts to become more environmentally aware as a community and school. She said that this policy was largely created by contributions from students which are rarely heard, and if it goes through it would solidify that their voices can make change. She said that the students are extremely passionate about this policy passing through as it was created with their own ideas and opinions on what can make our school system more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Geoffrey Epstein said that it is a big deal that the policy on P-Cards is up for a second reading as it allows the Finance Department to use a credit card for purchases so staff do not have to be reimbursed and was previously blocked by the former City administration. He said that the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Policy falls into the general definition of a policy, will affect many things in the District, was formed with broad collaboration, and would be a groundbreaking model policy for schools across the state. He said that this would be a major step forward for students to guarantee their future in coming years and engage them in civic action to prove that their ideas count. He said that there are two solar canopies planned, but there are 15 parking lots, and there could be \$200,000 brought in if all had solar canopies as well as a big step forward in reducing our carbon footprint.

Margareth Shepard said that she is advocating for the adoption of the new Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Policy that would help guarantee a cleaner and healthier workplace for teachers who we are recognizing this week. She said that Framingham residents are asking elected officials to prioritize energy shifts from our reliance on old fuels and technologies, which helps our health and wallet as well. She said that it is exciting to see students and the School Committee taking the lead on actions to reduce the schools' carbon footprint and urges the School Committee to approve this policy.

Aimee Powelka said that she is the Lead for Energize Framingham which is a grassroots group dedicated to bringing resources for climate actions and sustainability to the residents of Framingham. She said that one way that their group has been able to develop these resources is with the help of the phenomenal FHS Environmental Club students, 11 of which were interns over the past two years. She said that students are committed and excited about the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution which is the main reason she is urging the adoption of the policy, as our students have an important role to play in addressing climate change. She said that opportunities to make a real change are limited for youths and there should be consideration of their voice and contribution when deciding tonight. She said that the second reason she urges to adopt the policy is that it is a significant first step in a

DRAFT

community wide climate action plan, and the process of engaging many stakeholders serves as a model for City leadership and committees to look at for an even broader engagement.

Announcements from the Chair

The Chair noted that the School Committee met in Executive Session earlier tonight for a meeting with legal counsel pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) and (7) and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 447 (2007) to discuss potentially joining School District National Litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. 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 16, 2022 and March 16, 2022.

She said that District 2 School Committee member Richard Finlay has resigned and there will be discussions at future meetings regarding posting of the role and filling the vacancy.

She thanked all the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week including School Committee members and teachers Beverly Hugo and Jessica Barnhill.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Sisitsky said that he submitted and presented the FY23 Budget last night to the City Council. He said that this included recommending the School Department Budget that was voted on by the School Committee. He said that the City Council's Finance Subcommittee will be meeting on Thursday night and through the next couple of weeks on the budget.

Additional Round of Public Comment

An additional round of public comment was offered, there were no speakers.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian said that they are continuing to work on their next presentation to the School Committee and wished all teachers a happy Teacher Appreciation Week.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Tremblay recognized National Teacher Appreciation week and said that Friday is also School Lunch Hero Day and said that we are grateful and thankful for all staff who support our children the way they do, especially after the past couple of years with the pandemic.

Discussion regarding Potentially Joining School District National Litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. Dr. Tremblay spoke to issues in the District with vaping such as to the physical buildings, to our students' health, and misinformation on vaping. He said that Attorney Shinoff started a movement in California and reached out to give the opportunity to Framingham to join in a suit against Juul, Labs and their subsidiaries for the crisis they have created. He said that he thinks this is the right next step for a public stand to say that something needs to be done, and this was discussed in Executive Session with the agreement to bring forward to Open Session. Attorney Shinoff said that they are working with over 700 districts for this mass action lawsuit and it is focused on three components: deterrence, support, and education, and getting money for the districts for all of those. He said that this is a contingency fee basis with no financial risk to the district to be involved and there is only a fee if there is a recovery to the district. He

DRAFT

spoke to the upcoming court dates including five planned in 2023. Ms. Hugo said that we have a moral obligation to protect youth and take bold action against companies whose profits are made from the harming of the health of our youth. Mr. Freudberg said that there is also a domino effect, as the student survey presented by our students a year and half ago showed that 55 percent of those who responded often or sometimes would avoid bathrooms due to concerns about vaping in the bathrooms.

Motion: For Framingham Public Schools to join the litigation against Juul, Altria, and other distributors and marketers of vaping products and authorize the Superintendent to enter into the attorney fee contract with the attorney here tonight.

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

Discussion: Mr. LaBarge spoke about how it is bad to market to children and the dangers of vaping. Ms. Sousa thanked the attorney for answering all questions and said that there is very little exposure to us to enter into this and even if that wasn't the case it is the right thing to do.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (8-0-0)

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

Set Process to Annually Evaluate the Superintendent

Ms. Sousa said that per policy and the Superintendent's contract the School Committee needs to vote on the process to evaluate every year. Dr. Tremblay has recommended to use the state form that has been used in the past years. Evaluation Responses from members will be due to the Chair on June 20th and a vote on the annual summative evaluation is scheduled for June 29th.

Motion: To use the state form to annually evaluate the Superintendent as has been used in the past.

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

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

Nominations for the MA Association of School Committee's Annual Awards and Resolutions

Ms. Sousa said that due June 1st are Nominations for Friend of Public Education, Community Leader, Outstanding School Partner and Resolutions and By-law Changes and due July 1st are Life Membership Nomination, Lifetime Achievement Nomination, and All-State School Committee Nomination. She said that forms need to be completed by members for any submission and this is also on the next agenda on May 18th. Ms. Hugo said that she had submitted nominations for Donna Wreskinski, Judy Styer, and Joseph Corazzini and had two resolution ideas regarding either making Kindergarten mandatory across the state or having personal financial literacy courses before students graduate. Discussion on why the nominations were not sent ahead of the meeting and wanting more information on both the nominations and resolutions. Discussion on next steps including Ms. Hugo working on the write ups for nominations and the resolution regarding financial literacy courses for the next meeting.

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

FY22 Operating and Capital Budget

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch said that there is not a significant update from last week for FY22 and they are continuing on making sure items are now charged

DRAFT

to the correct accounts, such as to ESSER-II and the Circuit Breaker accounts. He said that projections are still on track as were presented.

He said that they have hired a new Food Service Director Dario Nardi and he will be implementing a web based menu with Nutraslice that allows families to see the menu, including calorie count, allergy information, and more. He said that this also can be translated into 23 different languages and thanked Ms. Maskell for her advocacy. Ms. Maskell thanked them and said that she thinks this will be such an asset to families, especially those with health issues.

FY23 Operating Budget

Mr. Lynch said that the Mayor covered the status of the FY23 Operating Budget in his update earlier, and said that his proposed submission included the full request from the School Committee.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed with a total of \$502,188.33 and payroll total of \$4,105,541.50 on the date of April 25, 2022.

Mr. Freudberg, as the Chair of the Finance and Operations Subcommittee, said that on Monday they met and the subcommittee's goals were discussed, the FY23 budget process was discussed, including that members should be tracking the process and be ready to advocate for the School Department's budget. He said that the next meeting date is to be determined and will include an introduction to the new Food Services Director, continuing to check in on the FY23 budget, and to discuss the FY22 closeout if necessary before it goes before the full School Committee in June or July.

Ms. Maskell, as the Policy Subcommittee Chair, said that there are two policies up for second readings.

Motion: To accept Policies ADC: Tobacco Use on School Premises and the New Policy: Procurement Cards for second readings.

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

Discussion: Mr. Freudberg said that he is pleased to see the Procurement Policy up for a second reading as it took a long time to get to and it involves a collaboration going forward with the School Department and City which the Finance and Operations Subcommittee will continue to track. He said that it is also an accomplishment as the Equity Audit recommended that this would be helpful for staff, especially for orders for purchasing items in Spanish or Portuguese.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (8-0-0)

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

Ms. Maskell said that there are two policies up for second readings which will be voted on separately.

Motion: To accept Policy GCL: Professional Staff Time Schedules - Work Year and Vacation Leave for a first reading.

Motion: Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Sousa **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

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

DRAFT

Motion: To accept Policy EBACA: Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Policy for a first reading.

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

Discussion: Ms. Moshe said that she is part of the Policy Subcommittee who reviewed this policy and she feels that this policy is incomplete and needs to go further in detail, such as with progress, accountability, or end dates, and suggests that this policy go back to the Policy Subcommittee for further review, possibly with the FHS Environmental Club in attendance. Ms. Hugo spoke to her experience in various policy committees and said that this is a policy, was a two year effort that involved a lot of stakeholders, and it was just being voted on unanimously in the Climate, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee. She said that it is what we can do to improve schools for students and staff and the community, and she thinks this should pass tonight and not continue putting it off. Ms. Sousa said that while this policy deviates from our common policy structure, in the context of community and student input and collaboration she thinks passing this does send the right message and validates student input and encourages civic engagement. She noted that the Climate, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee did tone down the language so it wasn't overly prescriptive. Mr. LaBarge said that we should not let perfection be the enemy of progress. Mr. Freudberg said that the Superintendent took it upon himself to get input from students in the high school which shows the effort put into this, that the policy says that the policy needs to be reviewed annually so there can always be edits in the future, and he hopes that this policy can help at the City wide level for environmental issues. Ms. Barnhill spoke to the collaboration and local change needed for a global issue and hopes that other districts take this on as well. Ms. Maskell spoke to how this is the time to have this discussion and how it comes down to doing things for our children.

Roll Call Vote: 7-1-0

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

Subcommittee Chairs gave updates including that the Climate, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee will meet either on the first Thursday of June or second Tuesday, the Health and Wellness Subcommittee has a meeting Tuesday and an application was sent to the John Stocker Institute, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee met yesterday where they finalized their goals.

Approval of Minutes, Gifts, and Field Trips

Motion: To approve the minutes of March 30, 2022.

Moved: Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

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

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Ms. Ottaviani **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Meeting Materials

DRAFT

Agenda

DESE Model System for Educator Evaluation

MASC Evaluating the Superintendent Guide

MASC Superintendent Evaluation Slides

DESE Draft Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation

MASC Nomination Forms

Warrants

Policy Summary and Proposed Drafts

Draft March 30, 2022 Minutes