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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
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE: OPEN MEETING MINUTES

DATE AND TIME:	June 1, 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
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 7:02 p.m. and 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, noted that School Committee members Tiffanie Maskell, Mayor Charlie Sisitsky, and Student 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 in person and 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

There were no participants for public comment.

Announcements from the Chair

The Chair acknowledged the shelter in place at the high school today and the senseless tragedy that happened in Uvalde, Texas. She said that our hearts go out to all in Uvalde and thanked all the staff who still show up every day. She thanked members of the public for reaching out with their concerns and suggestions and said that it is not falling on deaf ears. She said that in upcoming meetings there will be more discussion on safety and security and the constant adjustments to keep our students and staff safe.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Sisitsky said last week the City Council reviewed their Finance Subcommittee's proposed budget, passed it for a first reading, and it will be taken up again in an upcoming meeting for the final reading. He said that the Capital Budget has been submitted and will be reviewed by the City Council's Finance Subcommittee tomorrow night.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian thanked the School Committee for the great opportunity this year to see how dedicated they are and the time and energy they put into this. She thanked the other SAC members that she worked with this year and their advisors, and said that she tried her hardest and enjoyed working on their presentations. She thanked Dr. Tremblay for informing her about the orientation for the MA Association of Student Representatives (MASR) who she has continued to meet with and she is now the interim Director of Finance for this new organization. She said that there will be elections tomorrow to choose the SAC representatives and Chair for next year.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Tremblay spoke to the incident at the high school the Chair mentioned earlier and said that the resilience of community should be acknowledged today, it was found out it was not a true threat, but they did have a shelter in place for the bomb threat. He said that it is still under investigation, doesn't seem to be from a student from Framingham, and there are a lot of data points to consider in decision processes and communicating faster than social media for situations like this.

FHS Class of 2022 Recognition

Class of 2022 Officer Nick Jobin said that his class has experienced anything but the ordinary over the last four years with the pandemic that is still continuing on. He highlighted all the hard work and dedication that they have all gone through to get to this point. He thanked the School Committee for the hard work that happened during the pandemic, particularly for supporting teachers and students during remote and hybrid learning. There was a round of applause.

Year-End Report on the Superintendent's 2021-2022 School Year Goals & Preliminary Goals for 2022-2023

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Dr. Tremblay noted that his annual review is coming up and said that he provided three documents that have intersectionality for a report on his current goals and to show his preliminary goals going forward. He spoke to the documents and said that this is year two of a three year strategic plan and next year they will be gathering feedback to create the next multi-year plan, he is working to make sure his goals are supporting the School Committee and vice versa for reciprocity, and he is creating a forward looking document that builds on areas where he needs to focus his energy for future goals. There was discussion on the evaluation forms being sent to members to start the annual evaluation. Mr. Freudberg said that while there is a future meeting to approve the Superintendent's new goals, he is in support and likes the idea of the residency that was included in the preliminary goals document.

Invitation to Join the Mayor, City Council, and Superintendent for a City Pride Month Proclamation for June 2022

Ms. Sousa said that the School Committee was invited to join the proclamation as has been done in the past.

Motion: To adopt a City Pride Month Proclamation for June 2022 at the invitation of the Mayor, City Council, and Superintendent.

Moved: Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Moshe **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Special Education Department Program Update

Review of the Special Education DESE Audit

Director of Special Education Laura Spear and Assistant Director of Special Education Ildefonso Arellano gave an overview of the DESE Tiered Focus Monitoring Report including that the District's self assessment was conducted in the 2021 school year and the onsite phase was in January and included staff interviews, parent surveys, interviews with Framingham Special Education Parent Advisory Council (FSEPAC), school record review, and school visits. They noted that the audit determined the District is in compliance with all components reviewed and the feedback received was that there was substantial growth.

Program Strand Shifts for 2022-2023 School Year

Ms. Spear said that there are five specialized programs with substantially separate classrooms which includes developmental delays, intellectual impairments, emotional disabilities, and autism. She said that the feeder patterns were not always considered, instead the programs were often placed where there was space which created a situation where students did not go with their peers to middle school. She said that they are making changes to correct misalignments, which has been a goal over many years, and are making strides to shift them to make sure all programs are aligned for next year and beyond.

Mr. Freudberg said that reading the audits it looked like a perfect score and spoke to how continuous improvement is really important, and asked for an update on the FSEPAC, especially in their role of supporting families, department relations, and parent/guardian relations. Ms. Spear said that they are always being reflective and even though there are no findings in the audit there are always ways to improve. She said that they have started having monthly meetings with FSEPAC on how to support them and create opportunities in the community for

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families. She said that they had many events to try and engage and connect families and next year they hopefully will be able to do more in person professional development as well as looking at options for allowing remote participation with translation options. Ms. Sousa spoke to how open and inclusive FSEPAC is, including with families who speak other languages and with the Super Parents Group.

Annual Report on the ACCEPT and TEC Collaboratives

Mr. Arellano gave an overview of the benefits of being a member of the ACCEPT and TEC Collaboratives including that both offer a wide array of services for students who require higher services than the District can provide, which is shown in the annual reports. He said that currently the District has 29 students in ACCEPT Collaborative, 13 of which have summer supports, and 5 students in TEC Collaborative with 4 with summer supports. He said that the cost analysis that is included in packets shows a significant savings in being a member versus a nonmember, with an annual savings through ACCEPT of \$304,594.16 and an annual savings through TEC of \$55,115.85.

Appoint School Committee/FPS Liaisons to the ACCEPT and TEC Collaboratives

Motion: That Dr. Tremblay is nominated to be the School Committee representative on the ACCEPT Board of Directors and the School Committee renews their annual membership.

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

Discussion: Discussion occurred to make sure that the vote also includes renewing the annual membership. The vote was amended.

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

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

Motion: That Beverly Hugo is nominated to be the School Committee representative on the TEC Board of Directors and the School Committee renews their annual membership.

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

Discussion: Ms. Moshe asked what the cost of the memberships are. Dr. Tremblay said that he can get the specific amounts, but noted that they are offset by the savings.

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

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

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

FY22 Operating and Capital Budget

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch said that they continue to work with the City's Accountants Office to make sure costs are where they are supposed to be for the FY22 Operating Budget which will eliminate some of the zero balances shown in the update in the packet. He said that projections still align with what was presented last month.

FY23 Operating and Capital Budget

Mayor Sisisky said that they will be submitting the proposed FY23 Capital Budget to the City Council's Finance Subcommittee and while some numbers have changed from what was proposed by the School Committee they can discuss with that subcommittee if they should be increased now or updated at a later date. He said that the proposal includes \$6 million for a

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schools/City project for purchase of the land on Bethany Hill which is just an estimate, but to show how serious we are in purchasing it when negotiations start. He said that the School Department's proposal is for \$5,700,000 and includes \$3.3 million for the roof replacement at Farley, \$1.161 million for exterior envelope work at Walsh, \$565,000 to cover design the phase for the Dunning and McCarthy Roofs, which is 10% of what the ask was with anticipation that once there are better estimates those will then be put into next year's Capital Budget, and \$300,000 for ADA upgrades for compliance. He said that as previously discussed in other meetings the fire alarm upgrades that were originally requested will come out of the District's Operating Budget and they will be moving \$150,000 for district wide furniture and \$150,000 for a special project for accessibility and increased participation in health and wellness from the Operating Budget to the Capital Budget.

Mr. Lynch said that while this is not the full ask he understands that there is only enough to go around for all departments, and it shows the commitment that the Mayor and team have made to fund more capital projects for the schools. Mr. Freudberg suggested providing information to the City Council on how the school needs \$1.5 million for the Walsh project, but it is only proposed for \$1.1 million, and needs \$3.6 million for the Farley project but it is only proposed for \$3.3 million, or aligning the numbers to match if they are firm estimates so there is no need to go to the City Council in the future if more funds are needed which could also delay projects. Mayor Sisitsky says that he agrees, but would suggest that instead of sending last minute update documents that he instead advise the Council of this during the meeting and give them an opportunity to amend what was provided. Mr. Freudberg noted that if it helps the vote for those revised numbers was taken in the March 16th School Committee meeting.

Mr. Lynch said that he participated in the City Council's Finance Subcommittee's recent meeting and they made some changes to reduce the School Department's proposed Operating Budget from 5.02% percent to 4.66% by moving \$150,000 of special projects and furniture to the Capital Budget and moving vehicles to be paid by revolving accounts. Mr. Freudberg said that as part of the shift in the Operating Budget some of the requested Safety and Security Department items were moved from the Capital Budget proposal to the Operating Budget, but it is a \$200,000 discrepancy from the original ask. He asked how that will be handled with the potential shortfall. Mr. Lynch said that there was \$100,000 of the Safety and Security Department asks put into the Operating Budget, the Director will be at a future meeting to discuss the work being done, and he can work on a plan for FY23 to plug that gap and improve security. Ms. Maskell spoke to the importance of making sure the needed funds for that department are given especially in light of the recent events.

Discussion on the District 2 School Committee Vacancy and Interview Questions/Process

The Chair said that the questions that were used for interviews for a previous vacancy were included in the packets and there are three applicants for the current District 2 vacancy. Discussion occurred regarding the timeline of filling this vacancy including the tentative schedule of having applicants at the June 15th meeting for interviews and then for a joint City Council meeting for a vote before the end of the month, and how the interview process should be structured. such as having an introduction time, questions, and time for a closing statement. Each question that was included in packets was then discussed to determine if they should be

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used or not, if they should be edited, and additional questions were suggested. There was consensus on using the following questions for interviews: What do you think the challenges are facing the school district? Provide an example of how your life or work experience could help a School Committee challenge. What are the biggest challenges in District 2? What are some solutions?, Based on what you bring to the table, can you say specifically how you can have the greatest impact during the next year and a half?, Our underlying theme for our multi-year strategic plan is equity. Within the purview of the School Committee, how would you address the issue of equity within our district as a School Committee member?, How would you assess the level of local support for the school department budget. What will you do as a School Committee member to influence the budget?, What are your thoughts on adding a Southside School?, Comment on an area of strength or challenge you would like to address with the Superintendent, and What policy would you like to see amended and/or implemented?

Motion: To have all three candidates attend the June 15th meeting for interviews with 30 mins for each applicant to include an opening statement of up to five minutes, answering of the 7 questions, and closing statements of up to 2 minutes.

Moved: Mr. Freudberg **Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Mr. Freudberg said that it looks like June 21st is the only open meeting date for the City Council and per the Charter we have until mid July if needed for the vote. Discussion on looking at dates with the City Council to finalize for a Joint Meeting and vote on the vacancy.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed for a total of \$2,903,240.23 and a payroll total of \$6,490,857.39 on the dates of May 16th and May 23rd.

The Chair said that since the Building and Grounds Subcommittee is currently without a Chair she is appointing Jessica Barnhill as the temporary Chair until the vacancy is filled. She said that this will allow for them to finalize their goal document to be incorporated with the other subcommittees. Ms. Barnhill said that a date will be scheduled and the goals document will be sent out prior for review. Mr. Freudberg said that he had spoken to the previous Chair about the possibility of adding two goals; one for any preparation needed for MassBay moving out of the Farley Building and any expansion and one for a document detailing how the Parks and Recreation Department and the District's Building and Grounds Department work together.

Subcommittee Chairs gave updates including that the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee met to discuss summer learning and their goals and the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee will be meeting on June 7th to discuss the items within the new policy, specifically styrofoam trays and Meatless Mondays.

Approval of Minutes and Gifts

Motion: To approve the Open Session minutes of April 27, 2022.

Moved: Ms. Ottaviani **Seconded:** Ms. Hugo **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

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Motion: To approve the \$2,200 donation from Various Donors for the Prom Shoppe

Moved: Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Hugo **Roll Call Vote:** 7-0-1

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

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Ms. Barnhill **Seconded:** Ms. Moshe **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (8-0-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Superintendent's 2021-2022 Goals End of Cycle Report

Superintendent's 2022-2023 Proposed Goals

2020-2023 Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring Tool

City Pride Month Proclamation

DESE Tiered Focus Monitoring Report

ACCEPT Annual Report

TEC Annual Report

ACCEPT and TEC FPS Analysis

Questions Used for Previous D2 Vacancy

Warrants

Prom Shoppe Donations Memo

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