



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Priscila Sousa, Chair • Jessica Barnhill, Vice Chair • Valerie Ottaviani, Clerk
 Adam Freudberg • David Gordon • Beverly Hugo
 William LaBarge • Tiffanie Maskell • Jennifer Moshe
 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: August 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Memorial Building - Blumer Room
 150 Concord Street, Framingham
MEETING CALLED BY: Chair Priscila Sousa
PRESENT: Jessica Barnhill
 Adam Freudberg
 Beverly Hugo
 William LaBarge
 Jennifer Moshe
 Valerie Ottaviani
 Priscila Sousa*
ABSENT: David Gordon
 Tiffanie Maskell
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

Vice Chair Jessica Barnhill called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., announced those in attendance, and noted that Student Advisory Committee Chair Nilufar Noorian and Mayor Sisitsky were joining remotely, Chair Priscila Sousa would be joining in progress, member Tiffnaie Maskell will not be in attendance due to a family emergency, and member David Gordon will not be in attendance due to a pre-existing conflict. 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 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

There were no participants for public comment.

Announcements from the Chair

There were no announcements from the Chair.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Sisitsky gave a status report on the negotiations for purchasing the property at Bethany Hill including that they had a successful meeting with the engineers, Sisters of St. Joseph, and attorneys where they agreed on property lines to be established. He said that once those are final and the plan is ready it will go to the City Council and Planning Board for approval and then there will be an appraisal.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian said that she did not have any remarks.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Tremblay said that the final paving is underway at some schools and the construction has started for the solar installations at Brophy Elementary School. He said that it is great to see all the projects happening which will hopefully be completed before school starts and thanked all of those who are involved in the projects.

Presentation and Vote on the Superintendent's Proposed 2022-23 School Year Goals

Ms. Barnhill said that the presentation and vote on the Superintendent's goals is required by the Superintendent's Contract in Section 4 and Dr. Tremblay previewed these goals at the June 1st meeting. Dr. Tremblay shared his presentation of his goals that included a District Improvement Goal of Superintendent Residency and District Strategic Plan Development, Professional Practice Goal of Portuguese Language and Brazilian Cultural Studies, and Student Learning Goal of School Start Times Study.

*Ms. Sousa joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Members asked if there are certain things he will be looking at during his residency based on previous feedback about the schools and to see what can be changed or where there can be better practices, if the study on earlier start times will also look at the impact on extracurricular activities such as competing against other districts, and if there is a timeframe for when the start times could be changed. Dr. Tremblay spoke of how he envisioned his day to day schedule within his residency to include items such as riding buses, facetime with staff and students, staff meetings including data analysis, visiting classrooms, and open office hours and noted that he also has asked Senior Leaders to also be present within the schools during this residency. He added that School Committee members are welcome to join at any point as well. He said that he will add looking at extracurriculars within the goal of studying school start times and said that he is hesitant to give a date of when start times could change as ample notice is needed for staff and families, but he will report back to the School Committee once the study is completed.

Motion: To accept the three Superintendent goals as presented.

Moved: Mr. Freudberg

Seconded: Ms. Hugo

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

Authorization of the Transfer of Funds to Close Out the FY22 Budget If Necessary

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch spoke to the memo in the packets with the projections to end the year that includes a \$2.4 million projected Operating Budget end of fiscal year available balance and \$1.9 million also available in the FY22 Circuit Breaker account that can be carried over to next year. He said that there are recommendations on what to do with the end of year balance to draw it down to zero which includes moving at least \$1,058,144.82 of charges from the FY22 Circuit Breaker account to the FY22 Operating Budget which will create a \$3,000,000 available balance in the Circuit Breaker account to provide the \$2,500,000 needed to balance the FY23 budget and have available \$500,000 for any additional out of district special education student move-ins, move \$358,000 of charges from the Buildings & Grounds revolving account to the FY22 operating budget which will cover the cost difference of the Barbieri Elementary Cafeteria project which came in at \$508,000 versus the projected initial \$150,000 cost, and for the remaining \$988,133.09 to either shift additional funding to the FY22 Circuit Breaker to cover any additional out-of-district tuition costs, shift additional funds to the Buildings and Grounds Revolving Account, or return funds to the City. He said that for the last options some additional recommendations would include moving an additional \$284,000 from the Building and Grounds Revolving Account to the Operating Budget which which would increase the available balance of the revolving account next year and help with the large number of projects and increases they are seeing, and move the rest of the funds to the Circuit Breaker reserve which would result in \$3.2 million in the Circuit Breaker account; \$1.7 million would be a true reserve and \$2.5 million would be to offset the FY23 Operating Budget as previously voted on.

Motion: To adopt the recommendations and to vote favorably to allow Mr. Lynch to make any transfer of funds between the salary and expense side if necessary to close out the FY22 Budget per the plan described.

Moved: Ms. Sousa

Seconded: Ms. Ottaviani

Discussion: Ms. Moshe asked what will happen to the Barbieri cafeteria project if those funds are not moved. Mr. Lynch said that the cafeteria project would still be completed, it would just deplete the Buildings and Grounds Revolving Account which is used for any unanticipated projects that come up. Mr. Freudberg said that this end of year available balance is a good thing as it helps with the long term goal to reduce the reliance on the annual carry over that includes reducing it to \$2 million next year and then continuing to drive down to pre-pandemic levels. He noted that he believes a motion is also needed per Policy DBJ for balance transfer authority. Motion amended to include this.

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Discussion on what the motion actually allows in regards to the third recommendation with clarification that the motion adopts all the recommendations including the Building and Grounds transfer. The motion approved Mr. Lynch's recommendation to move at least \$1,058,144.82 of charges from the FY22 Circuit Breaker account to the FY22 Operating Budget,

move \$358,000 of charges from the Buildings & Grounds revolving account to the FY22 operating budget which will cover the cost difference of the Barbieri Elementary Cafeteria project, move an additional \$284,000 from the Building and Grounds Revolving Account to the Operating Budget, move the remaining balance of approximately \$704,133.09 to the FY22 Circuit Breaker to cover any additional out-of-district tuition costs, and authorize the necessary transfers to do so.

FY23 Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Lynch said that the FY23 YTD was in the packets and shows minimal expenditures as it's still early in the year, mostly just salaries of 12 month employees that work through the summer and some special education and building and grounds expenditures.

Vote on the Annual Creation of Student Activity and Class of 2026 Account(s)

Mr. Lynch noted that the agenda had an error and it should be for the Class of 2026 accounts as the Class of 2025 was approved last year. Ms. Moshe asked what the process was for updating the statements of purpose as some that were included were from 2020. Mr. Lynch said that they are reviewed every year to make sure information is still correct or make any edits that are needed.

Motion: To approve the current student activity accounts.

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

Discussion: Ms. Hugo asked at what point are the previous class accounts removed and any extra funds given to the next class or other accounts, as there are about five classes listed currently. Mr. Lynch said that he is unsure of the timeline but the Business Operations Department works with the Class Officers to close them out.

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Moved: To approve the 10 new student activity accounts that are being requested.

Moved: Ms. Hugo **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

Vote to Reclassify Athletic Student Activity Accounts to the Athletic Revolving Account

Mr. Lynch said that one of the audit's recommendations was to move any athletics accounts like these into revolving accounts where any funds will be accepted as gifts and then internally audited with funds coming in and out for each team being tracked.

Motion: To reclassify the athletics accounts to the Athletic Revolving Account.

Moved: Mr. Freudberg **Seconded:** Ms. Sousa **Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge reported on the warrant totals with a total of \$139,698.24 and payroll total of \$305,661.98 on the date of July 25, 2022.

Mr. Freudberg, as the Finance and Operations Subcommittee Chair, said at their last meeting they completed two School Committee goals; a Special Education legal review and midterm

review of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He asked that the documents that were in that packet be shared with members and gave an update on the ARPA funds including that there is still approximately \$1 million left with a deadline of the end of 2024 to obligate them so members can think about other items that meet that criteria, the HVAC and ventilation projects were not all completed due to supply chain and contracting challenges but the District is working with the Procurement Office and vendors on these, one line item is slightly over with reading teachers due to increases in salaries and health care, and there are three playgrounds projects coming up starting with Harmony Grove Elementary School.

Ms. Barnhill said that there are policies on the agenda that are up for second readings.

Motion: To approve Policies KA: School/Community Relations Goal, KBA: School/Parent and/or Guardian Relations Goals, KBB: Translation and Interpretation, KCB: Community Involvement in Decision Making, BDB: School Committee Officers, and BIBA: School Committee Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops for second readings.

Moved: Ms. Sousa **Seconded:** Ms. Ottaviani

Discussion: Mr. Freudberg said that at the last Policy Subcommittee they did not get to the KF policies yet regarding community use of school facilities and asked that they be added to a next agenda. He said that he passed along recommendations to the administration and Policy Subcommittee Chair on ways to help community partners who rent gyms with minimal financial impacts to the District and suggested that ARPA funds could also possibly be used.

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Ms. Ottaviani, as the Chair of the Health and Wellness Subcommittee, said that she met with the new Director of Health and Wellness and they spoke about reestablishing and scheduling meetings for the District's Wellness Committee so they can be in compliance and re-apply to the John Stalker Institute again once they have had four meetings.

Approval of Minutes and Gifts

Motion: To approve the \$42,289.92 from the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to support the early education and care workforce and other operational costs related to COVID-19

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

Discussion: Mr. Freudberg said that prior to the meeting he had clarified with Mr. Lynch that this gift was being accepted since EEC, which is a state agency, granted the funds to a nonprofit to distribute through a regional network, as usually gifts from state agencies would not be accepted through the committee's gift acceptance process

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Motion: To approve the Joint Open Session minutes of June 21, 2022.

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

Discussion: Mr. Freudberg said that this was a very positive meeting where David Gordon was elected unanimously, but there was that one very dark moment that was rightfully called out by the Chair and recorded factually in the minutes.

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Ms. Ottaviani **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Moshe, Freudberg, Sousa, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Superintendent's Proposed 2022-2023 School Year Goals

FY22 YTD

Memo on End of Fiscal Year Close Out Actions

FY23 YTD

Memo for Student Activity Accounts

Memo to Reclassify Athletic Activity Accounts to the Revolving Account

Warrants

Special Education Legal Services Funding Review

American Rescue Plan Act (ESSER-III) Funding Status Summary

Policy Summary and Proposed Edits

Gift Memo

Draft June 21, 2022 Joint Meeting Minutes

These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee in Open Session on September 21, 2022.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham on September 23, 2022.