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

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: July 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Remote
MEETING CALLED BY: Chair Priscila Sousa
PRESENT: Jessica Barnhill
David Gordon
Beverly Hugo
William LaBarge
Tiffanie Maskell
Jennifer Moshe
Valerie Ottaviani
Priscila Sousa
ABSENT: Adam Freudberg
Mayor Charlie Sisitsky
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 7:02 p.m., announced those in attendance, and noted that School Committee members Tiffanie Maskell and Student Advisory Committee Chair Nilufar Noorian were joining remotely, member Adam Freudberg would not be joining due to a family matter and Mayor Sisitsky would not be joining due to a conflicting meeting. 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.

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Public Comment

There were no participants for public comment.

Announcements from the Chair

The Chair said that last night School Committee members, the Superintendent, and others gathered at the Village Hall for a ceremony to dedicate the ballroom to their former colleague Karen Dempsey whose time on the School Committee was too short, but very meaningful. She said that this was also for the 32nd Anniversary of the American Disabilities Act.

Mayor's Update

The Chair said that the Mayor is not present due to a conflicting meeting so there will not be an update tonight.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilufar Noorian said that there is no update since it's summer.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Tremblay said that he wanted to give an update on the Community Days at the High School since it has been a matter of some discussion. He said that this came from a forum during the last school year with staff and students where it was discussed that there is a compelling need to do some sort of reset in the District. He said that when students returned to school in person we did not realize the full effects of COVID-19, how students navigate social situations and what the expectations are, and this is a way for them to have a space to have those conversations and process what they are feeling, as well as be able to roll out the Code of Character, Conduct, and Support. He said that this will be occurring all across the District, but the high school is the only one school who will have half days to accommodate it. He said that the School Committee should have been advised on what the plans were even if it does not fall in their purview of calendar approval.

Discussion and Vote on Handbooks

The Chair said that per Policy CHCA handbooks need approval prior to publication. Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Chair Jessica Barnhill said that the subcommittee met twice to review these and spoke to how they were very collaborative in nature. She said that some of the updates to the handbooks included updates to athletics eligibility and safety and security edits, and some items were flagged for next year to review. She said that these were unanimously approved by the subcommittee and once they have full approval they will be sent out to families electronically, including a form to be signed that they were received. Ms. Moshe requested that the misspelling of her name on the BLOCKS Handbook be corrected.

Motion: For approval of all the handbooks; BLOCKS, Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High School and Thayer Campus, and the Athletic Handbook with the amendment to correct Ms. Moshe's name.

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

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Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

FY22 Operating and Capital Budget

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch said that the FY22 Year to Date was included in the packets, they continue to work with the City Finance Department to close out FY22, and there is still \$261,000 in purchase orders that they are working on receiving invoices for to pay those and lower that number. He said that at the next meeting he will be presenting projections of the end of the year balance with an updated number and will include some recommendations for a vote on what to do with the balance. There was discussion about how some of the line items show as over budget, but the bottom line is not and the need to consider all of the balances for the final number. Members asked if there are open purchase orders that are not paid if that amount goes back to the City and for an update on the retroactive salary payments to the teachers that was brought up at a past meeting. Mr. Lynch said that any of the purchase orders that are not paid that amount goes to the School Department's end of the year balance and will be part of the vote on what to do with the end of the year balance. He said that retroactive payments have been paid to several of the negotiation units including teachers and they are working with the City to make sure all of the other units' payments are sent out, but he does not currently have a date for those.

FY23 Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Lynch said that he will send the FY23 YTD report, but there are not many expenses so far besides salaries of the 12 month employees. He said that they are moving on capital items quickly including ordering furniture.

Discussion and Vote on a Geothermal Project from City Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Coordinator Shawn Luz said that they are requesting approval of a site license agreement from Eversource to install a test geothermal well on the eastern parking lot of the Farley building which will allow Eversource to explore the geothermal system, make sure air conditions are right in that parking lot, and allow for that project to move forward. Eversource Project Manager for the Geothermal Pilot Eric Bosworth and Eversource Community Relations Representative Annemarie Walsh gave further information on this including that they are asking for a single borehole to be placed in the parking lot which would likely only take a single day with 48 hours after of testing, they are just in the design phase now with the testing first, then possible construction towards the end of this year, and then a loop in place by early summer of 2023 which would provide to approximately 150 customers including City owned buildings, Framingham Housing Authority buildings, and small businesses.

Members asked if the workers will be CORI checked since they will be on school property, for clarification on the underground property damage and not interfering with the operations of the City which is listed within the contract, what the project would look like for next steps including any negative effects, if MassBay has also been made aware, and if alternate sites were considered. Mr. Bosworth said that they can make sure workers are CORI checked who are on school grounds and the underground property damage is just standard language to cover them; they are going to do a survey first to mark out any underground utilities, so the chances of any actual damage are slim to none. He said that the amount of space they needed is relatively small, a 30 x 60 rectangle, which would take up about 6 parking spaces and will make it so they

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are not on the streets, but they can coordinate with the schools and anyone else to make sure any impact is as low as possible. He said that the next step in the project they would come before the committee again for approval of something like an easement to have the Farley parking lot be the primary, out of four, borefields using a portion of the parking lot that they would need to use for a period of time, and they would work with design firms on layouts to minimize the impact and allow the most access to the parking lot as possible. He added that once the boreholes are drilled they would put new pavement on top so there would be no long term impact on the parking lot and the easement would just be in case they need to do any repairs in the future once they are placed. He said that the benefit of this location is the open space and it being a parking lot and not having to block a street, so there is less impact to the community. Discussion on all the different conversations that were had with MassBay regarding this project and how they will continue to be updated to minimize any disruptions with this project.

Motion: To authorize the Framingham School Committee to enter into a license agreement with NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy to allow NSTAR access to excavate, drill, install, operate, maintain, and conduct certain activities for geothermal test boreholes in the parking area of Framingham (school) property at 19 Flagg Drive, Framingham, MA, in accordance with the proposed license agreement and to the Mayor to sign the license agreement.

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

Discussion: Ms. Sousa confirmed, in response to a question from Ms. Moshe, that this is just for the testing phase, as well as added that the motion language was approved by the City Solicitor's Office. She spoke to students being vocal about their concerns of what kind of planet we are leaving them with and how this, and other parallel projects, show students that their concerns are being heard and we are facilitating any efforts to heed their concerns.

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

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

Transportation Update

Mr. Lynch said that they have been running transportation for summer programs with about 20 busses per day and are actively working on routing with the bus company to solidify the number of routes for the start of the year. He said that the target date for bus information to go out to families is August 22nd, which he understands may not be ideal, but they are trying to get as many students on the busses as possible, still have requests coming in, and adding one or two students to a route throws off the arrival time that would lead to having to send another communication to families which could cause confusion. He said that an exact number of drivers has not been provided yet from NRT, the goal that they are looking at is 67 which is what we had last year as the driver shortage continues, he hopes to learn more at the welcome back meeting on August 8th, and he will update the committee as he receives information.

Ms. Moshe said that she doesn't think August 22nd is sufficient as those who will not get bussing will need to know before then, we don't want to have a repeat of last year with students missing learning time and being late, and asked if there has been any discussion on changing the routes to be more efficient, make up for the ten runs we are down, and making sure we are looking at all different angles. Mr. Lynch said that the new Transportation Director

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who will be creating the routes will bring a different view to the routes which he think will be beneficial and he is working with the bus company to make sure there is not a repeat of last year and hopes to get all eligible riders on and as many illegible riders as possible. Ms. Maskell asked if the position of the Director is still an interim basis, if there is any fee associated with NRT helping with the routes, and said that if we continue to be short on busses the same students that were on doubled up runs or constantly late last year should not be the same ones in that position this year. Mr. Lynch said that it is still an Interim Director, they have not posted for the position yet as they are working with the Human Resources Department on next steps and he can update the committee once there is more information. He said that there is no additional fee with NRT helping with the routes as it is just part of the partnership between the District and the vendor. He noted that drivers know the most efficient routes which will help and the Interim Director used to be a Framingham bus driver so is also knowledgeable in the routes. Ms. Ottaviani asked if there was any consideration of having guardians sign a form when requesting transportation, such as the Code of Conduct, Character and Support so they are aware of what happens when students misbehave or are disrespectful, and could possibly provide some reassurance for the drivers who deal with those issues. She said that bus drivers have to be in charge of driving the students safely and asked how they are also supposed to be able to handle behaviors in a nonpunitive way and suggested that there is a need for someone else on the bus monitoring the behaviors. Mr. Lynch said that when they had a meeting with NRT, the drivers, and administration they did speak to sending out messaging to families to let families know about the Code of Conduct and how it extends to busses and not just the classroom. Dr. Tremblay said that administration will also be working with the bus drivers in upcoming meetings to teach them about the Code of Conduct, the language used, engagement techniques, and behavioral expectations, as well as there are Community Days for students where bus behaviors and expectations will be a topic of conversation. He spoke to the residual effects that would occur if they took a purely punitive approach, such as students not being able to make it to school. Mr. Lynch said that they are looking into being able to use the funds saved from the shortage of drivers to use for monitors and if a contract change needs to happen to allow for that. He said that they have a taskforce that includes staff from NRT and administration that will be meeting in August to discuss further and he can invite all of the committee members.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge reported on the warrant totals with a total of \$6,869,415.77 and a payroll total of \$9,079,424.33 on the dates of June 27th, July 1st, July 11th, and July 18th.

Ms. Maskell, as the Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, said that the policies listed on the agenda are up for first readings. There was discussion on Policy BDB: School Committee Officers and if the additional bullet added was needed or not as it was similar to the second bullet, with the decision to keep the addition.

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 first readings.

Moved: Mr. LaBarge

Seconded: Ms. Moshe

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

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

Ms. Maskell gave updates on two referrals including that Policy BEDG: Minutes was reviewed by the subcommittee and no changes were proposed and that the subcommittee voted on sending Policy IHAMB: Teaching About Drugs. Alcohol, and Tobacco to the Health and Wellness Subcommittee for review and recommendations.

Motion: To refer Policy IHAMB: Teaching About Drugs. Alcohol, and Tobacco to the Health and Wellness Subcommittee.

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

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

Ms. Hugo, as the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee Chair, said that they will be meeting monthly starting in September and will try to meet at the same time every month.

Approval of Minutes and Gifts

Motion: To approve the \$100 donation from Laura Cressotti to the FAESL+ Program

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

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

Motion: To approve the Framingham High School Science Department Costa Rica Trip through Ecology Project International, Pacuare Reserve and Tirimbina Reserve, April 14-22, 2023.

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

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

The Chair said that a member submitted two corrections to the minutes: In the June 1, 2022 minutes on page 5 the number should be \$200,000 and in the June 15, 2022 minutes on page 9 under the Finance Subcommittee section the number should be \$20,000.

Motion: To approve the Open Session minutes of June 1, 2022 and June 15, 2022.

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

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

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

BLOCKS Family and Student Handbook

Elementary Schools Family and Student Handbook

Middle Schools Family and Student Handbook

Framingham High School and Thayer Campus Family and Student Handbook

FHS Athletics Handbook

FY22 YTD

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Memo from Eversource on Geothermal Project
Draft Geothermal License Agreement
Warrants
Policy Summary and Proposed Edits
Memo on Gift for FAESL+ Program
Field Trip Form for FHS Science Department to Costa Rica
Draft June 1, 2022 Minutes
Draft June 15, 2022 Minutes