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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: December 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Memorial Building - Blumer Room
150 Concord Street, Framingham
Remote Option via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY: Vice Chair Jessica Barnhill
PRESENT: Jessica Barnhill
Adam Freudberg
David Gordon
Beverly Hugo
William LaBarge
Jennifer Moshe
Valerie Ottaviani
Mayor Charlie Sisitsky
ABSENT: Tiffanie Maskell
Priscila Sousa
ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent
Nilufar Noorian, Student Advisory Committee Chair
Joanna Hastry, Executive Assistant for the School Committee

Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., noted all in attendance, and said that School Committee members Beverly Hugo, David Gordon, and Mayor Sisitsky were joining remotely. She noted that School Committee Chair Priscila Sousa will not be in attendance due to a previous engagement and member Tiffanie Maskell will not be in attendance due to a family emergency. 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. 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

There were no participants for public comment. Ms. Barnhill noted that an email was sent to the School Committee for public comment from F-SEPAC (Framingham Special Education Parent Advisory Council) in support of having lower case loads for guidance counselors and increased behavior support for children.

Announcements from the Chair

The Vice Chair said that following the pattern of having meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month it would be January 4th and 18th for January and the full 2023 long term agenda with dates and proposed topics is being reviewed and will be on the agenda for December 21st. There were no concerns raised with the proposed January dates.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Sisitsky said that he received the final version of the appraisal for the Bethany Property and reached out to the attorney for the Sisters of St. Joseph's to begin discussions of a purchase of that property.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilfuar Noorian said that some winter sports tryouts have occurred and winter sports are underway.

Superintendent's Update

Announcements

Dr. Tremblay said that he is in week 10 of his residency at Cameron Middle School and spoke to the upcoming weeks of his residency at the different middle schools and the high school. He noted that the gift that is up for approval is to cover the cost of all AP tests.

Presentation of the Certificate of Academic Excellence Awards by the Superintendent
Dr. Tremblay said that as the educational leader in each community, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents has designed an award for academic excellence and these awards are given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers. He said that Framingham was able to choose 3 students because of the size of the graduating class and in consultation with Framingham High School Administration they selected Annapurna Chakraborty, Jake Cahn, and Nilufar Noorian to receive the awards. He spoke about how we value student voice and input and students are the greatest stakeholders in education. The students were present and spoke of their post-high school plans and highlights of their four-year high school journey. Members congratulated them and spoke about how it is always great to hear from students.

The Vice Chair asked for a 5 minute recess for a group photo, all in agreement. The Vice Chair called a recess at 7:34 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 7:39 p.m.

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

The Vice Chair said that Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch was not able to attend the meeting tonight so Dr. Tremblay will be covering this section.

DRAFT

FY23 Operating and Capital Budget

Dr. Tremblay said that the FY23 YTD is about 40.38% for expenditures and encumbrances. He said that the Finance and Operations Department continues to monitor expenditures and salaries with Principals and Directors.

FY24 Operating Budget

Dr. Tremblay said that the Finance and Operations Department continues to work with all Directors and Principals to make sure all of their requests are included in the budget proposal and they will continue to have meetings. He said that they will be working on scheduling a budget workshop in the future with the School Committee

Discussion on School Committee Budget Requests

Dr. Tremblay said that there is an annotated document in the packet that was updated from the previous meeting and administration went through and provided commentary and details on items that may not be budget specific and already built into the operating costs of the budget or are budget neutral. He said that the budget specific School Committee requests in the document include \$62,870 for an additional health teacher for the district and is included in the Health and Wellness Department budget proposal and working on a third preschool partner to continue preschool expansion efforts which would be an estimated cost of \$250-300,000 and is included in the Office of Teaching and Learning budget. He said that if these are voted on tonight they will bring them forward with future budget conversations. He said that with the request for bus driver hourly wages the recommendation is to table this at this point as the drivers are in the midst of unionization so no changes can happen at this point. He said that this will be discussed with the City's CFO and City Solicitor and can be brought to the Finance Subcommittee in the future for budget considerations. Mr. Freudberg, as the Chair of the Finance and Operations Subcommittee, spoke about how it is an important discussion and he has already discussed with Mr. Lynch the possibility of putting it on the subcommittee agenda in January if timing works or if it should be brought to the full School Committee.

Motion: To approve the requests discussed for the District to consider adding to the FY24 budget.

Moved: Ms. Hugo

Seconded: Ms. Moshe

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed for a total of \$324,748.24 and a payroll total of \$470,850.34 on the date of November 28, 2022.

Ms. Barnhill spoke to the Policy section as the Policy Chair Ms. Maskell could not be in attendance. She said that at the last meeting there were some questions on some of the policies and a subcommittee meeting was planned to happen before this meeting, but had to be cancelled. She suggested that since the questions have not been fully answered that those remain on hold and the policies regarding COVID-19 changes could still be voted on. Mr. Freudberg said that he doesn't think that the Fleet Efficiency Policy would need to be reviewed again and members could just consider a line to be added to say if there are any changes it

DRAFT

would go back to the Policy Subcommittee, although it is not needed. He asked to continue to table the policies regarding Title IX as he asked that the Human Resources Department look at them from a labor relations standpoint.

Motion: To approve the second readings of the COVID-19 policies (EBCF: General District Goals Affected by the Pandemic, JCA - ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS, JL - STUDENT WELFARE, IC/ICA - SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR, IIB - CLASS SIZE, ID - SCHOOL DAY, IKE - PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS, IKF: Local Graduation Requirements, IHB - SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM WITH SPECIAL NEEDS), IHBA - PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, IHBAA - OBSERVATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, IHBF - HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION (tutoring) FOR NON-SPED STUDENTS, GCA - PROFESSIONAL STAFF POSITIONS, JIE - PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS, JLC - STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS, IHBG - HOME SCHOOLING, KLG - RELATIONS WITH POLICE AND FIRE AUTHORITIES, JJ - CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, KI - VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS, JLCC: Illness and Contract Tracing, EEA - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, EEAA - STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION, EEAE (also JICC) - STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES, EC - BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT, ECA - BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SECURITY) and the Fleet Efficiency Policy and table the Title IX policies until the District provides updates.

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

Discussion: Motion clarified to when the District gets back with updates and not the Human Resources Department.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

Ms. Moshe, as the Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Subcommittee, said that we are looking at January 4th before Open Session as a possible date for the next equity training.

Ms. Barnhill, as the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, said that they will be meeting on December 14th and will include presentations on MCAS and updates and changes to the Program of Studies.

Ms. Hugo, as the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee, said that they will be meeting on Tuesday from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes, Gifts, and Scholarships

Motion: To approve the anonymous donation of \$65,628.00 to cover all Advanced Placement exams for Juniors and Seniors this year at Framingham High School.

Motion: Ms. Hugo **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)

Motion: To approve the Creation of accounts for a Hanley Family Scholarship and for a FHS Alpine Ski Scholarship.

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

DRAFT

Ms. Barnhill said that a member sent in one correction to the minutes on page 3 the \$6,000 should be \$600,000 and the \$4,000 should be \$400,000. That will be corrected before they are posted.

Motion: To approve the November 16, 2022 minutes with the noted corrections.

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

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Ms. Ottaviani **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (7-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Gordon, Moshe, Freudberg, Ottaviani, Barnhill, LaBarge)
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

FY23 YTD

FY24 School Committee Budget Requests Annotated Spreadsheet

Warrants

Policy Summary and Draft Changes

Email Regarding Anonymous Donation

Scholarship Forms

Draft November 16, 2022 Minutes