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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: January 4, 2023 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
Beverly Hugo
William LaBarge
Tiffanie Maskell
Jennifer Moshe*
Valerie Ottaviani
ABSENT: David Gordon
Priscila Sousa
Mayor Charlie Sisitsky
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 7:00 p.m., noted all in attendance, and congratulated School Committee Chair Priscila Sousa for being elected as a State Representative and noted that she will not be in attendance due to a previous engagement, Mayor Sisitsky will not be able to attend due to a last minute issue, and member David Gordon will also not be able to be in attendance. 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.

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Public Comment

Robert Bolles said that he would like an update on the Bethany project and said the southside needs a new school. He said he thinks neighborhood schools should be brought back as it would cut down on bussing and save money to buy and build the new school.

Announcements from the Chair

There were no announcements from the Chair.

Mayor's Update

There was no update from the Mayor as he could not be in attendance.

Remarks from the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC Chair Nilfuar Noorian said that they are starting work on their next presentation and next week they will be meeting with Dr. Tremblay in regards to looking at the start times of schools.

Superintendent's Update

*Ms. Moshe recused herself at 7:06 p.m.

Summer Programing Review (Policy IHCA)

Director of the Community Resource Development Department Yemi Ajao and Manager of Special Programs Amanda Lloyd summarized the summer program information provided in the packets. Updates included a proposal for all programs to remain free except Summer Scene which will be a combination of a lottery, fee based, and school referral spaces, continuing the partnership programs at the middle school level with the YMCA, Access Framingham TV, and Metrowest College Planning Collaborative, a proposal to keep the summer staff rates the same as last year which was a \$6 increase to recruit and retain staff, and piloting new programs including an Intro to High School Program, FHS Flyers Academy, which is a STEAM based enrichment program for high schoolers, and summer reading groups at the elementary level.

Mr. Freudberg asked about the facilities being used; if the air conditioning units are installed and working and if they pick which schools programs are in based on which ones have air conditioning or are too hot, and if we are on track in year three of the three year spending plan of ESSER-III funds for the summer programs. Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch said that there is \$1,750,000 in ESSER funding for summer programming for three years, there is \$440,000 left in that funding, and he works with the team to make sure funding stays within the budgeted amount while for the most part still being able to provide programs for free. He said that the facilities department meets early in the year to look at what capital projects are happening and focus on buildings that have air conditioning for summer programs. Ms. Maskell asked why some programs are now going to have a fee when there is ESSER-III funding and what the costs would be to families. Mr. Ajao said that this is the last year of ESSER-III funding so they are trying to slowly ease back into funds as they are eventually going to have to add them back. He said that fees will start with the Summer Scene Program and Framingham Youth Theater. Discussion on how the rates differ depending on the amount of time families sign up for, if the students are attending extended day, and the programs also have vouchers and scholarships for families, as well as school referred spaces.

Motion: To approve the summer programming plan as presented per Policy IHCA.

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Moved: Ms. Hugo

Seconded: Mr. LaBarge

Discussion: Mr. Freudberg said that as part of the motion he wants to make sure it is understood that the District has flexibility with some financial numbers and it doesn't restrict the District in continuing with planning in case there are minor tweaks needed with the ESSER-III funds threshold that was previously approved.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Freudberg, Ottaviani, Maskell, Barnhill, LaBarge)

*Ms. Moshe returned to the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Out of State Travel Requests

Dr. Tremblay said that he had provided information on out of state professional opportunities he has been offered that would reflect well for the District and is asking for consideration of approval of these. He noted that he would not be seeking travel reimbursement for the Brazil trip even though it is a working trip.

Motion: To support Dr. Tremblay's engagement in the professional opportunities including out of state and out of country travel as presented

Moved: Ms. Moshe

Seconded: Ms. Ottaviani

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

MSBA/City of Framingham 2022 Core Program Statement of Interest Status

Dr. Tremblay said that at the last meeting he announced that the District was not invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) pipeline and it would be discussed further at this meeting to recommend submitting a refreshed Statement of Interest (SOI) to MSBA for a hopeful invitation into the capital pipeline. He said that discussion regarding this submission includes if the property at Bethany is considered as part of the proposal, if the project should be named as Hemenway project or something different to describe what the intention is, and he has reached out to MSBA for guidance to make sure we are not compromising previous applications and putting forward the correct application for the right purpose. He said that for this new submission they would now include Pre-K expansion, which was not included in the last submission. He said that although MSBA does not reimburse Pre-K projects, they do reimburse Pre-K/K complexes as has been shown in other districts, and MSBA commented at the Senior Study Site Review at Hemenway that the District's plan for Pre-K expansion was innovative and forward looking.

Mr. Freudberg requested a formal opinion from MSBA, possibly in writing, on what exactly the rules are if we apply for a site that is not a current school, such as calling it a Pre-K center south of Route 9 versus a Hemenway project, what we get or do not get if it is applied for that way, and to confirm we are eligible and do not lose seniority of the Hemenway project as this is the third attempt. He spoke about how this project is different from the Fuller Middle School project and usual MSBA requirements as it is not a school that is falling apart, but we do have strong arguments of the need for it due to equity reasons, future school choice challenges, and reducing bussing and costs. He requested that the Mayor or their designee be present at the next meeting to discuss this, as the City needs to be a part of the decision, and said he would also like to discuss not losing another year of progress while we wait for the MSBA to decide on the application. Dr. Tremblay said that at a future meeting the School Committee could take a formal vote on this submission, the District will prepare on their end and integrate Pre-K

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language for the submission, and he will convey what the MSBA responds with for what would be the most advantageous for a submission. He said that he wanted to make it clear to the public that we are not looking to add a tenth school in the City and are envisioning a Pre-K expansion all across the City.

Executive Director of Finance & Operations Update

FY23 Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Lynch said that the FY23 YTD in the packets shows a 49.62% spend rate, they continue to work with Principals and Directors on expenditures and any costs coming up, and they are starting to work on year end projections. He said in regards to the Capital Budget they have bid openings this week for the Farley Building roof replacement which they hopefully will be able to start in the summer. Ms. Maskell asked why the Safety and Security Department is showing 168% spent. Mr. Lynch said that this was due to the Capital Budget request for that department getting reduced, so they used any savings in Operating Budget, including savings from bussing, to fund the security measures. Mr. Freudberg said that solar feasibility studies are included in the budget and asked if they are part of the procurement process for the roof replacement, as it would be beneficial to do so now since past solar projects have taken 2.5 years. Mr. Lynch said that they are making sure all roof projects moving forward are made solar ready, but to put solar in place would be a separate procurement process. He said that he will discuss this on the current project with the City's Sustainability Coordinator and Procurement Office and report back.

FY24 Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Lynch said that they are continuing to work on the FY24 Operating Budget requests with Directors and Principals and they should be able to present the first pass of the budget to the committee in the next couple of weeks. He said that they continue to keep an open dialogue with the CFO to make sure there is a goal in site that is responsible on the City side while also supporting all our students and staff. He said that they just became aware of a February 14th meeting with the City Council where they will present the Capital Budget.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. LaBarge said that the warrants were signed for a total of \$3,876,010.91 and a payroll total of \$5,353,365.45 on the dates of December 19th and 26th.

Ms. Hugo, as the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee, said that an email will be sent out to check availability for the next meeting on either February 7th or 28th.

Mr. Freudberg, as the Chair of the Finance and Operations Subcommittee, said that they will meet on January 10th for items including the administration's request to update the Title IX Attorney's fee schedule, the School Committee Department budget, transportation or bus issues, and gift acceptance process as the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and State Department of Revenues Division of Local Services have recommended some changes on how School Committees vote on certain gifts. He noted that this meeting will also be the start of a series of meetings on the FY24 Budget, including one or two meetings needed in February.

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Ms. Moshe, as the Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee, said that the School Committee will have an equity workshop on January 18th.

Approval of Minutes, Gifts, and Scholarships

Motion: To approve the December 7, 2022 Open Session minutes.

Moved: Mr. LaBarge

Seconded: Ms. Hugo

Vote: 6-0-1

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

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Mr. LaBarge

Seconded: Ms. Moshe

Vote: Unanimous (7-0-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Summer Programming Presentation

Summer Programming Master List

Policy IHCA: Summer Schools

Superintendent Professional Growth Update Email

MSBA 2022 Core Program Statement of Interest Process Overview

Framingham 2022 Core Program SOI Status Letter

FY23 YTD

Warrants

Draft December 7, 2022 Minutes