



Framingham PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Committee

Climate Change, Environment and Sustainability Subcommittee

Remote

March 21, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Open Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Chair Beverly Hugo, Tiffanie Maskell, William LaBarge, Priscila Sousa

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Tremblay, Framingham's Sustainability Coordinator Shawn Luz, President of the FHS Environmental Club Emma Rothwell, FHS Environmental Club Advisors Emily Rathmell and Rebecca Maynard, Head of the Framingham Sustainability Committee Larry Stoodt, Vice Chair of the Framingham Sustainability Committee and Founder of Energize Framingham Aimee Powelka, Keep Framingham Beautiful member Jim Stockless, Executive Assistant to the School Committee Joanna Hastry

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. She noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was held remotely, being broadcasted live on Facebook, and being recorded.

Public Comment

No one spoke at public comment.

Policy EBACA-Discussion and Vote to refer to the full School Committee for a First Reading

Ms. Hugo spoke about the past work on this draft policy which included student and staff input. Dr. Tremblay spoke about getting feedback from students when he held forums in the high school earlier this year. Ms. Sousa said that we need to make sure that items in this policy are not overstepping the School Committee role and veering into operations, and suggested adding the word "encourage" at the beginning of the wording in Number 1. Discussion and agreement on adding this to each numbered item as well as striking out the wording "through various means including but not limited to". Framingham's Sustainability Coordinator Shawn Luz said that municipal aggregation is a great priority, but noted that the City purchases electricity and natural gas separately than municipal aggregation for school buildings.

Motion: To refer Policy EBACA to the Policy Subcommittee for their eventual approval to then be approved by the School Committee for a first reading.

Moved: Ms. Sousa

Seconded: Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell, LaBarge)

Solar Roofs-Sean Luz

Mr. Luz said that two solar projects are underway with great progress; canopy parking lots at Brophy Elementary School and solar panels at Fuller Middle School. He said that, for the project

at Fuller, we can use the solar energy produced to store into the battery system. Therefore, in addition to the savings from solar energy, we will also be able to offset demand charges using the battery system. He said that in terms of future projects there are challenges to putting solar panels on older roofs and he is working on this issue with the CFO and District administration. Ms. Sousa asked how long the backup is from the batteries. Mr. Luz said that it is more of an economic benefit over a backup solution and that they are looking at something like that with the Mass Clean Energy Center. He said that two studies are upcoming regarding energy resiliency to look at if we can input a microgrid to power a number of buildings if the power goes out, which would include Fuller Middle School and the High School.

FHS Environmental Club

President of the FHS Environmental Club Emma Rothwell said that the Environmental Club and the Framingham Sustainability Subcommittee are working on creating a Climate Emergency Declaration to go forward to the City Council and they will be sending it to this subcommittee as well.

FHS Environmental Club Advisor Emily Rathmell said that there will be one joint table at Earth Day with the School Committee and Environmental Club to show a united front that the District supports being more sustainable and to highlight what the students have worked on and are advocating for. She noted that there will be an upcoming meeting to work out the details.

FHS Environmental Club Advisor Rebecca Maynard said that the club brought up the idea of having Meatless Mondays in schools before the pandemic as a great idea to decrease the carbon footprint. She said that they are open to how this would look, such as no meat available on Mondays and more vegetarian dishes, and noted that there was a proclamation for this before the Mayor, but she has not heard any updates. Ms. Sousa said that we need to make sure we are keeping in mind cultural considerations for this idea, including which day of the week. Dr. Tremblay said that they have hired a new Food Services Director and spoke about this idea, including menu ideas, and the plan is to move forward with it.

Wellesley Climate Plan

Ms. Hugo said that this subcommittee could review what other communities are working on in regards to Climate Plans to learn from and ask questions, including ones that exist currently in Natick and Wellesley. She said that details can be looked into and this can be discussed at a future meeting.

Geothermal Pilot Program

The Head of the Framingham Sustainability Committee, Larry Stoodt, said that the most important thing about geothermal is making sure if we build a new school to make sure that it is geothermal and solar and, therefore, net zero. He said that community aggregation is overall a community issue. Ms. Hugo noted that it is for reducing the cost and bundling the community use of electricity with a contract for 2-5 years.

Cooler Communities Fair-Aimee Powelka

Vice Chair of the Framingham Sustainability Committee and Founder of Energize Framingham Aimee Powelka said that she has been working with the City's Sustainability Coordinator and

the District's Community Resource Development Department on a Cooler Communities Event with a small amount of grant funding from a nonprofit centered around climate, energy, and sustainability education for students. She said that the idea is that students can fulfill some of their curriculum requirements through a hands-on project that they work on, with guidance from teachers, and come together with the community where they present their work and at the same time people can talk to advisors who are there, such as the Mass Save program. She said that this is mostly targeting elementary and middle school students, has been run in other communities with a good deal of success, and the tentative date is May 31st, but may be moved to June.

Keep Framingham Beautiful-Mike Croci

Keep Framingham Beautiful Founder, Mike Croci, was unable to attend but member Jim Stockless was present to give an update. Mr. Stockless said that this organization is a growing group of 1,500-1,800 members with the goal of bringing the level of litter down. He said that in the weeks leading up to Earth Day they are organizing specific cleanups in specific areas. He said that Dr. Tremblay and school administration have been instrumental in getting each school to set up small cleanups around each school and Keep Framingham Beautiful will be doing what they can to help with the physical aspects of getting organized, providing supplies, and making sure it is a fun event.

Two-Year Strategic Plan/Goal Setting

Ms. Hugo said that once Policy EBACA is passed, this will help give the subcommittee direction. In the future, we can meet with the administration to see a timeline for the items in the policy that we can plan to accomplish in the next two years. She said that goal setting will be on a future agenda.

Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes of December 13, 2022.

Moved: Mr. LaBarge **Seconded:** Ms. Sousa **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell, LaBarge)

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Ms. Sousa **Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)
(Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell, LaBarge)

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Draft Policy EBACA - CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Draft December 12, 2021 Minutes

These minutes were approved by the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee in Open Session on June 7, 2022.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on June 14, 2022

