



# Framingham PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Committee

## Climate Change, Environment and Sustainability Subcommittee

Remote

June 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Open Meeting Minutes

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

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** President of the FHS Environmental Club Emma Rothwell, Food Services Director Dario Nardi, Executive Assistant to the School Committee Joanna Hastry

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### Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. She noted all in attendance, said that School Committee member Priscila Sousa was expected to join in progress, and that the meeting was held remotely, being broadcasted live on Facebook, and being recorded.

### Public Comment

There were no participants for public comment.

### Elimination of the use of Non-Recyclable Plastics-styrofoam trays, plastic bags and wrappers

Food Services Director Dario Nardi gave an update on the elimination of the use of non-recyclable plastics including that there is still some styrofoam use, that they are looking to replace with items that are also currently being used such as biodegradable trays and wooden cutlery, but there have been supply chain issues, and how not every school has dishwashers.

\*Ms. Sousa joined the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Ms. Hugo said that many items come out of the Food Services Revolving Account and asked what the cost is of adding biodegradable items and if funds would be needed from the Operating or Capital Budgets for expenses. Mr. Nardi said that the cost has gone up and is now probably a 47% increase over styrofoam and plastics and they have factored this into their budget when looking at next year. Ms. Maskell said that it was promised that in the fall of 2021 the schools would no longer be using styrofoam so it is a little frustrating that it hasn't happened yet and asked that bringing dishwashers into the District be looked at again, as well as for some transparency on costs; what we are spending and looking at the price of lunches when lunches are no longer free. Mr. Nardi said that they are doing their best to supply compostable products and they pre-ordered them, but there has been a supply chain issue. He said that there is an option for dishwashers in some spaces, he has had conversations with the Director of Building and Grounds around possible issues and budgetary concerns, and he is not against having them, but would have to look at the cost effectiveness and what is best for the environment. He said that on average they are spending \$500,000-700,000 a month on

supplies and payroll, which is largely funded by the federal government. He said that they are moving to keep the universal free meals in place for the next four years, he should hear more at the end of June, and free meals for this summer have already been approved. He said that he will continue to share information with the Executive Director of Finance and Operations and the School Committee.

#### Consideration of Menu Selection and Offerings-Meatless Monday etc.

The Chair noted that the idea of offering Meatless Mondays came from the High School Environmental Club. Mr. Nardi said that he met with high school students on some issues including this suggestion and has some concerns regarding having to follow some guidelines, such as the USDA Non-Discriminatory Statement and offering five options at lunch, due to being federally funded. He said that he is clarifying with the state if there is an issue of offering a non-meat option. There was discussion on how although there are items such as cheese pizza offered there are also other alternatives that have meat in them on those same days and if the goal is to have all items be meat free or if just the main meal. Ms. Sousa spoke about food insecurity in the community, some students depend on one balanced meal at schools, and concerns about taking away something so protein dense as well as asked if the partnership with Daniel's Table for students to take meals home is still occurring. High School Environmental Club President Emma Rothwell spoke about other protein dense options besides meat and how reducing meat consumption is one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gasses. Discussion on eliminating meat one day a week from the main meal option, but keeping alternatives with meat such as sandwiches and salads, how this would fit under the USDA requirements, and to test this out to see what the student response is with the encouragement for students to give meal ideas for those days.

**Motion:** To adopt the suggestion of this iteration of Meatless Monday with the compromise reached.

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

#### Discussion on Projects and Timelines for Items Listed in Proposed Policy EBACA: Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Policy

The Chair said that now that Policy EBACA: Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability has been approved by the School Committee. It can be reviewed again to see what items can be worked on this year and what would be within the budget. The policy was shared on the screen for review. Discussion on how some of the items were chosen as goals at the last meeting and to have members of administration come to future meetings to discuss the different sections of the policy.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of March 21, 2022.

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

**Discussion:** Ms. Hugo noted that there are some corrections to names within the minutes.

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0) (Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell, LaBarge)

The Chair noted that the plan is to not have meetings in the summer and for the next meeting to be held by the middle of September.

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

Policy EBACA: Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability

*These minutes were approved by the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee in Open Session on December 13, 2022.*

*These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on January 11, 2023.*