



**Teaching and Learning Subcommittee
Remote
March 8, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.
Open Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Beverly Hugo (Chair), Priscila Sousa, Tiffanie Maskell, Scott Wadland*

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Amy Bright, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Anne Ludes, Framingham High School Principal Carolyn Banach, Math Department Heads Megan Maguire, Sheri Flecca, Michelle Thomas, Anthony Cardarelli, Sara Carr, Mary Fitterer, and Angela Hayes, Vice Principal Gregory Lagan, Executive Assistant to the School Committee Joanna Hastry

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. She noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was being held remotely, was being broadcast live on Facebook, and was also being recorded.

Public Comment

Michael Wheeler said that he is a Latin teacher at FHS and wanted to speak about the administration's last minute decision to remove Latin 1 from the program guide which will prevent incoming freshmen from choosing Latin and current students from supplementing their learning. He said that the World Language Department made a concerted effort to increase enrollment successfully in Latin 1 with more students choosing Latin this year than the past five years. He said that it is a disservice to students and there should be more options instead of less, regardless if they fill a 30 person class or not every year. He said that there should be consideration of the impact on cuts, not on the budget but on the morale and high school culture.

Jacqueline Velardo said that she took Latin at FHS for all four years and spoke in support of keeping the Latin program at FHS. She spoke about her experience, how she was glad she took Latin and that it was a fun class, and how it was helpful to learn from Latin including for relearning Spanish in college.

Charlotte Carney said that she was in the FHS class of 2020 and took Latin starting junior year. She said that this was her favorite class and would not have the same language proficiency in other languages if she had not taken Latin, as well as she saw a significant rise in SAT scores and a growth in her vocabulary. She said that it would be detrimental to students to take away another language option.

Rose Bailey said that she is a senior at FHS this year and has taken Latin for four years, which she chose as she has a strong interest in Law and Government. She said that by taking this class she has also learned more about English, has an expanded vocabulary, has made it easier to learn other languages, and learned about literature classics. She said removing Latin would be a deficit for students in the years to come.

Warren Bailey spoke in support of keeping Latin at FHS and said that it promotes academic excellence and also prepares students for sciences, such as medicine and law. He said that it would be a great disservice to the City of Framingham to discontinue it and having it allows us to have more excellent academics.

Beverly read two emails that came in for public comment that she noted would be put into the record. This included an email from Laura Miller who said that she is a parent of three students at FHS and is in support of keeping the Latin program. She said that removing elements of classical education seems misguided when enrollment is increasing, and that Latin provides cognitive benefits from secondary language acquisition as well as a deeper understanding of the origins of much of the English language and of history and culture. The other email that was read was from Nathan Thurber who said that he is currently a student in Latin 3 and said that he is disappointed that Latin 1 is being taken away as a choice. He said that it is his favorite class and has helped him in other classes such as English and History.

Hybrid Learning Update with Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Amy Bright, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Anne Ludes

Ms. Bright and Ms. Ludes shared a FPS Hybrid Model Update presentation that included key terms, student cohorts, hybrid models by the numbers, attendance percentage by grade level, chronic absenteeism by grade level, and what to expect. Mr. Wadland said that the chronic absenteeism for last year's 9th graders and this year's 10th graders is concerning with 25%, and asked if they had any insight on why that cohort has higher percentages than others. Framingham High School Principal Carolyn Banach said that she would need to look into this more, this is one of the largest classes, and some students had to work during the pandemic to help their families and were not attending school. She said that they have piloted an Evening Academy for some of those students to try and help with this. She said that in the class of 2023 there are students who are over aged and under credited. Ms. Hugo asked how it went with the student cohorts back today, and said that a goal last year was to decrease the absentee rate with the use of a lot of mitigation efforts, and suggested as we move towards putting together the next budget any suggestions on what would help further with this be sent to the School Committee. Ms. Banach said that students were happy to be back in the building today and were happy to help with any new students to show them around. Ms. Ludes said that, in terms of the budget, the Evening Academy is funded through stipends for the second half of the year and future funding is critical to move the program forward.

Discussion on the K-12 Mathematics Curriculum from Math Coaches and Department Heads

Math Department Heads Megan Maguire, Sheri Flecca, Michelle Thomas, Anthony Cardarelli, Sara Carr, Mary Fitterer, and Angela Hayes shared a presentation on Mathematics in the

Framingham Public Schools including the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, standards for mathematical practice, goals of the FPS Mathematics Curriculum, information on Elementary School Mathematics including the Workshop Model and curriculum, information on Middle School Mathematics including the curriculum review, curriculum, fostering math practices, Think-Share Compare - Ready Math Routine, ELL strategies in math class, 2020-2021 adjustments and considerations and information on Algebra 1, information on High School Mathematics including pathways through FHS mathematics, pathway to Calculus, Computer Science courses, high school enrichment opportunities, and 2020-2021 adjustments and considerations.

Ms. Hugo asked if there are any diagnostic tools besides MCAS to see what students have missed and if there is any reason to have MCAS in math. Ms. Ludes said that MCAS is too late in the year to see what students have missed or need more help on, which is why they use other diagnostic tools, and that MCAS is a graduation requirement. Mr. Wadland asked what the key takeaways of this presentation is in regards to what is in the School Committee's purview. Ms. Bright said that this presentation shows the continued betterment of students and how the District is analyzing the data and adjusting the curriculum, instruction, and assessment for all students. Ms. Ludes said that this also shows how the items in the budget are being used and why they are requested such as the tools, materials, manipulatives, assessments, supports, and the work that is being done.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of December 12, 2020.

Moved: Ms. Sousa

Seconded: Mr. Wadland

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (4-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Wadland, Sousa, Maskell)

Update on Latin at the High School

Ms. Hugo said that there has been community support to continue Latin at the freshman level in the high school. Principal Banach said that the decisions that are made year to year are driven by student requests; they look at the data from prior years and trends to see where to best maximize their teachers, resources, and budget. She spoke about the feeder programs in the lower levels creating additions in the high school to continue those languages, such as Mandarin and American Sign Language. She said that historically student requests for Latin are low, with this year only 1.8 percent of students requesting enrollment, and they usually see a decline after the first few years, such as this year there were only three seniors and six juniors. Vice Principal Greg Lagan spoke about the disparities between enrollment among the languages, how they are always willing to bring languages in but need to put resources where they have the needs, and how other languages were also cut in the past due to this. Discussion on how the high school recognizes the benefits of Latin. Ms. Hugo spoke about how one of the issues with this is the communication as parents and the School Committee were not aware it was being cut. Ms. Sousa asked what the cost is to cut a language, what are we saving, and where the resources go. Ms. Banach said that the resources go to where the needs are, such as with mental health supports, and Ms. Ludes said that they have been expanding many opportunities throughout the high school. Ms. Hugo suggested looking into the budget to see if Latin is something that should be invested in.

Update on the NEASC Accreditation Meeting with the Subcommittee on March 29, 2021

Ms. Hugo said that this subcommittee was asked to be part of the NEASC Accreditation process and will be meeting as part of this on the last Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Banach said that this will take place over Zoom, nothing needs to be prepared, and two members of the NEASC team will be in attendance.

*Mr. Wadland left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates and Agenda Suggestions

Discussion on having the next meeting on April 5th or April 26th to be decided on in the future.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Ms. Maskell **Seconded:** Ms. Sousa **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (3-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Sousa, Maskell)

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

FPS Hybrid Model Update

Mathematics in FPS Presentation

Draft December 12, 2020 Minutes

Public Comment Emails

These minutes were approved by the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee in Open Session on October 26, 2021.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on October 28, 2021.