



Teaching and Learning Subcommittee
Remote
March 29, 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 Secondary Education Anne Ludes, NEASC Associative Director and Chair of the Visiting Team Kathleen Montagano and NEASC Coordinator of Federal Grant and Assistant Chair of the Visiting Team Anne Siesel, Executive Assistant to the School Committee Joanna Hastry

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03 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.

Interview of Members by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for the Framingham High School's Accreditation Report

NEASC Associative Director and Chair of the Visiting Team Kathleen Montagano and NEASC Coordinator of Federal Grant and Assistant Chair of the Visiting Team Anne Siesel spoke to the process that included the high school writing a self reflection report, meetings with a collaboration conference team and visits with priority areas, and the Decennial Visit which will be to look at what the school has done to reach their priority areas and the actions, and impacts and growth on the school and students. She said that the final report will be done after the visit and will be released publicly once finalized. She noted that the School Committee plays an integral part on how the priorities of the school get completed.

Ms. Montagano and Ms. Siesel alternated asking questions to the subcommittee members who then all gave answers. The first question asked was what are Framingham's greatest assets or strengths from your perspective. Members responses included the strength of the programs of studies that we offer, the breadth of experience available such as within the Fine and Performing Arts Department, community responsive teachers, students excelling, varied programs with something for everyone, wonderful administrative staff which students also value, diversity including over 70 languages spoken, and that the courses themselves are stimulating and engaging.

The second question asked was in what ways has the School Committee been able to support the goals of the school for facilities upgrades and security, curriculum writing, and

social-emotional learning. Members responses included how the High School's Improvement Plan and District's Strategic Plan are provided for School Committee input and are fully supported, facility and security upgrades are reviewed every year as part of the Capital Budget and are discussed along with active improvements in the Building and Grounds Subcommittee along with the need to actively reinvest in facilities, discussion about the involvement of the School Committee in the Fuller Middle School Building Project, the hiring of the new Director of Safety and Security, the investment of time and money into curriculum reviews and making sure it is culturally responsive, making sure all items are looked at through an equity lens, making sure any programs that are needed are looked at within the budget and policy such as with the Code of Character, Conduct, and Support which is a restorative model, and the Night School to help with students' schedules who have to work and so they do not have to drop out.

The third question asked was what resources, such as time and funding or other ways, have or will the School Committee identify and allocate to FHS to support any necessary changes, and does the Committee feel the current funding is adequate and dependable. Members answers included how the District starts every year with a zero based budget to review every position and resource requested, how this helps with advocating to the City Council for what the District really needs over trying to be within a certain given number, how there is always a need for more funds, how there was a move away from a dependence on grants and one time revenue sources to make sure the budget remains stable, the hiring of the new Executive Director of Finance and Operations, how the School Committee is completely involved in the budget process and it is also transparent for the public, and how the School Committee and staff look at what are best practices and what the priorities are.

The fourth question asked was that FHS has a very diverse student population with diverse needs, and how does the School Committee address and support the needs of all students. Members answers included constantly adapting and not being afraid of innovation including supporting the addition of programs such as the upcoming Welcoming Academy, the work of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement including Wrap Around services, being open to difficult conversations such as the role of Student Resource Officers that was a concern raised by students, providing food resources including during school vacation and summer in various locations through the City, investing in hot spots for families and a 1:1 chromebook initiative, creating a policy so there was no lunch shaming and looking at the quality of lunches provided, and creating a Gender Inclusion Policy.

The fifth question asked was what are the greatest needs for the school. Members' answers included that there were a lot of building needs especially with increasing enrollment, supporting students and making sure they have what they need in order to graduate, making sure all teachers and staff feel valued and their voice is heard, continued work on filling gaps in equity from extracurriculars to academics to social emotional learning and special education, looking at a Southside school as that is where most of the students are located, social emotional needs, extra time for teachers to continue to write curriculum, continuing to look at universal Pre-K as many students are starting school without any experience, proper nutrition for kids, and expanding programs for students with special needs to service in house rather than send out of district.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Mr. Wadland **Seconded:** Ms. Maskell **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Wadland, Sousa, Maskell)

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Sample Questions from NEASC

These minutes were approved by the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee in Open Session on December 6, 2021.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on December 7, 2021.