

Board Member Attendees: Scott Burns, Robin Gargano, Susan Hallett-Cook, Tim Dow, Deborah Brown, Lisa Tremblay, Anya Twarog, Paul Doucette, Jeff Savary

Absent Board Members:

Administration: Daniel LeGallo – Superintendent; Kevin Barbour – FMS Principal; Carrie Charette – FHS Principal; Mike Zmuda – FHS Assistant Principal; Paul Borsh – Special Education Director; Jule Finley – Curriculum Director; Mike Hoyt – PSS Principal

Others: Franklin Residents/Teachers (approximately 48 people), Cathy Viau (School Board Clerk)

Call to Order by Tim Dow, Chairperson, at 6:31 PM.

Salute to the Flag

Meeting Postings

It was stated that the meeting agenda was posted at the SAU Office, Franklin Public Library, Franklin City Hall, the three schools, and the website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tim Dow began by announcing that the discussion for “pay to play sports” for tonight will be a presentation only and research purposes only to weigh out the pros and cons. This presentation will be done by Danny Sylvester, Athletic Director, who did the research at the request of the Board. Mr. Dow reminded the public that the Finance Committee has no authority to cut anything from the proposed budget. That would be left up to the entire school board.

Jennifer Weaver, Union President, requested that the board approve the teacher contract as she stated it is a fair contract on the board’s side but not as fair on the teacher’s side as they deserve more.

Jennifer Weaver, Franklin Parent, stated that something needs to happen in this city of Franklin. The high school is in danger of losing its accreditation. The funding is going downhill fast and the kids are the ones suffering. In the past few years or so an entire school has been closed (Bessie C. Rowell School) and last year more teachers were cut and now there is a potential of another \$1.5 million to be a cut. If this continues there aren’t going to be honors programs, etc.

There were concerns shared that there will be no honors program.

It was stated that the tax allocation and money awarded to the schools are out of the boards control as the city council votes for the allocation.

Michael Donnelly, Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach, shared his concerns about the potential of athletics being cut. Sports helps students become disciplined, accountable and well-rounded. Without sports many students wouldn’t make it through school.

Kathleen Hawkins, JV Softball Coach and JV Basketball Coach, stated that if it had not been for sports in her high school years she probably would not have graduated. Sports gave her a sense of family, community and belonging that she may not have had otherwise.

People are losing faith in the community. Many students are lost. For some students grades were only important to get on sports. Sports give students a sense of respect and pride. The amount of the sports budget won't make a dent in the big picture of the budget.

Werner Horn, Ward II, stated that the city needs to stop making the same mistakes. City Council doesn't know how bad it's been and how bad the schools have been cut.

There were some concerns shared that over 100 people showed up to tell the city council to raise taxes to fund education or do something with the tax allocation or tax cap but all those comments were ignored. Schools are important to improve communities and city council needs to be presented with the NEASC letter for all to hear.

The board stated that they will be ready to present the budget to the city by the beginning of April. Budget Work Sessions will be scheduled this evening.

Edward Carey, Franklin Resident, shared some pay to play facts to include that there are 92 NHIAA Members and 32 pay to play. The ACLU feels that pay to play is illegal and want to protect the rights of children.

Jason Grevior, Franklin Resident, stated that many students stay in school to play sports and whether that is right or wrong it matters that they stay. He stated that what is going on in this city is sad. Until education is funded properly young people won't move into the city. It's about doing what is best to educate our students.

The McCausland Report dated 11/18/14 was referred to. There are a lot concerns regarding what portion of the tax dollars goes to the city versus what goes to the schools. Children need to come first. These children need and deserve an education. The cuts are tearing down what teachers can do. We don't have the teachers to teach. We must change history.

Jennifer Goulet mentioned the state budget surplus and asked about the accessibility. She also stated that NH is less fit and children need sports to keep active.

Tina Thurber, Ward II, stated that while going through her grandfather's stuff she found annual reports dating back to 1958 and the same issues were going on at that time. The city needs to wake up and do things differently. She was born and raised here but is thinking about selling like many other families. The children deserve a decent education. The schools need more money even if that means raising the taxes, it's worth it.

Mike Clark stated that more research needs to be done for other means and avenues even if it means raising the tax cap. These are critical years for the children. If they have nothing to do there will be

more problems. We want to have more productive members of society not more fire trucks. It all comes down to how money is spent. Something needs to happen even if it means raising taxes.

Shauncie Dinkel graduated as a NH Scholar because she played sports. Sports pushed her to finish high school and then moved on to college. Both she and her sister believe that they would not have made it through without the discipline and accountability associated with sports.

Steve VanPollen stated he is already paying more in taxes, where is the money going? He has three kids that play six sports and he could not afford to have them pay to play.

Public Participation was closed at 7:12 PM. There will be more public participation at the end of the meeting.

Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91A:3, paragraph IIc (negotiation/contracts)

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to go into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91A:3, paragraph II c (negotiation/contracts) at 7:14 PM, seconded by Scott Burns.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion Carried – Unanimous

MOTION: Susan Hallett-Cook moved to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:02 PM, seconded by Paul Doucette.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor

Motion Carried - Unanimous

RECOGNITIONS

Christine Dzjuna – Book Club

Christine Dzjuna stated that they received a grant of \$250 from Pond and Peak. They will also be receiving the proceeds from the Father/Daughter Dance that began three years ago by Mike Goulet in the amount of \$371.50.

Jeff Savary recognized Wanda White and Brianna Dow for heading up the PSS Parent Night.

PRESENTATION/REPORTS:

Student Representative Report

Julie Greenwood gave an oral report regarding the following topics in the High School: Karma Korner (asking for personal hygiene donations), Winter Carnival, NHETG (NH Educational Theater Guild) drama competition, the District Wide Musical, Drama attending Hairspray, April free workshop on

Hamlet and Shakespeare performance, Flex Friday Activity - Paw Pals community partnership dog park, NH Science and Engineering Expo at NHTI in Concord, and donation drive raised over \$4,000 worth of instruments.

Robin Gargano left at 7:18 PM.

Pay for Play Athletics (Danny Sylvester)

Danny Sylvester, Athletic Director, was asked to research and present on the topic of pay to play a couple of weeks ago. Sports is only 2% of the overall budget. Middle School sport's budget is \$31,000 and High School sport's budget is \$113,000. If \$25 was paid per student per sport it would only equal out to \$4,875 (16%) for Middle School and \$7,000 (6%) for High School. The concern is affordability for families which could lead to decrease in participation and equitability yet administration of this would increase. The free and reduced population for Middle School is 70% and High School is 57%. NHIAA is doing a survey monkey for the Franklin Athletic Director to all athletic directors about this topic.

Maintenance Update (Ralph Downes)

Ralph Downes, Director of Buildings and Grounds, gave an overview of the priorities for each school.

At the Franklin Middle School the roof was done in 1989. It is original with many leaks. They have received a quote and waiting on two more. The quote received from Melanson will still be honored at the price from years ago. It was thought to use capital improvement funds. Discussion was held regarding the replacement being done in three phases: Kitchen/pre-school, gym/cafeteria, and administration/classrooms.

At the Paul Smith Elementary School the boiler room HVAC automated panel is way beyond its years and no replacement parts are available through Trane, Siemens or ENE. The roof is brand new and was done by Melanson.

At Franklin High School there is a door in need of replacing. Most of the doors have been replaced to be aluminum store front commercial. They have are working on getting quotes from Tumes Door and have already received a quote from Granite State.

Discussion was held regarding the Ford F350. For a new vehicle it would be \$34,000. It will not pass inspection without extensive repairs. Auto Serv gave a quote of \$3,000 and \$1,200 from Bill Hamel. The city maintenance department has been working well with Mr. Downes and his people. The city did allow the Director of Buildings and Grounds to use the loader to push back snow on a Saturday.

Legislative Report (Werner Horn)

Werner Horn is the Legislator for Merrimack County for Franklin and Hill. He gave an overview of HB525 (dealing with Stabilization) and HB579 (dealing with Charter Schools). Scott Burns did request information regarding the governor's budget and Mr. Horn was not clear on an answer. Mr. Horn asked about the NEASC Accreditation Letter.

MOITON: Paul Doucette moved to allow the NEASC Accreditation Letter to be moved up in the agenda, seconded by Scott Burns.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

Carrie Charette read the above mentioned letter aloud. This letter was received on February 14, 2017. Follow-up will be done prior to September 1, 2017. The school board is requesting back up paperwork to go with the definitions. Everyone needs to know what is going on with the budget not just the community. City Council needs to be well aware of the budget impact on the school's accreditation.

NHSBA Resolutions, Update (Lisa Tremblay)

Lisa Tremblay gave an overview of the NHSBA Resolutions that passed and items that were discussed more extensively. She was the Franklin School Board designee that was sent to the NHSBA Resolutions Conference in January.

FEA Contract

The proposal was for a one-year contract for Teachers for the 2017-18 school year.

MOTION: Susan Hallett-Cook moved to accept the Teacher's FEA Contract for one year for the 2017-18 school year to be brought forward to Franklin City Council with spelling corrections, seconded by Deborah Brown.

Motion Carried – Unanimously

The Superintendent will bring this contract forward to Franklin City Council on March 6th which contains a cost savings, amended and full agreement. Once it is approved the board chair Tim Dow and Jennifer Weaver (Representative) will sign off.

Tim Dow thanked Jennifer Weaver and all of the teachers during this trying time and knows that they sacrificed a lot and understanding of the budgetary constraints. The board also wanted them to know the board respects, thanks the teachers for all that they do for the district. This has been a very difficult time.

Jennifer Weaver explained that there was 0% raises and steps as well as they took a hit on the insurance again. This is the second time. The vote was 40 to 1. The savings is about \$65,000 which is equal to a teacher position. This contract began as a 3 year contract but ended up as a one year contract.

Mid-Year Assessment Update

This has to do with I-Ready testing at the elementary and middle schools. The scores were reviewed with the board and explained. This was the mid-year assessment. After review, comments will be put on the progress reports. This is a new assessment. After review of scores they are able to modify and work on weak skills. The program offers supplemental information for education to help fill in gaps.

There is a serious need for computers to support this program as many of the computers are obsolete and are not compatible with new programming. Technology is very important for testing and learning.

School Board Salaries – 2017-2018

For the last three years the \$300 per school board member was waived totaling \$2,700.

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to waive the school board salaries for the 2017-18 School Year, seconded by Anya Twarog.

Motion Carried - Unanimous

2017-2018 School Year Calendar

The only changes to be made is in December, there should be 16 days rather than 15 and in June it should be 9 days instead of 10. This calendar is created after meeting with administration of Winnisquam and Laconia as well as Jen Weaver and administration.

MOTION: Paul Doucette moved to approve the 2017-18 School Year Calendar as revised by the superintendent, seconded by Deborah Brown.

Motion Carried - Unanimous

2017-2018 Budget Calendar

Discussion was held regarding budget work sessions. The dates chosen were March 7th 6 PM at the Franklin Middle School and 14th 6:30 PM at the Franklin Middle School.

Finance Report (Superintendent Daniel LeGallo in the Business Administrators absence)

Update, Audits

It was stated that they are working on Franklin 2016 and finishing SAU 2014. The auditors will be here the week of the 9th. The goal is to be completely caught up by July 1st prior to the split with Hill.

Expenditure Report – no questions

Update from Superintendent

Energy Audit Update

On Tuesday the energy audit began. This will take a month or two then a plan will be created.

Withdrawal Update

A letter was received by the NH Department of Education and was read aloud regarding the formation of the single district SAU 18 which will consist of just the Franklin School District. This has been a two year process and now Hill will be their own SAU number 103.

There will be a Non-Meeting with the Franklin School District attorney on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, to discuss the payments and bond payments from the Hill School District

There is also a Joint Finance Committee Meeting tomorrow, the 21st, evening at 6:00 PM.

Drop-Out Rate

The current drop-out rate is 3.43% which is equal to about thirteen students at the High School. Principal Carrie Charette is working on getting more detailed information regarding this rate increase. Last year's rate was 2.4%.

Preschool

There are over forty students in a space that is very cramped at the middle school. This includes two teachers, one special education teacher and two paraprofessionals. The proposal is to move this program over to the Paul Smith Elementary in two rooms. One classroom would be for three year olds and a four year old transition room. This program would increase by two paraprofessionals. This would not be an increase to the budget but rather a reassignment of positions. Some of the questions asked were:

- How many students allowed in each session?
- Would there be a morning and afternoon split program?
- Are there any other needs for the transition/move such as furniture or playgrounds equipment?
- What is the equipment list of needs?
- Has this proposed program been included in the budget?
- Does the board support this program?
- Are there any other grants that may be used?
- Is there any more money from the government for preschool?
- Can they work with head start?
- More research needs to be done.
- Regardless of an expansion the space used at FMS is too crowded.
- This will continue to be discussed at the budget work sessions.
- Another option is to keep the program the same and just move the current program to PSS.

Donation

Mrs. Tibbetts just received an anonymous donation of \$600.

MOTION: Jeff Savary moved to accept the anonymous donation of \$600 received by Mrs. Tibbetts as presented, seconded by Scott Burns.

Motion Carried - Unanimous

House Bill 525

Discussed early in the legislative report portion of the meeting.

Paul Smith Elementary School Adequacy Visit/Report

The site visit letter was read aloud. The parents, board and teachers who participated in this process were thanked for their time and efforts.

Someone mentioned that the governor spoke about full day kindergarten and was wondering if there would be a difference in funding since this is already implemented in Franklin.

Daniel LeGallo, Superintendent, recognized Jule Finley, Curriculum Director, for almost completing her CAGS. She is working on her CAP Stone Project. She has done 23 years of theatre and 5 years in the arts integration. She has and will again meet with all staff to encourage and provide support. Middle School already has incredible ideas and these will be written into a resource manual at PSU even though it will belong to Franklin. This is a huge mentoring project and there will be a push for positive press.

It was stated that the energy audit may be able to help with some of the CIP like the replacement of the panel at PSS that Ralph Downes spoke about. It is very important to the district to lower energy costs.

Discussion was held regarding the Leadership Seminar that was held at the HOUT center. There will be a March meeting at the HOUT center and school board chairs were asked to participate. Tim Dow accepted the position on the Region Advisory Board.

FHS Principal's Report

Carrie Charette, FHS Principal, gave a written and verbal report to the board regarding the following topics for Franklin High School: CPI Training; Future Success Day rescheduled for the end of April; 2017-18 Program of Studies Changes will be presented in March; Anime Field Trip; Hoot/Agi. Field Trip; Winter Carnival; Youth Beatz; Senior Trip Repaired Sign – Images and Recognitions; recognition of the St. Paul's Program; Lakes Region Music Festival; and Wrestling Tournament volunteers.

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to approve the Anime Field Trip for April 1, 2017 to Boston, MA, seconded by Scott Burns.

Motion Carried - Unanimous

The Senior Trip discussion will be done in March so that Lauren Pearsall may speak on this change.

FMS Principal Report

Kevin Barbour, FMS Principal, gave a written and verbal report to the board regarding the following topics for Franklin Middle School: Upcoming Events for February and March 2017; Math Team; STEM Activities; and Students Leadership.

PSS Principal

Mike Hoyt, PSS Principal, gave a written and verbal report to the board regarding the following topics for Paul Smith Elementary School: Student Activities, Parent Involvement; Teacher Training and Planning. Discussion was also held regarding students who may be struggling and the plan as well as Kindergarten enrollment/registration.

Approval of Franklin School Board Meeting Minutes for January 9th and 30th, 2017

MOTION: Paul Doucette moved to approve the Franklin School Board Meeting Minutes of January 9th and 30th, 2017 as corrected, seconded by Jeff Savary.

Motion Carried - Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Scott Burns mentioned that each committee needs a mission/vision and goals. The superintendent and committee chairs should be involved in the creation and approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

Discussed earlier in the meeting. Work Session dates have been selected.

POLICY

Anya Twarog, Policy Committee Chairperson explained the process they are using to update and bring forward policies to the board by priority, etc.

First Reading

EB/JLI – Joint Loss Management Committee

MOTION: Susan Hallett-Cook moved to accept Policy EB/JLI – Joint Loss Management Committee as first reading with corrections (last paragraph take out the hyphen and the “ing” from “in-servicing” to read “in-service” and following “fire prevention” there should be a “;” rather than a “:.”), seconded by Scott Burns.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

EEAEA – Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing – School Bus Drivers

MOTION: Paul Doucette moved to accept Policy EEAEA- Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing – School Bus Drivers as first reading with corrections (at the header, the number of pages should be corrected), seconded by Deborah Brown.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

IHBA-R – Procedural Safeguards for Children with Disabilities

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to accept Policy IHBA- R – Procedural Safeguards for Children with Disabilities as presented for first reading, seconded by Scott Burns.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

DFA – Investment

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to accept Policy DFA – Investment as presented for first reading as required to do annually, seconded by Jeff Savary.

Motion Carried – Unanimous

It was mentioned to bring forth the policy which contains the time of the meeting to be changed in March.

OTHER - Nothing

Committee Reports:

Liaison Committee – Scott Burns stated that he and George DZjuna met and went over audits and community awareness. There was also a discussion regarding the possibility to explore the potential of consolidating software and purchasing power.

Buildings/Grounds/Fields – Jeff Savary stated that they have not had a meeting.

Finance Committee/Capital Improvement – Deborah Brown stated that they have met a couple of times in January to review the budget and go over the capital improvement plan.

Scholarship Committee – Robin Gargano was not present for this portion but they have not met yet.

Wellness Committee – Jeff Savary stated that they are working on a plan to educate children to understand serving size during PE class or by the nurse during health. Discussion was held regarding the need for personal hygiene products for the High School's Karma Korner. They are also working on a wellness policy which will need to follow federal guidelines. A draft policy will be presented to the Policy Committee in April.

I² Committee – Scott Burns stated that they have been discussing the drop-out rate, what can be done to reduce the rate as well as discussing I-Ready for next month.

Communications/Strategic Planning Committee – Susan Hallett-Cook stated that we needed to get positive communication information out there to the public and possibly use Facebook with no comments allowed. They will work with Jack Finley to see what they can do to help set up a school district page. There is also a need to have a public forum to go over goals for the next coming five years with input from the community and work on surveys.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of forming an accreditation committee. There were staff on the committees working all year long and doing research. Susan Hallett-Cook also offered to help.

Tim Dow mentioned that he would like to hold a public forum on the budget and the process. There are a lot of questions on things such as process, revenues, how money is spent, etc. The hope is to form a committee to be able to help with this and maybe host in the High School Cafeteria. Looking at dates in March.

Negotiations – Teachers – Tim Dow stated that they are moving with the teacher contract and will be beginning the support staff and custodial contracts in September 2017.

PUBLIC PARTICIATION

Someone inquired about snow days. There have been five so far and ten built in. There was also discussion about blizzard bags and the process of using blizzard bags. The administration and superintendent will discuss.

Edward Carey stated that he really appreciates what the board does. He was glad that the pay to play was elaborated on. The problem needs to be found and solved. The accreditation is very powerful and makes a statement.

Carrie Savary stated that she appreciates the public comments and that the board doesn't make decisions lightly. The State does not adequately fund education. How many years can we ask teachers to sacrifice? It is emotionally and financially draining.

The hope is that as a community we can figure this out. We are lucky for the staff that we have.

Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91A:3, paragraph IIc

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to go into Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91A:3, paragraph IIc at 9:32 PM, seconded by Scott Burns.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor (8-0)

Motion Carried – Unanimous (8-0)

MOTION: Deborah Brown moved to come out of Non-Public Session at _____ PM, seconded by Lisa Tremblay.

Roll Call Vote – All in Favor (8-0)

Motion Carried – Unanimous (8-0)

Adjournment

MOTION: Susan Hallett-Cook moved to adjourn at _____ PM, seconded by Deborah Brown.

Motion Carried - Unanimous