Franklin School Committee

November 3, 2026

Municipal Building – Council Chambers

7:00 P.M.

Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29 Any individual who also wishes to record this meeting must notify the Chair

Vision Statement

The Franklin Public Schools will foster within its students the knowledge and skills to find and achieve satisfaction in life as productive global citizens.

Members of the public are welcome to attend committee meetings in person. Additionally, in an effort to ensure citizen engagement, citizens will be able to continue to view the public meeting using Zoom. We will use the Zoom Webinar feature. You may view the meeting with the link or phone numbers below. Participants wishing to speak during the Citizen's Comments portion of the agenda will be able to raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair. The webinar host will invite the attendee to unmute for comment.

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M I N U T E S

"The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed, and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law."

2026-27 Meeting Packet Materials

At 7:00pm, Mr. Giguere called the meeting to order.

In attendance was: Mr. David Callaghan-Yes; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. H. Reis Hansen-Yes; Mr. Stephen Karunakaran-Yes; Ms. Nadia Mauslof-Yes; Ms. Ruthann O'Sullivan-No

Ms. O'Sullivan was absent

Also in attendance was: Mr. Lucas Giguere; Ms. Paula Marano; Dr. Tina Rogers

Organizational Meeting

Election of Chair
Mr. Giguere asked for a nomination of Chair.
Dr. Paul Griffith was nominated as Chair by Mr. Dave Callaghan; Ms. Mausolf seconded.
A vote was taken:

Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Ms. Mausolf
Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0-1 with 1 absent

Election of Vice Chair
Dr. Griffith asked for a nomination for Vice Chair.
Dr. Griffith nominated Mr. Callaghan. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Hansen.
A vote was taken:

Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Mr. Hansen
Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0-1 with 1 absent

Pledge of Allegiance
Today's pledge leader is Alaina Kadlick, a 5th-grade scholar representing Lincoln Street 3-5 School. Lainey is in Ms. Colahan's class, and while she thrives in all subjects, math is her favorite because she enjoys solving challenging problems. At Lincoln Street, Lainey is a leader in and out of the classroom. She is on the Student Council and is a founding member of a student-led club: HPAS - the Happy Paws Animal Society. Last year, HPAS helped connect students and their families with local animal shelters by providing them with lists of wanted items for donation. Outside of school, Lainey loves horseback riding and playing softball. Lainey's biggest goal for the future is to "Keep spreading awareness about protecting animals." We are thankful for her leadership and the positivity she brings to the Lincoln Community.

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - reviewed and in order

B. Payment of Bills - reviewed and in order

C. Payroll - TBD

D. FHS Student Representative Comments - Mr. Shravan Dev and Ms. Callie Joyce

Ms. Joyce noted that the SAT exam is this Saturday. She also noted that clubs are underway. She said that winter sports registration is now open. She said there will be a pep rally held before Thanksgiving. She noted the accomplishments of fall sports. She said picture day retakes are 12/2/26. She noted that Q1 ends on 11/10/26. She said the ASVAB test will be held on 12/3/26. She noted the many fundraisers happening.
Mr. Dev said that Pep Band has been performing at all of the football games. He noted an upcoming musical theatre performance Nov 20-22. He also added that there is an Orchestra and Band concert in December. He said seniors have submitted their early applications. He also noted a Chipotle fundraiser coming up. He said juniors are working on plans for the prom at Lakeview Pavilion. He noted that sophomores and freshmen are planning for their banquets as well.

Dr. Griffith asked for any comments or questions from the committee?

Mr. Hansen thanked Mr. Dev for his recent presentation to the Town Council. Dr. Rogers also thanked Mr. Dev and his peers for their work at the PD day.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere that there was a PD day today. He also noted that they are on track with their budget development timeline. He also shared a food service update and said that the department has started an employee registration program. He added that they have had some kitchen infrastructure updates as well. He said there will be an upcoming turkey dinner served in the district and that meal will be entered into the DESE statewide terrific tray contest. He discussed two upcoming screenings - Generation AI on 12/9/26 and Screenagers in February. He invited Ms. Kate Merten and two FPS parents, Carolyn Connell and Karen Morrissey to discuss the screenings. Lastly, Mr. Giguere recognized Police Chief TJ Lynch who is retiring.

Mr. Hansen thanked Ms. Connell and Ms. Morrissey for their involvement in the screening project.

Mr. Callaghan asked about the food services improvements and it was noted that that is done in house with their own budget.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. SAFE Coalition Update - Ms. Jen Levine

Please see presentation slides for more detailed information

Ms. Levine spoke about the mission of the SAFE Coalition. She said all services are at no cost and are 100% donor and grant funded. She noted that families and students are facing things like anxiety, depression, peer pressure, vaping, trauma, barriers to accessing support and financial/housing pressures etc. She broke down, by numbers, who utilizes SAFE. She spoke about how SAFE supports youth by prevention, early intervention, diversion, wellness, and family support. She discussed a diversionary program called Why Try and an alternative to suspension called Up in Smoke. She discussed how SAFE and the Franklin schools can work together. She noted the Hidden in Plain Sight mock bedroom run by Franklin community members.

Dr. Griffith asked for any comments or questions from the committee?

Mr. Karunakaran asked if the school refers the student to SAFE?
Ms. Levine replied that it is an open referral and the school can refer, a parent can refer their own child or a child can self refer. There is a form on their website.
He asked what kind of intel goes back to the police department?
She said they give the children the opportunity to speak to the police. She said they only involve the police where there is an actual true concern.

Mr. Hansen asked what area they serve in Massachusetts?
Ms. Levine replied that it started in Franklin but it is for all of Massachusetts. She said there are additional locations in Springfield and Framingham.
He asked if cannabis has overtaken alcohol?
She noted their findings in Franklin that middle school students are starting with cannabis.
He asked what can a child do who wants to access SAFE but their parents are not on board?
Ms. Levine spoke about meeting families where they are at and working with students who seek mental health treatment at age 13.

Ms. Mausolf asked if loneliness is the largest underlying cause?
She replied that she believes it is loneliness and noted the time kids spend on social media because they are lonely.
She asked about signs parents can look for?
Ms. Levine replied that the child wanting to be with the parent all of the time or the child Disengaging. She also mentioned how parents are role modeling healthy decision making.

Mr. Charles asked for more information about their participation in the WIN program.
She replied that students for their WIN block will be able to participate in a social emotional Activity either on their own or referred by a counselor.

Mr. Callaghan asked what the best way for families to get in touch with SAFE?
Ms. Levine replied on the website and there they can find the phone number and email.

He asked how the school committee can support SAFE?
Ms. Levine replied that they can support people in their own circles if there is a concern.

Dr. Griffith gave Ms. Levine accolades and acknowledged her efforts.

B. Horace Mann Legacy and Franklin 250 Update - Mr. Dave Callaghan and Mr. Jason Joyce
Please see presentation slides for more detailed information

Mr. Callaghan spoke about the Horace Mann Legacy timeline. He gave a project overview that includes connecting Horace Mann with the students, campus banners, and a walking museum. Mr. Joyce presented a brief look at what they have built, what's coming, and how the School Committee can help make 2028 a community-wide celebration. He presented a timeline from 2026 to 2028. He said there will be many events starting in 2027. He noted there are other events and ideas being considered. He said they have commissioned a children's book called From Bells to Books which introduces younger readers to the story of Franklin's beginnings.

Dr. Griffith asked for any comments or questions from the committee?

Ms. Mausolf noted that she loves the creativity.

Mr. Hansen said he is looking forward to the events and tying Franklin's story together.

Mr. Charles noted that they can note any events happening in the school committee newsletter.

Dr. Griffith noted that they are engaging so many different pockets in the community.

III. Citizen's Comments

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 13 Magnolia Drive
Mr. Sherlock said he attended the PD day today. He noted that the SAFE Coalition and Direct Federal Credit union have a collaboration where they said a portion to SAFE. He noted that the Universalist Society has a new minister and that interview will be coming.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

A. Policy 2nd Read: ECAB Access to Buildings & Grounds

1. I recommend moving Policy ECAB Access to Buildings & Grounds for approval as discussed.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Mr. Karunakaran
Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0-1 with 1 absent

B. Policy 1st Read IJOAA - Field Trips

1. I recommend moving Policy IJOAA - Field Trips to 2nd Reading as discussed.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Mr. Karunakaran
Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0-1 with 1 absent

V. Discussion Only Items

A. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Budget** - N/A
2. **Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee -** N/A
3. **Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee -** N/A
4. **Policy** - met on 11/6/26; completed audit of fiscal policies to send over to Budget. SEPEC members were present.
5. **Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee -** N/A

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

1. **Joint PCC** - Various events happening
2. **Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - next meeting is 11/24/26
3. **School Wellness Advisory Council** - next meeting is 12/17/26

VI. Consent Agenda

A. <u>Debaggis Scholarship</u>

1. I recommend the acceptance of $1,000.00 from Roberta Trahan for the Debaggis Scholarship as detailed

B. <u>Championship Signage Donation</u>

1. I recommend the acceptance of $500.00 from the Ignite Soccer Academy for the Championship Signage account as detailed.

C. <u>Championship Signage Donation</u>

1. I recommend the acceptance of $1000.00 from the MAs Building & Bridge for the Championship Signage account as detailed.

D. <u>Championship Signage Donation</u>

1. I recommend the acceptance of $500.00 from The Rome Restaurant for the Championship Signage account as detailed.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Ms. Mausolf
Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0-1 with 1 absent

VII. Committee Comments

Ms. Mausolf thanked everyone for their time volunteering at the polls today.
Mr. Charles thanked Franklin TV for all they do.
Mr. Karunakaran asked about FMS music time being reduced and if there is an update?
Mr. Giguere noted that he doesn't have an update but will follow up.
Mr. Callaghan expressed his gratitude to Ms. Nancy Dinello and volunteers working the polls at FHS. He also reminded everyone about the food pantry drive. He said on 11/12/26 there is a lecture on Mental Health hosted by the Franklin Fathers.

VIII. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the following for the 11/17/26 meeting:

- Fall sports update
- Washington St. update
- Capital requests
- Possible Portrait of a Graduate update

IX. At 8:57pm, Dr. Griffith asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Mausolf; Second: Mr. Karunakaran
Approve: 6 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 6-0-1 with 1 absent

X. Adjournment at 8:57pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

11.3.26 SC Meeting Posted Agenda.docx
11.3.26 SC Meeting Agenda.docx
Alaina Kadlick Pledge of Allegiance Poster.png
11.03.26 SC Summary & Sign Off Template.docx - Google Docs (1).pdf
S202718.pdf
1.) Action Item A - ECAB Policy.pdf
2.) Action Item B - IJOAA Field Trips Policy.pdf
Action Item A - Donation Request (Trahan).pdf
Action Item B - Donation Request (Ignite).pdf
Action Item C - Donation Request (MAs Building and Bridge.pdf)
Action Item D - Donation Request (The Rome Restaurant).pdf

