

Franklin School Committee
January 13, 2026
Municipal Building – Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

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□ 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.

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MINUTES

“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.”

[2025-26 Meeting Packet Materials](#)

At 7:03pm, Dr. Griffith 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-Yes

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

Announcements from the Chair

Pledge of Allegiance

It is our pleasure to introduce Connor Storelli, a second grade student in Mrs. Marks' class at Washington K-2. Connor was nominated by his teacher for being responsible, outgoing, and patriotic. Connor loves writing, reading, and drawing, and he has a special passion for history, which he considers one of his strongest subjects. He especially enjoys learning about what happened long ago in our country and around the world. During a recent state report, Connor chose to research Rhode Island and was excited to share his visit to Fort Adams, where he explored the courtyard and even saw a torpedo and a cannon. When he grows up, Connor hopes to become either a photographer or a marine archaeologist who studies shipwrecks – both careers that reflect his curiosity and love of discovery. Outside of school, Connor enjoys riding his bike and visiting trampoline parks. We are very proud to have Connor representing Washington

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

- A. Review of Agenda** - Mr. Callaghan made a motion to move the FHS Galapagos vote to come right after the presentation. It was seconded by Ms. O'Sullivan.

Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Ms. O'Sullivan
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 7-0

- B. Payment of Bills** - reviewed and in order

- C. Payroll** - reviewed and in order

- D. FHS Student Representative Comments** - Ms. Callie Joyce; Mr. Shrivani Dev

Ms. Joyce said the SAT is being offered on 3/14, 5/2, and 6/6. She added that Q2 ends on 1/27. She noted that DECA regionals were held recently with 54 students moving on to states. She added that Panther Pride night is coming up on 1/29 for all incoming freshmen. She said Senior Banquet is on 4/10, Junior Prom is 5/1, Sophomore Banquet is 3/13, and Freshman Banquet is 3/27.

Mr. Dev said there is no school on 1/19 for MLK Jr. Day. He noted there is a half day on 1/14 to accommodate for traffic. He said that students are being called down for annual mental health and well-being checks.

He noted there is an upcoming jazz concert on 1/27, concert hours on 1/24 and 1/25 and a jazz cafe on the same day. He said the Class of 2027 will be holding a calendar fundraiser throughout March. He reminded student athletes to pay their athletic fees.

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

There were no questions.

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere welcomed the cheer team to the meeting, noting they recently won the state championship. He noted there will be a vote later in the meeting regarding their trip to Nationals in Orlando.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if they can make a motion to move the vote to this portion of the meeting? It was seconded by Dr. Griffith.

Motion: Ms O'Sullivan; Second: Dr. Griffith

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

The vote was taken:

Cheerleaders Recurring National Competition Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Karrah Ellis to take FHS Cheerleaders to Orlando, FL from March 12-16, 2026 as detailed.

Mr. Callaghan offered his congratulations to the team.

Motion: Ms O'Sullivan; Second: Mr. Karunakaran

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

Mr. Giguere also recognized students who participated in Poetry Out Loud. He also noted that 166 DECA students participated in regionals and 54 advanced to the state competition. FHS AP scholars were also recognized.

He noted that 2026 MCAS dates will be:

ELA: will begin in March

Math and STEM: will be in April and May

He noted that Washington K-2 and 3-5 have qualified for Title I services through the federal government.

Finally, he said that 1/14 will be an adjusted dismissal due to funeral services at St. Mary's. He said there will be traffic and road closures.

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

Ms. Mauslof asked if buses will be taking alternative routes?

Mr. Giguere replied that buses before 11am will be able to stick to the route. He noted there are alternative routes and road closures.

Mr. Karunakaran congratulated the DECA members and cheer team.

Dr. Griffith noted that tomorrow is not a standard half day and encouraged families to check their email for instructions.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. FHS Galapagos Field Trip - Mr. Jason Chetlan

**See presentation slides for more detailed information*

Mr. Chetlan said this trip would take place in February, 2027.

He noted they would depart on 2/13/27 on a 9 day trip and return on 2/21/27 with no missed school days. He spoke about what the students will experience and what is included.

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

Ms. Mauslof asked about the application process?

Mr. Chetlan replied they will be having a meeting with interested students/parents and will have a sign up process.

Ms. Mauslof asked if there was a deadline?

Mr. Chetlan said not at this time.

Mr. Charles asked if there were any updates regarding past discussions of an EF travel program?

Dr. Maria Weber replied that it is slowly in the works and is a priority. She added that they are being selective about the tours they are offering students. She said staff has been working with EF to transfer their points to students. They are working on a scholarship process for students.

Mr. Karunakaran asked if a safety and response team is offered by EF?

Mr. Chetlan replied that it is offered through EF.

Mr. Callaghan noted that there are so many opportunities for students to travel.

Dr. Griffith asked about a backup plan if a flight is delayed and students need to return to school the next day?

Mr. Chetlan said they fly out Saturday evening and return Sunday morning.

Dr. Weber said they are working with EF to plan trips around students not missing school days.

This vote was moved from Discussion/Action Items:

FHS Galapagos Islands Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Jason Chetlan to take FHS Students to the Galapagos Islands from 2/13 - 21/2027 as discussed.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Mr. Karunakaran

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

B. FHS 2026-27 Program of Studies Update – Dr. Maria Weber, Ms. Kristin Reid, Ms. Christine Scafidi

****See presentation slides for more detailed information***

Dr. Weber noted that this process starts early in November. She spoke about the four phase review process.

Ms. Reid spoke about some notable adjustments made for this year including the Innovation Career Pathways, Competency Determination, Course Proposals, and Curriculum Opt Out. Dr. Weber spoke about new course proposals in Visual & Performing Arts, Science, World Language, Social Studies, Health/Physical Education, and Business.

Ms. Scafidi spoke about the new DESE approved Innovation Career Pathways for Business & Finance, and Health & Social Assistance.

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

Mr. Hansen asked for an overview of how the class enrollment process works.

Dr. Weber replied that students meet with guidance counselors and then make course selections in Aspen. She noted that Guidance Counselor Dave Soulard will work within Aspen to create spreadsheets of courses and students to determine the number of sections needed.

He asked if it is the same process for honors sections?

Dr. Weber replied yes and also noted that it will let them know if only a small number of students sign up for a class resulting in a class not being able to be run.

Ms. Mauslof asked if the proposed courses will be offered to all grade levels?

Dr. Weber replied not all of them. She said the courses are linked within the Program of studies and some are specifically for certain grade levels.

Mr. Charles asked what the acceptance criteria is for the pathways program?

Ms. Scafidi said any student can participate.

He asked about capacity?

Dr. Weber said it is too soon to determine that as they are just starting up.

Mr. Karunakaran asked if the pathways classes are electives?

Dr. Weber replied that it is within the course offerings. Teachers are encouraged to talk to students who may be interested in either of the pathways.

He asked about scheduling restrictions and if taking pathways would interfere with taking other classes?

Dr. Weber replied that scheduling restrictions always exist.

Dr. Tina Rogers also replied about exposing pathways to the middle school students so when they enter FHS they will have a plan in place of classes they want to take.

Mr. Karunakaran asked how Latin was identified as the language being offered for new course offerings?

Dr. Weber noted they have a 0.6 Latin Teacher and Latin is being phased out but there are still students who are interested.

Ms. Reid added that Latin is the foundation for legal and medical terminology and will be useful when it comes to pathways.

He asked about the Jam music course?

Dr. Weber read the course description.

Ms. O'Sullivan commended them on their progress despite the district's changes. She said she is happy to see a new music offering and keeping Latin Alive.

She noted that having guidance opportunities during the WIN block is beneficial.

Mr. Callaghan asked about a community service requirement for graduation?

Dr. Weber said they do not.

He asked if there was a plan to bring it back?

Dr. Weber replied there have been conversations and they will be discussing it this summer. She said the person who was responsible for it, their position was eliminated. She said there are opportunities for community service like National Honor Society and athletic teams.

He asked about pathways and if there is a recognition for graduation once students finish the 100 hour capstone?

Dr. Weber said that it is a great idea to capture it in the graduation program.

He asked about Latin and said it is very niche. He said it is important to retain staff and maintain a high quality budget.

Dr. Griffith noted that he is excited to see pathways and wants to make sure if it becomes popular students aren't being turned away.

C. Office of Teaching & Learning District Assessment Presentation – Dr. Tina Rogers, Mr. Eric Stark, Ms. Lizzie Morrison

****See presentation slides for more detailed information***

Dr. Rogers said they are breaking the presentation into two parts:

1. Who We Are/Partners; The Blueprint
2. The Dashboard; Appendix

Part 1 - Dr. Rogers spoke about the goals relating to community, systems, instruction, and Communication. She and Mr. Stark spoke about The Blueprint: Foundational Frameworks for Learning which are UDL and MTSS, The Engine: A Systemic Curriculum Review Cycle, and The Engine: Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), The Engine: MTSS Teams Using Data to Strengthen Tiered Supports, The Fuel: Building Professional Capacity with Purpose. Ms. Morrison spoke about communication across the district with monthly/bi-monthly newsletters, and professional development opportunities. She also spoke about the implementation of the Franklin Learning Institute mentor program.

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

Mr. Karunakaran said he would like to see a STEM pathway offering as well as business and health.

He asked if professional learning is through FPS or an outside source?

Dr. Rogers said it is a combination of both.

He noted that he would like to see newsletters coming from the district embedded in the email rather than a link.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked about specialized professional development opportunities for staff?

Dr. Rogers replied that especially at the secondary level, there are opportunities for staff to engage with those in an area of expertise.

Mr. Charles noted his appreciation for slide 7.

Ms. Mausolf said she likes the visualizations and analogies.

Mr. Hansen noted the benefits of retaining staff who are experts in their area in order to help provide professional development.

He also spoke about the FPS AI vision and would like to see a possible presentation at a future meeting.

Dr. Griffith noted the poll at the bottom of page 13 and noted that teachers would like visitors to notice engagement the most.

Part 2 - Dr. Rogers spoke about The Dashboard-Measuring the Impact with Data and two assessment categories - Formative and Summative.

Ms. Morrison and Mr. Stark gave an elementary (K-5) summary in ELA, Math, and STE. Mr. Stark said they are implementing i-Ready this year in grades K-8. He and Ms. Morrison presented on how the district grade levels compare to the benchmark in reading and math. Dr. Rogers spoke about MCAS trends for 2025-2026. She also shared districts comparable to Franklin.

Ms. Morrison and Mr. Stark gave a middle (6-8) summary in ELA, Math, and STE.

Ms. Morrison and Mr. Stark gave a high school (10) summary in ELA, Math, and STE.

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

Mr. Hansen asked how parents should discuss MCAS with their student as it is no longer a graduation requirement?

Dr. Rogers replied that it is still a good idea to discuss their MCAS together and

see where their strengths lie and how the student can be supported at home. He referred to slide 30 and asked about what was done to accomplish the increase in reading and writing from 7th to 8th?

Ms. Morrison referred to her time as an English teacher and 7th grade included more intensive writing tasks as a possible explanation.

Mr. Charles noted that if they grouped the presentation by cohort then it would be easier to see the year over year improvements.

He asked what their thoughts are about having iReady data in the report card?

Mr. Stark replied that iReady is administered in the fall as a screener. He said iReady provides a parent report just as MCAS does.

Dr. Rogers replied that reporting results to the families is important but at this time would not recommend embedding into the report card.

Mr. Stark said it is important for teachers to interpret the results.

Mr. Charles said he appreciates the comparison against other towns and wonders about the other towns budget status and how it compares to ours.

He said he wondered about the thought of summer work to retain the knowledge.

Ms. Morrison said they continue to discuss that.

Dr. Rogers said they have made a significant investment in elementary resources.

Mr. Stark said he doesn't want the narrative to be that there is a drop off in middle school.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship was going away?

Ms. Morrison replied that they have not heard anything formally.

Mr. Karunakaran referred to slide 21 and the Dart group of districts. He said they should be focused on the group above them and how to achieve higher.

Mr. Giguere replied that there are a variety of metrics that go into those rankings. He added that it is valuable to look at the state average.

Mr. Karunakaran noted that his thought process was around how they can progress.

Mr. Callaghan noted about adding an asterisk regarding when the reorganization took place.

He noted where they stood regarding budget and noted there is a delay when information is posted to the website.

Dr. Griffith noted that students in K-2 are outperforming according to iReady. He spoke about the topic that Mr. Callaghan mentioned not having this year's data and how having an underfunded district affects the data.

D. Franklin Childcare Presentation – Ms. Pattie Gay

**See presentation slides for more detailed information*

Ms. Gay gave an overview of the Little Solutions-Toddler Child Care which is a staff-focused child care pilot supporting recruitment, retention, and workforce well-being.

Ms. Gay said that The district is developing an onsite child care program for the 2026-27 school year that: supports district staff recruitment and retention, as well as overall work-life balance, provides accessible, high-quality child care, aligns with the district's commitment to supporting its workforce and strengthens the school community.

Mr. Giguere spoke about how this aligns with the 2024 Master Plan and long term goal of expanding early childhood services. He explained the benefits to the district. Ms. Gay discussed the program's concepts such as age range, location, hours, and approach. She also talked about the requirements for operation and Mr. Giguere gave a financial overview.

Ms. Gay gave an implementation timeline and next steps. She noted they are in Phase I and headed into Phase 2.

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

Mr. Hansen asked if they have more interest than slots, how would they determine which staff members have access?

Ms. Gay said they will gauge interest and noted that Solutions has always been a first come, first served program.

Mr. Hansen asked about students who age out of the program mid year and plans to accommodate them at ECDC?

Ms. Gay noted that she would have the student finish out the program and won't age students out mid year.

He asked if staff members utilize ECDC?

Mr. Giguere referred to Ms. Taylor (ECDC Principal) in the audience who replied that if they live in Franklin, they can utilize ECDC.

Ms. Mauslof said that she supports this program and looks forward to the next

presentation.

Mr. Charles said he looks forward to the June presentation.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if this was specifically being built for educators based on hours and school vacations?

Ms. Gay replied yes.

Mr. Giguere said this was a recommendation from the Master Plan.

She asked if other departments have approached them about wanting to use the Pond Street space?

Mr. Giguere replied no and there is a dedicated space for this program.

Ms. O'Sullivan noted that at the last Town Council meeting, there was conversation about how much of the Pond Street location was being utilized.

Ms. Gay and Mr. Giguere noted that Lifelong Learning, Operations, ECDC, Office of Teaching and Learning are all there.

Mr. Karunakaran asked if there is a plan to add non staff students if there is room Available?

Mr. Giguere replied that they would look to see how they could expand if there were less than 9 staff children.

Mr. Karunakaran noted putting it out to town staff as well.

Mr. Karunakaran asked where this falls in the budget.

Mr. Giguere said it does not fall under the operating budget and would be self sustaining.

Mr. Callaghan noted that he is looking forward to seeing where this goes.

Dr. Griffith noted that a lot of work has gone into this.

He asked about the possibility of adding on a summer program?

Ms. Gay replied that that is something they would consider.

Dr. Griffith noted that the committee would be taking a 5 minute recess due to the longevity of the meeting. He called the meeting back to order at 11:07pm.

~~III. Discussion/Action Items~~ (Vote was taken earlier in the meeting)

~~A. FHS Galapagos Islands Trip~~

~~I recommend approval of the request of Jason Chetlan to take FHS Students to the Galapagos Islands from 2/13-21/2027 as discussed.~~

B. 2026-27 FHS Program of Studies

I recommend approval of the 2026-27 FHS Program of Studies as discussed.

Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Ms. O'Sullivan

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

C. Policy - First Reading

I recommend moving Policy IHAIA - Middle School Pathway Exploration to a second reading as discussed.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Ms. O'Sullivan

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

D. ECDC 2026-27 Tuition Rate

I recommend approval of the ECDC 2026-27 tuition rate as discussed.

Dr. Rogers said ECDC tuition was increased 20% for 2025 and they saw a decrease in enrollment. Ms. Kim Taylor said at the end of 2024 they had 195 students and currently have 125. She said they are now looking to charge the same as 2024 plus 5%.

Ms. Melotti noted the decrease in revenue they saw because of the declined enrollment.

Ms. Mauslof asked what the actual revenue drop was?

Ms. Melotti said with the projection of the full year it would be \$54,000.

Mr. Karunakaran asked how the fee structure compares to Tri-County's preschool? He noted that they are lower than ECDC.

Ms. Taylor said they didn't make that comparison.

Mr. Callaghan asked for elaboration on compliance based on enrollment?

Ms. Marano replied that as an integrated preschool, they need to have one more peer than is on an IEP. If they do not get enough tuition based students then they need to ask DESE for a waiver.

**Motion: Second:
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 7-0**

Mr. Karunakaran asked if they would be waiting to get the Tri-County comparables?

Dr. Griffith said the open house next week would not be as informative.

Mr. Giguere said they can obtain the Tri-County rate.

Dr. Griffith said in the interest of time, he was asking for a motion to move items IV. and V. to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Callaghan. It was seconded by Mr. Hansen.

**Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Mr. Hansen
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
Motion Carries 7-0**

~~IV. Discussion-Only Items~~

~~A. Monthly Financial Report~~

~~V. Information Matters~~

~~A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports~~

- ~~1. Budget-~~**
- ~~2. Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee-~~**
- ~~3. Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee-~~**
- ~~4. Policy-~~**
- ~~5. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee-~~**

~~B. School Committee Liaison Reports~~

- ~~1. Joint PCC-~~**
- ~~2. Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force-~~**
- ~~3. School Wellness Advisory Council-~~**

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your December 9, 2025 School Committee meeting as detailed.

B. Cheerleaders Recurring National Competition Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Karrah Ellis to take FHS Cheerleaders to Orlando, FL from March 12-16, 2026 as detailed.

C. DECA State Competition Recurring Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Emily Rosborough and Brian Healy to take DECA Students to Boston, MA from March 12-14, 2026 for the State Competition as detailed.

D. DECA International Competition Recurring Trip

I recommend approval of the request of Emily Rosborough and Brian Healy to take DECA Students to Atlanta, GA from April 24-29, 2026 for the International Competition as detailed.

E. Lincoln St. K-2 Gift

I recommend the acceptance of \$2,541.09 From Lifetouch for supplemental supplies as detailed.

F. FHS Scholarship

I recommend the acceptance of \$250.00 from Sean Jobin for the Jacqueline A Schaeffer Scholarship as detailed.

G. FHS Gifts

I recommend the acceptance of \$1,458.00 for in-house enrichment at FHS as follows:

Franklin Soccer Boosters	\$658.00
Field Hockey Boosters	\$800.00

Motion: Mr. Callaghan; Second: Ms. Mauslof

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

Mr. Callaghan thanked everyone for the donations.

Dr. Griffith said in the interest of time, he was asking for a motion to move items VII. and IX. to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hansen. It was seconded by Ms. O'Sullivan.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Ms. O'Sullivan

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

~~VII. — Good of the Order~~

VIII. Citizen's Comments

Ms. Carolyn Kuehnel, 5 Laurel Court

Ms. Kuehnel said she is concerned about the role of educational technology in the schools. She noted that it is not a Franklin specific issue. She would like the community to come together on this issue.

Mr. Steve Sherlock, 13 Magnolia Drive

Mr. Sherlock noted the importance of the microphone to the committee members. He also reminded anyone who is fundraising to let Franklin Matters know so they can help advertise.

~~IX. — New Business~~

~~To discuss any future agenda items~~

~~Mr. Giguere shared the following for the 1/27/26 meeting:~~

X. At 11:27pm, Dr. Griffith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Mr. Charles

Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

Motion Carries 7-0

XI. Adjournment at 11:27pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

Linked SCAgenda 1-13-26

SC Agenda 1-13-26

PW #2613 Final.pdf

PW #2613 Summary.pdf

PW #2614 Final.pdf

PW #2614 Summary.pdf

PW #2614M Summary.pdf

PW #2614M.pdf

1.13.26 Meeting.pdf

S202623.pdf

S202624.pdf

S202625.pdf

S202626.pdf

_SC Galapagos Presentation.pdf

2026-27 FHS Program of Studies Presentation.pdf
January 2026 OTL & Data Presentation.pdf
FPS Childcare Presentation 1_13_2026.pdf
Discussion Action A - Galapagos Islands Trip.pdf
Discussion Action B - 26-27 FHS Prog. of Studies.pdf
Discussion Action C - Policy 1st Read.pdf
Discussion Action D - ECDC 26-27 Tuition.pdf
DRAFT Copy of 2026-2027 FHS Program of Studies.pdf
December Monthly Financial Report.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - Cheerleading Recurring National Competition.pdf
Consent Action C - DECA Recurring Field Trip - State.pdf
Consent Action D - DECA Recurring Field Trip - International.pdf
Consent Action E- Lincoln St K-2 Gift.pdf
Consent Action F - Scholarship.pdf
Consent Action G - FHS Gifts.pdf
Washington K-2 Pledge Student.pdf