

Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038

Action Required

Subject: Minutes **Date:** Sep 8, 2026

Dept SC

Reason: Required Vote **Enclosure** yes

Background

Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your August 25, 2026 Meeting as detailed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

I recommend approval.

Vote Tabulator

D. Callaghan: Y / N	S. Karunakaran: Y / N
Al Charles : Y / N	N. Mausolf: Y / N
P. Griffith: Y / N	R. O'Sullivan: Y / N
R. Hansen: Y / N	Action:

Franklin School Committee
August 25, 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.

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89132817777?pwd=sceyshrRdYCF1NWljGzBxvQJErapFq.1>

Passcode:916604

Join via audio:

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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.”

[2026-27 Meeting Packet Materials](#)

At 7:02pm, Dr. Griffith called the meeting to order. He said after the meeting they will be adjourning to Executive Session and will not be returning to Open Meeting.

Roll Call attendance was: Mr. David Callaghan-Absent; Mr. Al Charles-Yes; Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. H. Reis Hansen-Yes; Mr. Stephen Karunakaran-Yes; Ms. Nadia Mausolf-Yes; Ms. Ruthann O'Sullivan-Yes(remote)

Announcements from the Chair

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

I. Routine Business

A. Review of Agenda - reviewed and in order

B. Payment of Bills - reviewed and in order

C. Payroll - reviewed and in order

D. FHS Student Representative Comments - there were none

E. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Giguere said the High School Experience is being held at FHS on 8/26/26. He said New Teacher Orientation is also being held this week. He noted the following:

- First Day for Staff: 8/31/26
- First Day for Grades 1-12 and through Age 22: 9/2/26
- First Day for Kindergarten: 9/3/26
- First Day for Oak St. ECDC: 9/8/26
- First Day for Pond St. ECDC: 9/9/26

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

Mr. Hansen welcomed the new administrators to FPS.

II. Guests/Presentations

A. Introduce New Administrators

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

Mr. Giguere introduced the new administrators to the committee.

Gary Brown - Athletic Director

Elizabeth Burch - Lincoln K-5 Administrator of Student Services

Lisa Burger - Washington K-5 Interim Administrator of Student Services

Kayla Harris - Washington 3-5 Assistant Principal

Mark Gaffney - FHS Assistant Principal

Kate Merten - Assistant Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology

Suzanne Roma, Director of Student Health Services

Nicole Green, Human Resources Generalist

Krystale Bithoney, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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

The committee welcomed the new administrators.

B. HR Hiring Update - Mr. Ken Storlazzi and Shannon Dixon

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

Mr. Storlazzi said they began hiring in April. He said they completed their hiring protocol handbook and had a more proficient hiring season. He said they utilized social media more for getting the word out about job opportunities.

Ms. Dixon said for the 2026-2027 school year they had to fill 81 positions and filled all but 19. She shared a document with vacancy comparison data from FY25 - FY27. She said they have fully onboarded 23 new teachers and 6 administrators.

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

Mr. Karunakaran asked what tools they use to find new staff?

Ms. Dixon said SchoolSpring is the hiring platform they utilize as well as Indeed and social media.

He also asked if hiring will continue through the school year?

Ms. Dixon replied that hiring will continue on.

He asked about the three open teacher roles?

Ms. Dixon referred to page 2 of the document and said they are roles in Special Education.

Mr. Storlazzi also noted in terms of hiring that they see an uptick of leaves of absences during the year for various reasons.

Ms. Marano noted that 2 out of the 3 teacher vacancies have been filled as of today.

Mr. Hansen asked about the impact of unfilled teaching positions?

Ms. Marano replied that administrators have to get creative and a lot of times they have an ESP or long term sub step into the role.

Ms. Mausolf had the same question as Mr. Hansen and how it would work without a 0.5 FTE Counselor in place at FMS?

Ms. Marano said she hired for that position today.

Ms. Mausolf asked about vacancies in the past two years compared to this year?

Ms. Dixon referred to the bottom of page 2.

Mr. Giguere also replied and referred to the reorganization and noting some consolidations. He said they will keep providing updates in the next couple of meetings.

Mr. Charles asked about any differences in hiring this year compared to past years?

Mr. Storlazzi said the pool looks better each year. Mr. Giguere also noted the hard work behind the scenes.

Mr. Charles asked what is driving the ESP vacancy to be higher this year?

Mr. Storlazzi noted that several ESP's retired and more than usual resignations.

Dr. Griffith asked about using any metrics to track time to fill positions, etc.

Mr. Storlazzi said they do not but can look into doing that. He noted there are a lot of steps in the process.

Mr. Karunakaran asked why an offer would get declined?

Mr. Storlazzi noted that there could be competing offers.

C. Handbooks

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

Ms. Marano thanked the administrators for working hard all summer on handbooks. She noted that there are level based changes as well as one through school committee policy regarding restraints. She noted districtwide changes centered around timeout/seclusion regulations, discipline of students with disabilities, and AI language.

FHS and FMS

Dr. Weber spoke about changes at FHS centered around:

Cell Phone Policy

Community Service Requirement

AI and Academic Dishonesty

Generative AI and Deep Fakes

Tardy Policy

Mr. Williams spoke about changes at FMS centered around:

AI use

Generative AI and Deep Fakes

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

Mr. Hansen acknowledged the work done on the tardy policy.

He also asked the AI violations and how they differ from middle and high school?

Dr. Weber said the two handbooks need to be looked at differently. She and Mr.

Williams said this is an opportunity to look at both handbooks collectively but the handbooks are not parallel.

Mr. Hansen suggested recategorizing the tier violations regarding AI.

Ms. Mausolf asked for clarification between cell phone usage at FMS and FHS. Mr. Williams noted that the expectation at FMS is cell phones stay in their lockers for the duration of the school day.

Mr. Charles said he agreed with Mr. Hansen and FMS and FHS being consistent with the tiers and to keep in mind to change for next year. He noted where else changes could be made regarding the deep fake category. He asked if they could put the work surrounding tardiness at a future meeting.

Mr. Karunakaran asked if cell phones are allowed during the WIN block?

Dr. Weber replied that phones are not allowed to be used during the WIN block.

He also asked if Class of 2027-2029 also has a community service requirement?

Dr. Weber replied that they do not.

He also asked about administration managing all the new AI specifications and what tools are in place?

Dr. Weber referenced the AI committee and said they will have a better idea once the school year begins. She noted that Ms. Kete Merten, in her new role, could address the question as well.

Ms. Merten replied that they are working on that with the technology Committee to put guardrails in place.

Mr. Giguere noted that they continue to look into handbooks regarding consistency and tier levels.

Ms. O'Sullivan asked if the Freshman will be using lockers this year? She followed up asking if the state will have anything in place to police the schools regarding cell phones?

Mr. Giguere said they applied for a \$50,000 cell phone grant and was delayed. He said he assumes it is timed with the state legislation.

Dr. Weber said they have been researching and looking into their options like pouches or disengaging their apps. She said very few schools have begun implementation. She said they need to make sure it is done methodically and thoughtfully.

Dr. Griffith also referenced the differences in Tiers 3a and 3b. There was a discussion about deep fake ranges with Dr. Weber. He noted that the cell phone ban will be impactful. He also asked about watches. Mr. Williams replied that smart watches are in the language. Mr. Williams and Ms. Marano thanked the AP's for their assistance on this work.

Elementary and ECDC

Ms. Marano noted that these two levels do not have substantive changes but wanted to review the handbooks.

The elementary team comprised of Ms. Busavage, Mr. Hendrixson, Mr. Chelman, Ms. Wasik (not present) and Ms. Taylor presented the minor changes for 2026-2027 which included:

Dismissal Routines

Food and Beverages

Photographs and Social Media

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

Mr. Charles made a suggestion to link in the Policy on the school's website regarding the school start and end time procedures.

He asked if there is language in the photograph permission form now that has the new policy language?

Ms. Busavage replied yes and there is also a volunteer handbook for the district and will include it there as well.

Ms. Mausolf is looking for more clarifying language regarding parent vs. car Pickup. Mr. Hendrixson offered some clarification and said they send language out with information for procedures for arrival and departure. Mr. Chelman added they are also limited with parking at Washington as Lincoln is.

Mr. Hansen ensured the changes would be sent home to families.

He also suggested a one page volunteer sheet would be helpful regarding

Protocols.

He said he appreciates no cell phones at pickup.

Mr. Karunakaran suggested an automatic reply after 2:00pm.

D. Summer Facilities & Transportation Update

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

Mr. Colin Boisvert gave a transportation update. He noted that he met with the bus drivers today at their facility. He shared the transportation timeline from April - August. He shared the registration ridership at all of the schools from the 2025-2026 school year and those registered for the 2026-2027 school year. He spoke about how bus routes are developed and also what families need to know to start the school year.

He shared bus safety and rider expectations. Finally, he spoke about the priorities for this coming year.

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

Mr. Karunakaran asked if they are prepared for traffic patterns and if there will be support for the traffic?

Mr. Boisvert replied they are partnering with the SRO's and communicating with families.

Mr. Giguere noted that the first few days will typically take longer.

Ms. Mausolf asked how many were still waitlisted after the deadline?

Mr. Boisvert replied that when they clear the 42 on the list right now, they will have cleared a total of 280 students.

She asked out of the 280 how many are new move-ins to the district?

Mr. Boisvert replied that there was some but a low percentage.

She referenced Charter students on the buses and asked if their registration is the same as FPS?

Mr. Boisvert said that it is similar but the data collection is different.

She asked what the maximum ridership is per bus?

Mr. Boisvert replied that Elementary has 77 seats (3 to a seat), Middle and High has 52-56 (2 to a seat).

Ms. Mausolf asked if the buses will be labeled with the number and the school?

Mr. Boisvert replied that they can differentiate between Washington and Lincoln to avoid confusion and that buses have their numbers.

She and Mr. Boisvert noted that bus assignments are also listed in Aspen.

She noted that bus passes will be handed out at school.

Mr. Boisvert noted that at the elementary school level it will be a bus tag to attach to their backpack.

Mr. Charles said he appreciates the growth year over year.

He asked what the drivers were for people to register after the deadline?

Mr. Boisvert replied that it could be move-ins, circumstances changing, or they forgot.

Mr. Charles asked if they can have communication where in Aspen the bus # can be found as well as a bus expectation documentation. He also asked about technology infrastructure to calculate bus timing.

Mr. Boisvert said they are doing research into that.

Dr. Griffith said he appreciates the registration system in place.

Mr. Boisvert also noted that any communication needing to be sent home regarding a bus update will pull right from Aspen as the students are tied to a bus number.

Dr. Griffith encouraged families to reach out with any questions or feedback regarding transportation.

Mr. Boisvert also gave a Summer Facilities update. He noted how the projects are funded through sources such as Capital Funding, Community Preservation Act, earmarks, and donations, etc.

He noted that the surface project for the Lincoln St. courtyard was completed this summer.

He spoke about other summer projects in progress and completed as well as those out for bidding at Washington St.

He said at the ECDC Oak and Pond locations, they are working to complete playground enhancements.

He spoke about summer projects at FHS such as tennis court and track repairs.

He spoke about summer projects at FMS such as locker movements and tree trimming as well as auditorium phase I projects.

He said there were districtwide projects such as classroom infrastructure and security camera improvements.

He said the DPW have also done fence and ground repairs across the district.

He spoke about looking ahead for projects to come.

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

Mr. Hansen asked if any of these projects would interrupt school days?

Mr. Boisvert replied that any disruption would be the first priority for them. He said it is all project dependent.

Ms. Mausolf asked about the earmark ideas for the courtyard at Lincoln and if they can share what they would be?

Mr. Giguere replied that there are no plans in place yet. They would like to engage the staff and leadership for an outdoor learning courtyard. He said this applies to the middle school media center and gathering feedback regarding ideas.

Mr. Charles asked if student achievement is the same as championship signage?

Mr. Boisvert replied yes.

Ms. O'Sullivan noted that it is good to see exactly where state aid goes and see it broken down.

Mr. Giguere noted that the booster organizations have played a huge role in securing funds for the auditorium and championship signage.

Ms. O'Sullivan noted a fundraiser coming up through the music boosters.

III. Citizen's Comments

IV. Discussion/Action Items

A. School Handbook Approval

I recommend approval of the FPS School Handbooks as discussed.

Mr. Hansen noted that at some point they will probably need to discuss also banning AI enhanced glasses.

**Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Ms. O'Sullivan
Mr. Hansen-Yes; Ms. Mausolf-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Ms. Ruthann O'Sullivan-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Absent;
Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. Karunakaran-Yes
Motion Passes: 6-0 with 1 absent**

B. Franklin TV Board Appointment

I recommend the approval of the appointment of Joe Corey and Pandora Carlucci to the Franklin TV board as discussed.

Mr. Hansen asked for more information on the role.

Mr. Giguere replied that there is a board with community members serving. The school committee has the ability to nominate (2) people to serve on the board. He said it is typically a (2) year term.

Ms. Mausolf asked how many in total are on the board?

Mr. Steve Sherlock replied that he believes there are 9 members but will double check.

Mr. Karunakaran asked about inviting them to the community relations meetings?

Dr. Griffith said they could communicate it to them.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Ms. Mausolf
Mr. Hansen-Yes; Ms. Mausolf-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;
Ms. Ruthann O'Sullivan-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Absent;
Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. Karunakaran-Yes
Motion Passes: 6-0 with 1 absent

V. Discussion Only Items - there were no Discussion Only Items

VI. Information Matters

A. School Committee Sub-Committee Reports

- 1. Budget** - upcoming meetings to come
- 2. Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee** - working to schedule meetings. Will be at Harvest Festival on 9/26/26.
- 3. Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee** - N/A
- 4. Policy** - N/A
- 5. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee** - N/A

B. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Joint PCC** - Lincoln St. and Washington St. back to school picnics, FMS is looking for a co-secretary and two 6th grade co-chairs. Will be meeting with Mr. Giguere to kick off the year.
- 2. Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force** - next meeting is 9/22/26
- 3. School Wellness Advisory Council** - meeting next month.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

I recommend approval of the minutes from your August 11, 2026 meeting as detailed.

B. FHS Gifts

I recommend the acceptance of \$170.83 for supplemental supplies for FHS as follows:

- Ohiopyle \$ 9.28
- Jostens \$161.55

C. Championship Signage Donations

I recommend the acceptance of \$1,500.00 for championship signage as follows:

- FHS Girls Basketball \$ 500.00
- FHS Volleyball Boosters \$1,000.00

Mr. Charles asked what Ohiopyle is?

Mr. Giguere replied they can get back with the exact details on the company.

Dr. Griffith said it is a souvenir and apparel manufacturer.

Motion: Mr. Hansen; Second: Ms. Mausolf

Mr. Hansen-Yes; Ms. Mausolf-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;

Ms. Ruthann O'Sullivan-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Absent;

Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. Karunakaran-Yes

Motion Passes: 6-0 with 1 absent

VIII. Committee Comments

The committee members offered their welcome back greetings to staff and students.

IX. New Business

To discuss any future agenda items

Mr. Giguere shared the following updates for the next few meetings:

- Back to school update
- DIP, SIP
- Superintendent Goals

X. Executive Session

At 9:31pm, Dr. Griffith asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session and not return to Open Meeting.

- A. As per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21 (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares

Motion: Ms. Mausolf; Second: Mr. Karunakaran

Mr. Hansen-Yes; Ms. Mausolf-Yes; Mr. Charles-Yes;

**Ms. Ruthann O’Sullivan-Yes; Mr. David Callaghan-Absent;
Dr. Paul Griffith-Yes; Mr. Karunakaran-Yes
Motion Passes: 6-0 with 1 absent**

XI. Adjournment at 9:31pm

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Tocci, Secretary

SC Agenda 8-25-26.docx
PW #2704 Final.pdf
PW #2704 Summary.pdf
8.25.26 Sc Comm Sign Off Sheet
S202706 08.06.26
S202708 8.20.26
FINAL - 2026-2027 ECDC Family Handbook.pdf
FINAL - 2026-2027 Elementary Handbook.pdf
FINAL - 2026-2027 MS Handbook.pdf
FINAL - 2026-2027 FHS Student Handbook.pdf
New Admin 2026-2027
August 25, 2026 HR Staffing Report.pdf
8-25 Facilities Update.pdf
Transportation Update (1).pdf
Discussion Action A - Handbooks.pdf
Discussion Action B - Franklin TV Board.pdf
Consent Action A - Minutes.pdf
Consent Action B - FHS Gift.pdf
Consent Action C - Championship Signage Donation.pdf

[Hiring Opportunities](#)

