

FRANKLIN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
October 14, 2020 Minutes

***Virtual Meeting via Zoom***

***Call-in teleconference information: Zoom meeting code 268-042-8482***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2680428482?pwd=MGxsV2JhNW1jVzdiOUpRYXZkeVVwQT09>

Meeting ID: 268 042 8482

Password: together

*The Mission of Franklin School is to provide a safe, nurturing, inspiring, and engaging environment through diverse learning experiences. Students are empowered to become creative, self-confident thinkers, problem solvers, communicators and collaborators who embrace life-long learning and become compassionate contributors to global society.*

Members Present: P. Calvert, S. Tracey, K. Benjamin, J. Novosad, A. Konow, M. Sevigny, M. Dorsey

Also Present: Dr. Fenn, Superintendent, Greg Keith, Principal

1. Call to Order:  
Chairman Calvert called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Recognition of Visitors: B. K. Peek, P. Flaherty, Brian Kelly NFA, H. Salemma, K. Adrian, A. McAuliffe, L. Gorra, J. Petrario, L. Goldstein, M. Kogut, M. Danko
3. Additions to Agenda by Board Members:  
S. Tracey made a motion to add Brian Kelly, NFA Head of School, to the agenda following the review of minutes. J. Novosad SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
4. Review of Minutes:  
A. Konow made a motion to approve the September 9, 2020. M. Sevigny SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.  
S. Tracey made a motion to approve the September 23, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. J. Novosad SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
5. Dr. Brian Kelly, NFA Head of School Introduction and NFA Update:  
Dr. Kelly informed the BoE that he became NFA Head of School in July 2020 and briefed the BoE on the current operational status of NFA. He mentioned that they began the school year in a Hybrid model and are currently all virtual for at least two weeks due to positive COVID cases at the school and in the community. In response to a question regarding returning to school after Thanksgiving break, Dr. Kelly said they are debating if they should send out a survey to their families to find out about out of town siblings returning to the home, holiday travel, etc. to determine what would be best, but they hope to avoid shutting down until January.

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### 6. Strategic Plan Status

- a. FES students will become college, career and life ready through curriculum, instruction and assessment that emphasizes 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, digital literacy and personalization, relevancy and hands on learning
- b. FES teachers and students will engage in and implement a cycle of continuous improvement to monitor and evaluate progress toward learning mastery.
- c. FES will build the capacity of teachers to lead and advance 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning through high quality professional learning.
- d. Community engagement with FES will be increased through open communication with parents and the community.
- e. FES will become a center of excellence through innovative learning design and appropriate collaboration.
- f. FES will maximize the use of the building through the development of collaborative partnerships.

### 7. New Teacher Introductions:

Mr. Keith introduced Rebecca Hayes, MS Science, Marissa Kogut, MS Math, and Amberly Russell, Special Education.

### 7. Old Business

#### 7.1 Sports Program Discussion:

Mr. Keith informed the BoE that Soccer and Cross-Country have begun but are not playing games/competing against other schools and are focused on social-distancing skills and drills.

#### 7.2 Update on Cafeteria Program:

Dr. Fenn informed the BoE of the SSO Eligibility Waiver granted by the USDA/CT State Dept of Education to allow all Franklin residents up to age 18 to receive free breakfast and lunch until June 30, 2021. Dr. Fenn confirmed that all reimbursements for these meals go back into the cafeteria fund. Dr. Fenn also confirmed that there are no costs taken out of the fund for COVID-related safety and cleaning additions and that those costs are taken from the maintenance and custodial line item.

#### 7.3 Update on Bussing:

Dr. Fenn informed the BoE that administration is working with M&J to monitor, track and document the decline in bus runs due to changes caused by Hybrid, Fully Virtual and outplacement teaching.

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- 7.4 Update of Facilities Usage:  
Mr. Keith shared a document prepared by Mike Brown, FES Maintenance Coordinator for the BoE to review. Dr. Fenn mentioned that Mr. Brown is getting bids for a new phone system. P. Calvert reminded all that any expenses over \$5,000.00 has to be board approved and that he also likes to run it by the Board of Selectmen to keep them up to date. Mr. Keith confirmed that he would send all bids to the BoE to look over once he receives them from Mr. Brown.
8. Correspondence: None
9. Administration and Committee Reports Requiring Board Action: None
10. Superintendent Report:  
Dr. Fenn went over the 2020-2021 Budget and the impact due to Covid-related expenses such as in the 100 series with the additional para staff members that were hired to assist with cohorts and other duties.
11. Principal's Report:  
Mr. Keith informed all of the following:
  - Fire drill was held last week and went smoothly.
  - Playground restoration and repairs are underway.
  - Blacktop additions are being worked on by Miss Kogut and her math students.
  - 3rd Annual Unity Day, Wednesday, October 21, 2020 to support anti-bullying
  - Cross Country and Soccer has begun
  - Instrumental Music on Wednesday afternoons is being looked into.
  - PTO will be having a Trunk or Treat Reimagined on October 30, 2020
  - Parent Teacher Conferences will be held via Zoom on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Spirit Week is October 26<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>.
12. New Business
  - 12.1 Discussion of Next Year's Board of Education Calendar:  
Tabled so all BoE members can review it.
  - 12.2 2020-21 Budget discussion:  
Discussed under Superintendent's report
  - 12.3 Impact of Full Day School Hours:  
Mr. Keith and Dr. Fenn both shared that things are going as well as can be expected. Mrs. Flaherty added that staff is working hard and are motivated to remain as diligent as possible to keep everything clean and safe so we can continue to come to school each day rather than do distance learning.

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13. Committee Reports
  - 13.1 Chairman: None
  - 13.2 Relations and Information: None
  - 13.3 Policy: Epi-pen Policy Approval:  
Mr. Keith plans to meet with members on the policy committee before the next meeting.
  - 13.4 Technology: None
14. Informational Inquiries by Board Members: None
15. Informational Inquiries by Staff and Public:  
A parent expressed concern about not having full-day Kindergarten.  
Dr. Fenn stated that the administration wants to have a full-day program when it's feasible to resume it and suggested that this matter be further discussed at the next BoE meeting.
16. Executive Session: None
17. Next **Scheduled** Meeting Date: **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (one week later due to Veterans' Day).**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Gregory  
BoE Secretary