



City of Franklin
316 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235
Phone (603)934-3900

Committee: Mayoral Committee on Designing Franklin's Education for the 21st Century

Meeting Date: July 17, 2018

Location: City Hall (Blue Room) 316 Central St, Franklin, NH

Members:

Chair: Jo Brown, City Council

Chris Kneeland, School Board

Tony Schinella, Director of Communications, NH Dept of Education

Sandra Burney, Retired Teacher/Administrator, Merrimack Valley/Hopkinton School Districts

Carol Hodgdon, Retired Teacher, Franklin High School

Present:

Jo Brown

Carol Hodgdon

Tony Schinella

Absent:

Sandra Burney – Excused

Chris Kneeland - Excused

Agenda:

- Approve Minutes of June 29 Meeting
- Public Comments
- Review state data on like school systems to learn and take advantage of areas of savings opportunities for both city and school
- Other
- Adjourn

Due to the absence of two members, draft minutes and the draft Vision and Mission statements will be forwarded to all by email for edit/review.

Public Comment:

There was a lively discussion from attending public members and the committee on several issues regarding concerns in the Franklin School System. These included:

- Discussion about the city being able to increase the percentage of tax dollars to the school – recognition that improvement needs to be made in this area
- The challenge of students reaching middle and high school with limited reading ability
- High turnover of teachers every year
- The “unfunded mandates” that the state requires with regard to reporting, etc.
- The consideration of contract teachers to fill gaps in curriculum versus hiring a full-time teacher with full benefits – potential cost savings
- Use of a “math interventionist” to assist students struggling with understanding math: under study at Winnisquam High School
- Better use of the **Huot Career and Technical Center** in Laconia by our Franklin students
- Possible use of more Colby-Sawyer students in classroom as a relationship is already in place between the city and the school
- Accountability – do not pass on students who are not ready to move up to the next grade -make sure students entering middle school are able to read and do math close to grade level
- Look at the contracting out of Food Service vis-à-vis the recent action taken in Conway – are there any savings to be made
- Should city consider consolidation of Buildings and Grounds services
- Understanding why parents sent kids to charter/private schools – behavior, environment, classes, etc.
 - Can the Franklin Public School system learn from them to encourage kids to stay in the public-school arena
- What opportunities exist within the city and school district to consolidate functions and work together to simplify operations such as finances; payroll, buying of school and office supplies; buildings and grounds maintenance; lawn care and snow removal; single medical plan for city and school employees where numbers of eligible might provide savings and keep a consistent system for all employees, etc.

-Extended Learning Opportunities for our High School students. Hinsdale Middle High School in Hinsdale NH has a very robust program and is willing to come to Franklin in the fall to talk with us and present a program with some of their students who have been successful in the Hinsdale ELO program.

Review of State Data:

Due to the late arrival of Tony Schinella, the data report discussion was abbreviated. This data Included: expenditures of cities, towns, and school districts of like- size communities to Franklin (pupils, per pupil spending, town/city line items like public safety and ambulance service, etc.); current Franklin enrollment and the 11-year downward trend; regional versus stand-alone high schools; the distances Franklin students would travel by bus to attend the closest regional high schools; Franklin's current teacher expenditure and contract schedule as well as admin and other salary data; tax rates and valuation rates, and other data.

The Granite Institute Study – How New Hampshire Provides Small Towns with Access to Schools – was also shared with members via email.

As data from similar sized communities was reviewed, discussion about both school and town/city funding methods ensued. However, as this was just an initial discussion, a fuller understanding of the spending of like sized communities is very much ongoing as the 2018/2019 budgets are now being finalized. We do hope to learn how to find more monies for our school system.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Our next meeting will be August 10, 2018 at City Hall (Blue Room), 316 Central St, Franklin, NH

Respectfully submitted Jo Brown, Chair

All future meetings will be public meetings posted by the City Manager's office.