

**FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS**

**School Committee Minutes**

School Committee Meeting

September 8, 2020

Executive Session 5:30 PM

Public Meeting 6:30 PM

Administration Building

**REMOTE ACCESS MEETING VIA Zoom Webinar**

Got to: [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join)

<https://zoom.us/j/97095388857>

**Webinar Archived on You Tube**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJIZbUUGx0B-XABvwkMtRZQ>

340 Teaticket Highway

East Falmouth, MA 02536



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**MEMBERS Present:**

Kelly Welch, Chair

Natalie Kanellopoulos, Vice-Chair

Melissa Keefe, Secretary

Terri Medeiros

Andrea Thorrold

Lisa Hart

John Furnari

Leah Palmer

Lori Duerr, Superintendent

Sonia Tellier, Assistant Superintendent

Patrick Murphy, Dir. Fin. and Op.

Joan Woodward, Dir. of Student Services

Joany Santa, Dir. Of Human Resources

Sharon Reid, Recording Secretary

HEARD Kelly Welch, Chair, open the meeting at 5:30 PM.

MOTION by Kelly Welch to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Units A, B, C, and D. Having these discussions in open session may be detrimental to the school committee's bargaining position. And, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec 21 (a)(7) "to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requires (Purpose 7); specifically, the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c 30A, sections 22(f), (g). It is expected that the School Committee will resume **Open Session**. **SECONDED** by Melissa Keefe. Roll Call Vote. **UNANIMOUS**.

REOPEN Public Session 6:32 PM.

HEARD Lisa Hart read the Falmouth Public Schools Mission and Vision Statement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

HEARD Monet Berthiaume, parent of five children, state her concerns about having children wear masks all day and the effect on their social and emotional well-being.

HEARD Scott McGann, Falmouth Health Agent, report on the number of current cases of COVID19 in Falmouth and the low hospitalizations at this time. Additionally, he reported that approximately 2,000 travelers have registered while visiting Falmouth.

HEARD Ralph Petty, parent, state he was concerned about the rumors he has been hearing about the teachers pertaining to a strike and other union issues.

HEARD Superintendent Duerr report that the schedules went out to families from the schools on Friday, September 4, 2020.

HEARD Dr. Tellier, Assistant Superintendent, report on the first three weeks of school and the planned staggered start.

HEARD Dr. Duerr continue her report on the following topics:

1. Calendar 2020-2021 – dates for Professional Development will be rescheduled
2. Hybrid Model: Morse Pond, Lawrence and the High School. In-Person PK-4
3. The FEA Union requested an HVAC assessment of all schools. The company hired is called TRC, from Weymouth MA, and will issue a report in the next week or so.

HEARD Kelly Welch state that once the union and the experts review the report it will be made public at a future School Committee Meeting.

HEARD Dr. Duerr report that a Public Health Nurse has been hired and will be onboard in the next week or so. As previously stated, her main responsibilities will be:

1. Answer questions for staff and parents pertaining to COVID19
2. Assist in contact tracing
3. Training for staff

HEARD Mr. Murphy, Director of Finance and Operations, state that the funds to support this position of Public Health Nurse were obtained through a COVID19 grant.

HEARD Dr. Parkinson state that the position of Public Health Nurse will help free up the school nurses to concentrate on the students.

HEARD further discussion and comments after Dr. Duerr's report.

HEARD Mary Gans, FHS Principal and Kathleen Burke, Athletic Director report on FHS sports. Principal Gans opened the conversation stating that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) have released athletic guidance for the schools. Principal Gans continued by saying that Falmouth is in the Cape and Islands League and have reached an agreement as follows:

1. Fall I sports will begin on September 18, 2020. This includes Boys Golf, Field Hockey, Soccer and Cross Country.
2. Each sport has modified rules and regulations
3. Some Protocols include
  - a. Health Screening
  - b. Cohorts/Pods
  - c. Maintain Social Distance
  - d. Masks required

- e. Essential Personnel allowed
- f. Equipment cannot be shared
- g. Designated COVID Coach
- h. No Spectators

HEARD Ms. Burke continue to report that the plans for activities are very detailed. For example:

1. Staggered start
2. Results posted virtually
3. Electronic whistles for referees
4. No intentional contact (in soccer)

HEARD questions and comments following the sports update. Topics included; transportation, number of players, tryouts, coaches training, and competition.

HEARD Joany Santa, Director of Human Resources, review the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator job description. Dr. Santa informed the Board that the position will be funded jointly between the school and the Town and will serve the whole community. There will be a public meeting scheduled to review this position to receive input from the public. After the public hearing, there will be the posting and the interview process. It is anticipated that the position will be filled by January 2021.

HEARD questions and comments after Dr. Santa's report of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator position.

HEARD Meghan Hanawalt, Member of the League of Women Voters, thank the Town for moving so quickly on such an important position.

HEARD Natalie Kanellopoulos review the timeline for the Superintendent's evaluation. Members discussed the possibility of moving the deadline to June instead of May. There will be no change at this time.

HEARD Superintendent Duerr review her goals for the 2020-2021 school year, which include:

1. Responsible Implementation of the COVID19 plan
2. Equity
3. Homework Policy
4. Complete NSIP (New Superintendent Induction Program)

HEARD questions and comments following Dr. Duerr's presentation.

MOTION by Melissa Keefe to approve the Budget Flow Chart for FY22. SECONDED by Lisa Hart. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

MOTION by Melissa Keefe to approve the minutes of August 25, 2020 SECONDED by Natalie Kanellopoulos. Discussion. EDIT: Change start time to 5:30 PM. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS with time change.

HEARD Kelly Welch report on Convocation and the recognition of staff members with 25 years of service. Those employees include:

- Chris Brothers, Science Department Head
- Kathleen Burke, Athletic Director
- Melissa Hamilton, Grade 6 Teacher
- Susan Kelleher, Grade 6 Teacher

- Venera Cocks, Secretary North Falmouth

HEARD Ms. Welch also remind members of the diversity training with Kalise Wornum on September 29, 2020 with the Select Board.

HEARD Melissa Keefe request a moment of silence for our former Lead School Nurse, Cheryl Boli who recently passed away. MOMENT OF SILENCE.

HEARD John Furnari report that the Cape Cod Collaborative successfully completed their summer sessions for students. Today, September 8, 2020, thirteen (13) students from Falmouth started their 2020-2021 school year with the Cape Cod Collaborative.

MOTION to adjourn by Melissa Keefe. SECONDED by John Furnari. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

MEETING Adjourned at 8:46 PM

*The following documents were included in the School Committee packet of September 8, 2020. Hard copies can be found in the Superintendent's office or electronic copies on-line at the Town's website: [www.falmouthmass.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.falmouthmass.us/AgendaCenter).*

- *Draft Job Description Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator*
- *School Committee Evaluation Subcommittee Timeline*
- *Draft Budget Development Flow Chart FY22*
- *Draft minutes August 25, 2020*

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary: Sharon Reid

Melissa Keefe  
Secretary

Minutes Approved: