

# FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Franklin County Technical School District Committee was duly called and conducted on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 in the Assembly Hall at the Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, Massachusetts.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Bernotas	Sandy Brown	Jeffrey Budine	Bryan Camden
Linda Chapman	A. George Day, Jr.	Paul Doran	Angus Dun
Laura Earl	Cliff Fournier	Dennis Grader	Christopher Joseph
Brian Kuzmeskus	Gerald Levine	Mark Maloney	Arthur Schwenger
Nicole Slowinski	Donald Sluter		

Members absent: Robert Bitzer, Richard Kuklewicz, Mark Leonard, Scott Milton and Lloyd Szulborski

Also present: Richard J. Martin, Superintendent; Russ Kaubris, Business Manager; Nathan May, Director of PPS/SPED; Todd Weed, Teachers Association Representative; and Merrienne Kaubris, Recording Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Dun with a quorum present.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** –

**MOVED**, by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Schwenger, to accept the minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting of May 9, 2018, as presented.

Brief question and answer period ensued.

**18-36 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

Introductions were shared with the School Committee's newest member, the Town of Deerfield's representative Mr. David Thiel, who is replacing Ms. Katherine James; as well as introductions shared with new FCTS Principal/Assistant Superintendent Mr. Brian Spadafino. Mr. Spadafino's official start date is July 15, 2018. Superintendent Martin noted that Mr. Spadafino comes to FCTS from Lunenburg High School, where he has served as the Principal for the past six years and has worked in the district a total of 12 years. Mr. Spadafino is passionate about vocational-technical education and hands on learning, as well as his having extensive experience in teaching students with special needs. Mr. Spadafino is a strong advocate for project based learning and student engagement. During the interview process, it was apparent that Mr. Spadafino has been highly regarded by the Lunenburg High School staff and students, as the Lunenburg faculty expressed his ability to lead while exemplifying strong character, caring, compassion, and an inclusive management style. Mr. Spadafino attends Harvard University's Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies, has received his Master's degree from Wheelock College and his Bachelor's degree from Niagara University.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT** – No report.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No comments.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE** – No report.

**VI. STANDING COMMITTEES** –

1. Curriculum – No report.
2. Policy – Subcommittee Chairman Levine noted that a Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held next week.
3. Building & Grounds – Subcommittee Chairman Sluter advised that the group met last Wednesday to discuss the installation of the football field and basketball court lighting. Additional topics were addressed and will be brought forward during the Finance/Audit report.
4. Finance/Audit – Subcommittee Chairman Day noted that the group met last week, having voted to bring forward the following votes:

**MOVED**, by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Doran, that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to award and sign the contract(s) for the welding shop expansion project.

Monies for the welding shop expansion project have been funded previously and this vote gives the Superintendent authority to sign the contract to move the project along.

**18-37 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

**MOVED**, by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Fournier, that the School Committee approve the contract of Mr. Kaubris, School Business Manager, as presented.

Question posed as to the length of the contract being a three-year rather than one-year contract. Positive comments were shared by various members as to Mr. Kaubris' honesty, information sharing, "unparalleled presentation" of the FCTS budget, and his fiscal responsibility during tough economic times.

**18-38 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Chairman Day requested that members replace the Budget Transfers Action Item found in their packet with a corrected Budget Transfer sheet placed at members' places this evening, totaling \$46,050.

**MOVED**, by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Fournier, that the School Committee approve the budget transfers totaling \$46,050 for fiscal year 2018, as presented below:

Dept #	Account Description	Adjust To:	Adjust From:
102	Postage for the District	\$1,300	
102	Salary Adjustment Contingency District	\$9,500	
102	Prof. Improvement District Administration	\$1,500	
102	Banking Services	\$2,000	
105	SPED Special Services	\$7,000	
117	Sending Tuition		\$15,000
115	Unemployment Compensation		\$15,550
500	Repairs Class/Shop Areas	\$6,250	
501	Hardware Instructional	\$10,500	
501	Telephone Service	\$5,000	
501	Software Instructional		\$15,500
505	Teacher Salary - CAD	\$700	
512	Supplies - COOP Program	\$500	
516	Supplies - Phys. Ed.	\$300	
536	Teacher Salaries - Cosmetology	\$1,500	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,050</b>	<b>\$46,050</b>

Subcommittee Chairman Day advised that the need will remain to approve some adjustments once again at the September School Committee meeting.

**18-39 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Performance Report-to-Date – The General Operating Fund budget performance report, dated as of 5/31/2018, was shared with members in their packets.

**MOVED**, by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Doran, that the School Committee accept the report, as presented.

**18-40 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS –

1. 3D Printing Presentation from Engineering Instructor Jonas LaPointe – Mr. LaPointe educated members on the performance and use of 3D printers at FCTS, explaining the use of plastic filament when melted in very specific locations creates 3 dimensional models. Students from many shops use modeling software and the school's 3D printers allow those designs to come to life as 3 dimensional models. The plastic is excellent for modeling and design work because it is less expensive than end materials like metals. Some FCTS 3D printer projects have included making body plugs for trucks that will never rust, working with the Sunderland Elementary School to provide children in need with prosthetic hands, student designed key chains, student designed scale model emergency shelters, working model monster trucks, airplanes that fly in the classroom, and a capstone steam engine prototype. Through an initial grant award in 2015, the school was able to purchase five Markforged composite printers which can embed fiberglass, carbon fiber, and Kevlar in Nylon to gain the strength and performance characteristics of those materials. There has also been the purchase of one large format Makerbot Z18 printer, which can print objects up to approximately 12 x 12 x 18 inches in volume. The Makerbot costs about 30% less to operate due to the lower cost of the plastic PLA

filament. While not having the performance strength of the Markforged printers, the cost savings and application to many engineering projects makes this machine a good fit for the school's needs.

After evaluating use of the current machines, decision was made to upgrade equipment, and with School Committee approval and the help of administration and the vendor, Mr. LaPointe negotiated a package of equipment worth approximately \$18,000; however, \$3,377 in unspent Perkins Grant money and use of funds from the sale of the two used printers, the school awaits the arrival of the following equipment: (5) Makerbot Replicator+ 3D printers, (24) spools of filament, (2) tough PLA kits which can print in a more durable, millable and machinable plastic, (5) seats in a Makerbot certificate training program, and one year care protection for each new machine. One of the new machines (the one purchased with Perkins grant funds) will be going into CAD/CAM with a tough PLA kit.

Mr. LaPointe not only received kudos from Mr. Kaubris on his ingenuity and frugality in these upgrades but also received applause from all present on his presentation, enthusiasm and efforts.

2. Authorization to Award & Sign Contracts – Welding Project – Addressed, voted and approved earlier this evening during the “Finance/Audit” report.
3. Contract of Business Manager – Addressed, voted and approved earlier this evening during the “Finance/Audit” report.
4. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Transfers – Addressed, voted and approved earlier this evening during the “Finance/Audit” report.
5. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Performance Report-to-Date – Addressed, voted and approved earlier this evening during the “Finance/Audit” report.
6. Town Meeting Status – Superintendent Martin advised that of fifteen town meetings to date, the FCTS budget has received fifteen affirmative votes. Four town meeting votes remain with Orange, Gill, New Salem and Greenfield. Superintendent Martin noted that the decision to meet with Finance Committees of district towns with large incoming student numbers seems to have been helpful in preparing towns for the financial impact and better understanding the State's formula.
7. Update on Projects – Superintendent Martin reported that the basketball and football field sports lights installation process should be completed by June 28<sup>th</sup>; with additional work completed over the summer, field lighting should be ready for the start of the 2018-19 sports season. Superintendent Martin also advised that FCTS has saved approximately \$100,000 through efforts of the staff and students of the Electrical, Landscaping/Horticulture shops and maintenance staff. Planning and preparation continue on the 1400 square feet of interior space to be utilized for the expansion of the Welding/Metal Fabrication shop; with purchasing and cost of equipment up to \$495,000 to be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kaubris explained that expansion outward had been determined to be cost prohibitive.
8. Reorganization – Subcommittee Chairman Sluter, having requested additional nominations and having received none, moved the present slate of officers forward:  
**MOVED**, by Mr. Sluter, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the School Committee appoint the following slate of officers for the 2018-2019 school year: Richard Kuklewicz, Chairperson  
Angus Dun, Vice-Chairperson  
Cliff Fournier, Secretary  
Virginia Peck, Treasurer  
Nadine Coughlan, Assistant Treasurer.

**18-41 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

9. Other – Mr. Doran updated members on the beautiful progress of the Center Street, Erving house project, with plans to have the house placed on the market within the next week or so.

**VIII. TEACHERS ASSOCIATION REPORT** – Teachers Association Representative Mr. Weed thanked the School Committee and administration for allowing Mr. Jonas LaPointe to present at tonight's School Committee meeting.

**IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** – Superintendent Martin advised that a letter was received from the Town of Erving expressing gratitude for the sharing of our music/band instructor with their town. ~ The FCTS baseball team not only came in first in their league but was also awarded the MIAA Baseball Team Sportsmanship Award for 2018; with our players having given their ALL in memory and honor of senior Connor Powers. ~ Superintendent Martin recently attended the Opioid Task Force meeting to discuss pathways to support youth who are in recovery. The meeting included key stakeholders and agencies from around Franklin County. FCTS was the only school which attended the meeting, with Superintendent Martin being an invited member of the Opioid Task Force. ~ Additionally Superintendent Martin recently attended the Regional Employment Board's Youth Advisory Board

meeting to discuss summer jobs and review youth employment data. There was a lot of interest expressed in how FCTS is able to get nearly 40% of their eligible students out on paid internships and coop opportunities. ~ Capstone presentations were held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, as senior students showcased their projects as part of their graduation portfolio. ~ The National Honor Society Induction dinner was held on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> with 11 new students being inducted. ~ MCAS 2.0, the next generation of MCAS trials, are completed. This year was the last year for our students to participate in a paper and pencil test. Our I.T. and Guidance departments will be moving to support computer-based testing for MCAS 2.0. ~ Superintendent Martin noted that the PEP program did a wonderful job building a huge Adirondack chair for Kringle Candle. The chair can be seen at the Kringle Candle store in Bernardston. ~ Attention was also brought to the large poster board display featured at the entryway to tonight's meeting, displaying actual signatures from people half-way around the world who thanked the FCTS PEP students and staff for providing more than 1600 toothbrushes to their area. Ms. Heather Lonergan, a dental hygienist and the daughter of past cafeteria employee Joanie Lonergan has provided hands-on assistance, health education, and donations to the Ghana community for several years now. ~ Superintendent Martin reported that awards night and graduation at G.C.C. were well attended and it was exciting to see our 2018 graduates being recognized for their accomplishments. Our own School Committee community was represented within the 2018 FCTS graduates: Nicole Slowinski's daughter Kristin Slowinski; Mark Maloney's son Angus Maloney; Superintendent Martin's son Scott Martin; and George Day's granddaughter Hannah Lyman were 2018 grads. Superintendent Martin also expressed gratitude to Art Schwenger for all of the great graduation photos he kindly took and shared. ~ Reminder to those school committee members whose terms are expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>, to please meet with town officials to take care of their re-appointment paperwork. ~ Ads are being finalized for a new math special education instructor, history teacher and school adjustment counselor to address our 40% freshmen class special education population. ~ Tech Connect will be running once again this summer for three weeks in July for grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Last year there were 96 students participating in the various vocational activities and we are hoping to attain similar numbers for this year's session. ~ Connecting for Success will be held the last week in June as professional development for our teachers and administrators in Marlborough, MA.

**X. VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – No report.

**XI. QUESTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE** – Inquiry into the Tech Connect program's success to date and the number of potential future students, kudos were extended to Ms. Croft for the increase in numbers she has helped facilitate over the last few years. ~ Mr. Maloney expressed gratitude to the administration for securing a photographer to take photos of graduates after having received their diplomas. ~ Suggestion was made to provide Tech Connect students and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Open House visitors with 3D printer friendship bracelets with the FCTS name printed on them. ~ Inquiry made into admissions for the upcoming school year; Mr. May advised that there have been 130 acceptances to date, with 100 of those confirmed. Radio advertisements should be running again within the next few days letting the community know that our enrollment is an ongoing process. ~ In response into inquiry on the proposed solar project, FCTS is in receipt of a PDF copy of the Performance Development Agreement between Siemens Industry Inc. and FCTS. Superintendent Martin has signed the agreement and it has been returned to Siemens. Various locations around the school are being considered for placement of the proposed project and this information will ultimately be shared with the Building & Grounds Subcommittee members. Since solar was in the school's original contract with Siemens, FCTS has a twenty year procurement option at this time.

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE** – The next Regular School Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2019.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – No Executive Session held this evening.

**XIV. ADJOURN – MOVED** by Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to adjourn the Regular School Committee meeting of Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 8:02 P.M.

**18-42 VOTED** – Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clifford Fournier, Secretary