

**FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 5:00 PM**

**This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provision of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, Section 20 using Google Hangouts at [meet.google.com/tmy-geeo-fhw](https://meet.google.com/tmy-geeo-fhw)**

MINUTES

Present: Chair Robert Halla, Judy Pierce, Philip Kantor, Bill Smith, Lyn Roberts, Damien Fosnot (left at 6:11 pm), Olivia Leone, Keith McFarland, Mary Ramon and Melissa Novak; Principal George Lanides, Director of Business Administration Shelley Poreda; and Superintendent Darius Modestow

Absent: Ashley Dion

Others Present: Sarah Mitchell, Director of Secondary Education

Chair Robert Halla called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

On a motion from Judy Pierce, and a second from Philip Kantor, the Minutes of May 12, 2020 were approved.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Mary Ramon	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes		
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Shelley Poreda presented the Financial Statement. There were 19 warrants in May totalling \$1,706,890.78. There were no questions on the Financial Statement. Electronic signing of the warrants was discussed and due to the large size of Frontier's warrants, it was agreed that electronic signing was not an option and that a committee member would need to hand sign. On a motion from Philip Kantor, seconded by Olivia Leone, Bob Halla was selected as the member to sign the warrants.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Mary Ramon	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes		
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Superintendent Modestow introduced newly elected school committee member (Deerfield), Melissa Novak. Melissa will be taking Robert Decker's position. He also stated that as soon as the committee is back for regular in-person meetings, he would like to have Mr. Decker attend the meeting so that the committee can properly thank him for all his years of service.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Unfinished Business:

1. Planning of Opening of School (Fall of 2020) - Superintendent spoke about what reopening may look like in the Fall and that planning has begun based on the information we have at the moment. He stated that guidance from the State will be coming out by the end of the week and again over the summer months. He presented a slide show, Fall 2020 Planning, which outlined 3 school opening scenarios: 1) All In Person; 2) Blended Model; and 3) All Remote Learning. The administration has created 8 committees:

- a. Governance
- b. Facilities and Safety
- c. School Operations
- d. Curriculum and Instruction
- e. Health and Wellness
- f. Technology and Software
- g. Family Outreach and Communication
- h. Summer Instruction

A draft reopening plan will be submitted to the committee in mid-July with the final plan being presented a week later for approval. Superintendent Modestow has suggested that the committee meet on July 16th and July 23rd.

2. FY21 Voted Budget and COVID-19 expenses - Phil Kantor asked if PPE was reimbursable to the towns at 75%. Shelley Poreda stated that we have not submitted any PPE product yet through the municipal cares funding but that we have put in some funds for each elementary school and the split for Frontier to all of the towns for FY20 purchases which included some technology needs and then some disinfectant and cleaning supplies. She stated that until we know what the state is going to require of the districts, it is difficult to begin planning on PPE needs.

Keith McFarland asked if the district was switching to Schoology to replace Google Classroom. Sarah Mitchell, Director of Secondary Education, explained that while Google Classroom is a great learning management system it is not as effective as Schoology for Remote Learning as it lacks some of the features. She explained that Schoology is more robust, allows curriculum to be shared more seamlessly across the platform, and has a better conferencing tool besides google meet.

Superintendent Modestow asked the school committee if we could schedule a meeting for July 16th to review the draft Reopening Plan and then another meeting for July 23rd to approve the plan. The committee agreed.

3. Frontier Regional School Calendar - Superintendent Modestow spoke about the School Calendar. At present, he is just looking for a start date of August 27th as we still don't know what school will look like for 2020-2021 and we will need multiple dates for Professional Development (Covid-19 related). There is also the possibility that the state may shorten the school year by a day or two or three to provide more Professional Development days for teachers due to all the covid-19 safety protocols. Superintendent Modestow stated that the calendar would need to be brought back to the table when we have more information on how school will look like in 2020-2021. On a motion from Phil Kantor, seconded by Olivia Leone, the start date for the 2020-2021 school year was approved.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Mary Ramon	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	nay	Olivia Leone	yes	Melissa Novak	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		

Bill Smith                    yes                    Lyn Roberts    yes

4. School Committee Meeting Schedule - reviewed, but no vote was taken. He also explained that there could be more summer meetings depending on when the cherry sheets come out from the state.
5. Superintendent's Job Performance - Superintendent Modestow stated that he sent out his evaluation to all school committee members and apologized for the lateness. All responses will be given to the Chairs of the School Committees (Frontier Regional and Union #38) and discussed at the next meeting.

Under New Business:

1. Planning on reopening of school in a COVID-19 time - covered above

2. School Committee Resolution: COVID-19 State Funding - Phil Kantor asked that we add Adam Hinds to this resolution. On a motion from Bill Smith, seconded by Damien Fosnot, Resolution: Covid-19 Funding, was passed.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Mary Ramon	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes	Melissa Novak	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Superintendent Modestow spoke to the George Floyd killing by a police officer and the Black Lives Matter movement across the country around equity. He stated that he had sent out a letter attempting to get the community to come together as one community and one voice and received some positive and some negative feedback. Some community members felt that it wasn't enough of a response/message as an educational leader and as a school district. Superintendent Modestow sent out a follow-up letter outlining the district's goals moving forward. He stated that the administration had several meetings and have created a district-wide anti-racism and equality committee. Scott Dredge, Frontier Regional School Assistant Principal, will lead this committee.

3. Summer Meeting Schedule - covered above

Bob Halla asked for a status report on the FRS Track. Superintendent Modestow stated that the architect and designer have been hired, they have come out and taken core samples and are working on the design now. He stated that he would like them to start the project after July 1 of 2021 so that the assessment from the town won't come for another 12 months following that. He also stated that because of that time frame we should be able to secure more bids for the construction project.

Under Reports:

- a. Committee/Chair - NONE
- b. The Collaborative - NONE
- c. Principal - NONE
- d. Superintendent - NONE

On a motion from Bill Smith, seconded by Olivia Leone, the committee entered into Executive Session at 6:25 pm pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation

for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and not to return to open session.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Mary Ramon	yes	Melissa Novak	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes		
Judy Pierce	yes	Philip Kantor	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Minutes of May 12, 2020
2. Monthly Financial Report
3. School Calendars

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Donna Hathaway  
School Committee Recording Secretary

Access video recording of meeting [HERE](#)