November 5th 2026

Franklin School Committee

Keeping our community informed and connected to Franklin's schools

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

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Welcome to the November edition of the Franklin School Committee newsletter! This month, we're highlighting several topics that celebrate our schools, look ahead to the district's priorities, and keep our community connected.

Inside, you'll learn about plans to recognize Franklin High School's state championship teams, the Superintendent's goals for the 2026–2027 school year, and how Franklin TV is creating new opportunities for student involvement. We also take a closer look at district enrollment trends, including why declining student numbers do not necessarily translate into lower costs per student.

As always, we've included upcoming school and community events, meeting dates, and helpful resources to keep you informed and involved. Whether you're a parent, guardian, or Franklin resident, we hope you'll take a few minutes to see what's happening across our schools and how these decisions shape the community we share.

The FMS students and staff were serenaded with spooky music by the FMS band as they entered the building. Click **here** to watch their rendition of Ghostbusters. Thank you to Ms. Wright for supporting the student's love of music.



October 13th School Committee Meeting YouTube

Franklin High School State Championship Signage YouTube

Franklin Public Schools is moving forward with plans to install a permanent championship recognition sign on the Franklin High School property, near the tennis courts and Panther Way entrance. The project aims to create a consistent, centralized way to celebrate the accomplishments of Franklin High School athletic teams while recognizing the school's history and building community pride for future generations.



Portrait of a Graduate

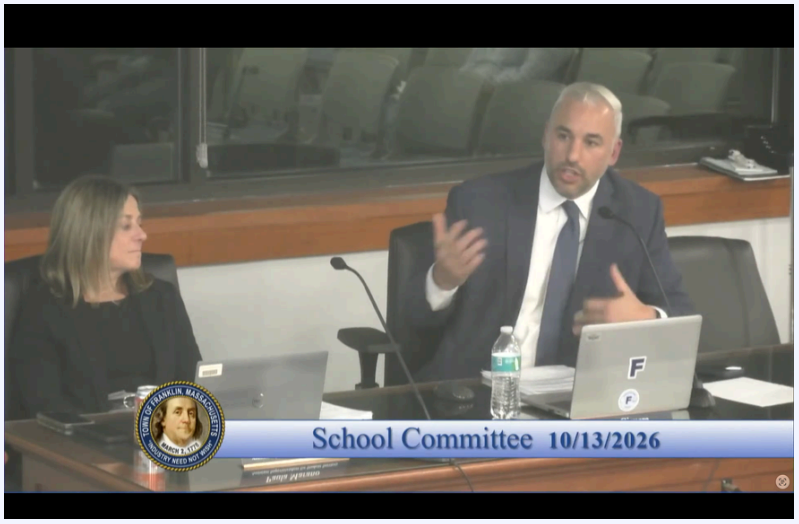
"Recognition is the beacon that guides us home to the shores of belonging." ~ Noah Richards

The proposed sign will recognize Franklin High School teams that have won state championships, with the earliest championship dating back to 1982. Its design will allow additional championship teams to be added over time, ensuring the display can grow as future teams achieve success. The sign will also include recognition of the booster organizations, community partners, and corporate sponsors who helped make the project possible.

The project is being coordinated by district administration, Facilities, DPW, athletics, and community volunteers, including representatives from the boys basketball boosters. Importantly, the project is being funded entirely through donations and fundraising, not the Franklin Public Schools operating budget or taxpayer dollars.

Fundraising has already generated approximately $32,000 toward the estimated $50,000 project cost. This includes $12,400 in contributions from school booster organizations and a $20,000 donation from the Fletcher Fund. The team is continuing to seek support from local businesses, families, and community members to close the remaining funding gap. Click **here** to donate!

2026-2027 Superintendent Goals YouTube



Superintendent Giguere presented his 2026-2027 Evaluation Goals to the committee.

The goals included the following three initiatives which advance the four Strategic Objectives outlined in the 2026-2027 District and School Improvement Plans (DIP/SIP) .

1. Strengthen the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
2. Develop a Long-Range Facilities and Infrastructure Plan
3. Build the FY28 Budget on Common Criteria and Stakeholder Input

The intent behind the first goal is to establish consistent support processes at every educational level and report on measurable student progress.

The second goal is geared at identifying needs, setting priorities and recommending funding strategies in coordination with annual capital requests and major project schedules. The idea focuses on creating a five to ten-year Long-Range Facilities and Infrastructure Plan that incorporates each of these areas of considerations.

The third goal targets the development of budget recommendations that reflect upon student needs, financial realities, and stakeholder input. In coordination with the Office of Business and Finance, the goal is to propose a budget that will show its priorities, trade-offs, and multi-year outlook based off requested criteria and input from students, staff and families.

Mr. Giguere also spoke to the alignment of the goals with Superintendent Evaluation Standards and outlined a timeline to report on progress.

The committee approved the Superintendent goals as proposed with a 7-0 vote.

October 27th School Committee Meeting YouTube

Franklin TV YouTube

Franklin TV continues to play an important role in keeping the community informed, connected, and engaged. During its presentation to the School Committee, Executive Director Liz Harkins provided an overview of Franklin TV's services, its financial outlook, and several initiatives planned for the coming year.

Franklin TV serves as the town's public, educational, and government access media provider, producing more than 500 events and programs annually. Its services include broadcasting School Committee and other government meetings, covering school athletics and performances, and providing community programming through television, YouTube, and WFPR radio.

Liz also discussed the financial challenges facing public access television. Franklin TV operates with an annual budget of approximately $550,000, funded through cable franchise fees from Comcast and Verizon. However, that funding has declined over time, while operating costs have increased. She is also working with **Mass Access** and other organizations to advance state legislation that would help strengthen and sustain public access television funding. Previous efforts included **House Bill 91** and **Senate Bill 2556**, and discussions around the legislation are continuing.

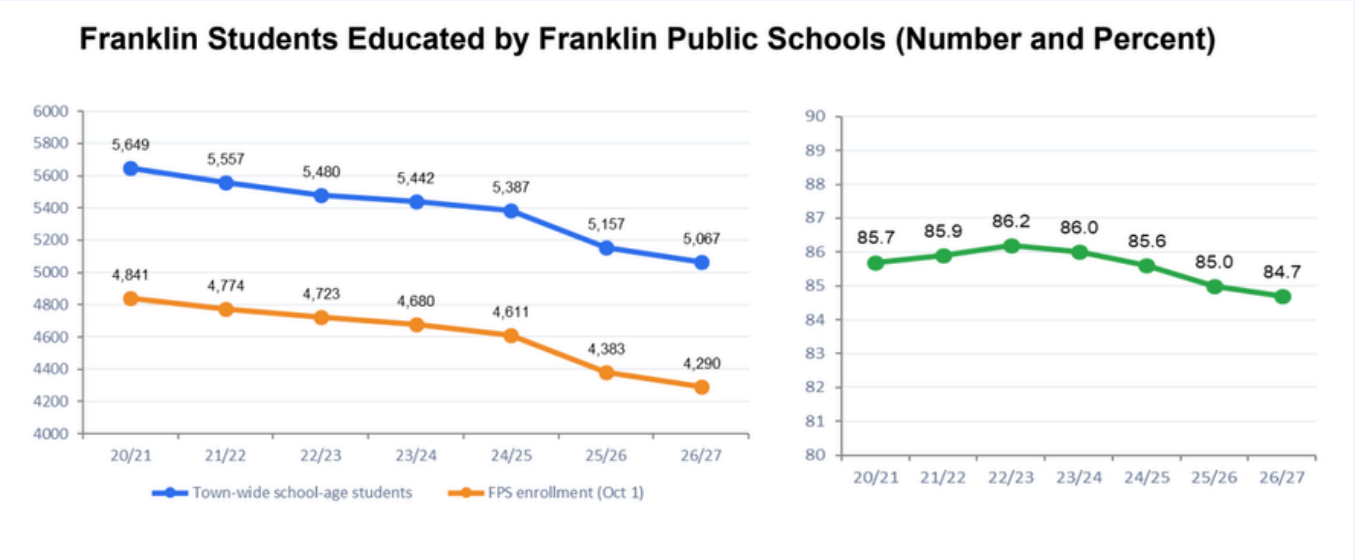
An especially exciting opportunity for the schools is the development of student internships and volunteer experiences. Franklin TV has already begun working with interested Franklin High School students and hopes to expand opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience in broadcasting, production, and media. Additional training and volunteer opportunities will also be available to community members interested in learning production skills or contributing their time.

Residents interested in programming, volunteering, or using Franklin TV's facilities can reach out at **info@franklin.tv**.

Franklin Public Schools Enrollment Update

Franklin Public Schools presented its annual October 1 enrollment report, providing an updated look at student population trends and future planning needs. The October 1 enrollment count is also important because it serves as the annual snapshot used for state funding and budget calculations.

FPS currently enrolls 4,290 students, a decrease of 93 from last year and 211 fewer than projected in the McKibben enrollment study. While the number of school-age children in Franklin continues to decline, FPS consistently educates approximately 85% of the town's eligible students. The number of Franklin students attending schools outside the district has also remained relatively steady, with charter schools accounting for approximately 6%.



The report also highlighted changes in student demographics and support needs. Over the past five years, students with IEPs increased from 17% to 21%, while English language learners doubled from 2% to 4%. The percentage of students with 504 plans has remained relatively steady at 6% to 7%. Additionally, approximately 25% of students now qualify for free or reduced-price meals, compared with 16% five years ago. The district noted that changes in demographics and expanded direct certification have contributed to this increase. Families can apply confidentially online or by paper through the district.

Declining enrollment does not necessarily mean lower education costs. The cost per student continues to increase year over year, highlighting the financial challenge of managing a smaller student population while the cost of educating each student rises. These competing trends are important considerations in future budgeting, staffing, and facilities planning.

Community Events

Single vs. Split Tax Rate Workshop

- **November 18th at 6 PM** at the Municipal Building. The Town Council will hold a series of workshops in October and November to discuss whether Franklin should maintain a single property tax rate or adopt a split tax rate.

FHS Senior Directed Play

- **November 20th and 21st** at the Franklin High School Auditorium. Details will be made available at **https://www.facebook.com/franklinhstheatreco**.

FHS Orchestra/Chorus Concert

- **December 8th at 7 PM** at the Franklin High School Auditorium.

Screenagers: Generation AI Screening

- **December 9th from 6 PM - 8PM** at the Franklin High School Auditorium. Join Kate Merten and team for a screening of **Screenagers: Generation AI** and a panel discussion after the screening. Screenagers: Generation AI explores what can be done to mitigate the risks artificial intelligence poses to young people's learning, relationships, and mental health.

FHS Band Concert

- **December 10th at 7 PM** at the Franklin High School Auditorium.

FMS 6 Grade Chorus Concert

- **December 15th at 5 PM** at the Franklin Middle School Auditorium.

FMS 7th & 8th Grade Chorus / Orchestra Concert

- **December 15th at 6 PM** at the Franklin Middle School Auditorium.

FMS Band / Jazz Band Concert

- **December 17th at 6 PM** at the Franklin Middle School Auditorium.

Download the Franklin High School Panthers app to stay in the know about FHS athletic team and club events at the **Apple Store** or **Google Play**.

Upcoming School Committee Meetings

School Committee Meetings

- **November 17th at 7 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building

Subcommittee Meetings

- **Budget Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Paul Griffith (Chair)**, Nadia Mausolf & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** 10/6/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** 12/8/26

- **Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Al Charles (Chair)**, Stephen Karunakaran & Nadia Mausolf
  - **Last meeting:** 9/29/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** 12/1/26

- **Policy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Dave Callaghan (Chair),** Al Charles & Reis Hansen
  - **Last meeting:** 11/3/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** 12/8/26

- **Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Paul Griffith (Chair)**, Stephen Karunakaran & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** none for the 2026 - 2027 school year
  - **Upcoming meeting:** Subcommittee activity will begin Spring 2027

- **Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Dave Callaghan (Chair)**, Reis Hansen & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** 9/14/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** 11/9/26

All posted School Committee meetings can be found on the School Committee website. Click **here**.



Important Resources

PARENT COMMUNICATION COUNCILS (PCC) FACEBOOK PAGES

ECDC

Lincoln St K-2

Lincoln St 3-5

Washington St K-2

Washington St 3-5

Franklin Middle School

Franklin High School

- Previous School Committee Newsletters are available **here**.
- Watch replays of the previous Franklin School Committee meetings **here**.
- Content shared during School Committee meetings are available online in the **2026 - 2027 Meeting Packets** section.
- 2026 - 2027 Franklin Public School calendar is available **here**.
- There is a wealth of School Committee content available on the **Franklin School Committee website**.
- **News You can Use** serves as a central hub for flyers and notices for FPS families.
- Click **here** to sign up for the Town of Franklin email notifications.
- Stay informed on the happenings in Franklin by visiting **Franklin Matters** or listening to **Franklin Matters Podcasts**.
- SAFE Coalition supports and educates individuals affected by substance use and mental health concerns. Click **here** to learn more about SAFE.
- The **Franklin Food Pantry** offers food, household goods, and referral resources to those facing food insecurity. For services, appointments, or help, contact the Client Services Manager at **508-528-3115** or **info@franklinfoodpantry.org**.