**SCHOOL COMMITTEE | ACTION REQUIRED**

Capital Memo

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|---|---|
| **Meeting Date** | 11.17.2026 |
| **Department** | School Committee |
| **Reason** | Required Vote |
| **Enclosure** | Yes |

## BACKGROUND

FY28 Capital Improvement Request Memo

## ACTION REQUESTED OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I recommend approval of the FY28 Capital Improvement Request Memo as detailed.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE / SIGN-OFF

| Committee Member | Vote |
|---|---|
| R. Hansen | Y / N |
| Al Charles | Y / N |
| N. Mausolf | Y / N |
| D. Callaghan | Y / N |
| P. Griffith | Y / N |
| R. O'Sullivan | Y / N |
| S. Karunakaran | Y / N |

Final Action: _____

***Franklin Public Schools***
*Office of Operations*
*551 Pond Street*
*Franklin, Massachusetts 02038*

To: Franklin School Committee
CC: Lucas Giguere, Superintendent of Schools
Jana Melotti, School Business Administrator
From: Colin Boisvert, Director of Operations

RE: FY28 Capital Improvement Request Memo
Date: November 13, 2026

The Franklin Public Schools respectfully submits this capital improvement request to address priority needs across the district. A summary of the School Department Capital Improvement Requests, is as follows:

**School Department Capital Improvement Request:**

1. **Special Education Van Replacement:** The district requests **$80,000** to replace a Special Education van, which is more than 10 years old and has accumulated over 125,000 miles. The vehicle is approaching the point at which age, mileage, repair frequency, and parts create an increasing risk of service interruption. This van supports the transportation identified through students' Individualized Education Programs, including required transportation to specialized placements and programs. Reliable transportation is necessary to ensure that eligible students can consistently access their educational program. An unexpected vehicle failure can result in missed instruction time, emergency vehicle substitution, increased contracted transportation costs, and disruption for students and families. A planned replacement cycle allows us to maintain sufficient fleet capacity and avoid investment in a vehicle nearing the end of its useful life.

In addition to the School Department's requests, this document includes related capital requests from the Franklin Facilities and Technology Departments that directly impact school operations These requests focus on maintaining safe and functional learning environments, replacing aging equipment and infrastructure, improving school facilities, and supporting the technology systems essential to daily operations. Together, these investments will address immediate needs while supporting the long-term reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of our school buildings and programs.

The Franklin Facilities Department maintains a long-term replacement plan for major components in all school and municipal buildings. Below are the Facilities Department's capital requests that directly affect the schools:

**Facilities Department Capital Improvement Requests for School Buildings:**

1. **Washington St. Elementary Designer:** The Facilities Department requests **$275,000** to complete the professional design and planning necessary to advance the Washington Street Elementary Complex modernization project. The building requires a coordinated assessment of aging systems, educational-space limitations, accessibility, building-envelope conditions, and long-term program needs.
This phase will translate the facility assessment and educational priorities into a defined project scope, schematic design, updated cost estimate, phasing strategy, and construction documents appropriate to the authorized stage of the project. Completing this work will allow the Town and School Committee to evaluate

alternatives, understand total project costs, identify potential efficiencies, and make informed funding decisions before committing to construction. The investment reduces the risk of incomplete scope development, avoidable change orders, and piecemeal improvements that do not address the building's long-term needs.

2. **Washington St. Elementary Fire Alarm System:** The Facilities Department requests **$400,000** to replace the existing fire alarm system at Washington Street Elementary School. The current Simplex system is a proprietary legacy product that is no longer supported by authorized dealers and continues to experience recurring false alarms and system deficiencies. Most recently, multiple deficiencies were identified during a November fire drill, raising concerns about the system's reliability and ability to support effective emergency response. Replacing the system will modernize the school's fire safety infrastructure, improve reliability, and help ensure the building's life safety systems function as intended to protect students and staff.
3. **Compressor Units - Lincoln St. Cafe :** The Facilities Department requests **$43,000** in capital funding to replace the compressor units serving the Lincoln Street Café's HVAC system. The existing equipment is essential to maintaining comfortable, consistent temperatures in the cafeteria for students and staff. Replacing aging or failing compressor units will improve system reliability and energy efficiency, reduce the likelihood of unexpected equipment failures, and ensure the cafeteria remains a comfortable environment for daily student use and school activities. This investment will support the facility's long-term functionality and help minimize disruptions to the school's learning and dining environment.
4. **Security Improvements - FPS :** The Facilities Department requests **$75,000** for the next phase of its multi-year school-security improvement plan. The work will replace camera equipment that has reached or is approaching the end of its supported life, address identified coverage and image-quality limitations, and improve the consistency of security systems across district buildings.
   A phased replacement approach allows the district to prioritize the highest-need equipment, maintain compatibility with the district's technology infrastructure, and avoid a larger emergency replacement when obsolete systems fail or can no longer be supported. The project supports timely incident review and coordinated emergency response.
5. **HVAC Units for MDF Room- FHS :** The Facilities Departments requests **$100,000** to replace and upgrade the HVAC system supporting the Main Distribution Frame infrastructure at Franklin High School. The MDF is a central point for the school's network and communications systems and supports connectivity for instructional technology, administrative systems, wireless access, security systems, and other building operations.
   The current infrastructure has two HVAC units. One of the two existing units has failed, while the second is showing signs of wear and deterioration. . Failure at this location could interrupt multiple school and district systems simultaneously. The proposed work will address the identified infrastructure deficiencies, improve equipment protection and reliability, and provide appropriate capacity for current and anticipated technology demands.
6. **Classroom Infrastructure:** The Facilities Department requests **$100,000** for a defined phase of classroom infrastructure renewal identified through building walkthroughs, condition assessments, and the district reorganization process. The proposed work will address classrooms with the greatest documented need, including deteriorated wall surfaces, damaged or end-of-life flooring, and other building finishes that cannot be adequately addressed through routine custodial maintenance.
   Completing the work as a coordinated capital-renewal program will protect underlying building surfaces, reduce recurring patch repairs, and allow projects to be competitively procured and completed during periods of low building occupancy. Projects will be selected through documented condition criteria and reported by school, room, scope, and cost.
7. **School Window Air Conditioning Units:** The Facilities Department requests **$20,000** to purchase and install window air conditioning units in specifically identified instructional and program spaces at Lincoln Street and Franklin Middle School. These rooms are used during the summer for Extended School Year services and required summer learning, and other district programs service students and staff during the periods of elevated

temperature and humidity. The selected rooms currently lack adequate temperature control, limiting their suitability for sustained instructional use during hot weather.
Targeted installation will provide a practical short-term solution in spaces with documented summer use while the district continues its longer-term facilities planning. The request will support continuity of year-round programming and provide more appropriate environmental conditions for students, including students whose disabilities or health needs may make them particularly vulnerable to heat.

8. **ATS Infrastructure - Pond Street:** The Facilities Department requests **$70,000** to install Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) infrastructure at the Pond Street facility to support the connection of a portable emergency generator. This improvement will provide the necessary electrical infrastructure to safely and efficiently connect a temporary generator during power outages, allowing critical building systems and essential operations to remain functional. Installing the ATS will improve the facility's emergency preparedness, reduce potential disruptions to school and program operations, and provide a more reliable response to unexpected power interruptions. This investment will enhance the building's resilience and help ensure continuity of essential services during emergency situations.

The Franklin Technology Department also maintains a long-term plan to maintain the town and school's systems and assets. Below are the capital requests from Technology that pertain to schools:

**Technology Department Capital Improvement Requests for Town and Schools:**

1. **Town & School Virtual Environment Replacement:** The Technology Department is seeking to replace the Town and Schools' Virtual Environment hardware infrastructure. The minimum expected project cost is **$775,000**, with potential increase of up to 20% by the time capital is awarded in March/April. The project includes replacing two mirrored hardware systems, located at Franklin High School and the Town Municipal Building, that support hosted applications, locally stored user files, and disaster recovery backups. The existing seven-year-old system will no longer be eligible for vendor support beginning in August 2027, making replacement necessary to maintain reliable and secure technology operations.
2. **330 Chromebooks - FPS 6th Grade Students:** The Technology Department requests **$132,000** to replace 330 Chromebooks assigned to the incoming sixth-grade cohort as part of the district's established device-replacement cycle. The current devices are Dell Chromebooks purchased in 2020.
Sixth-Twelfth grade students rely on these devices for daily instruction, curriculum platforms, communication, and online assessment. Planned cohort replacement maintains a consistent, supportable device environment, reduces classroom disruption from hardware failures, and ensures students receive current operating-system and security updates. Purchasing the devices as a scheduled replacement is more efficient than responding to individual failures throughout the school year. These new Chromebooks are expected to last for six years.

Collectively, these requests address legally required student services, end-of-life equipment, continuity of essential operations, facility and technology risks, and planned renewal of district assets. The district has prioritized projects based on urgency, consequence of failure, number of students and programs affected, opportunity for cost avoidance, and readiness for implementation. Approval will allow the Town and district to address known needs through planned investment rather than emergency response, while projects not recommended for immediate funding will remain documented within the district's multi-year capital plan.

Also included is an appendix that identifies other school improvement projects being advanced through alternative funding sources, including state earmarks and Community Preservation Act funding, as well as future projects currently under development.

Appendix: Other School Improvement Projects & Alternative Funding Sources