

— March 5th 2026 —

Franklin School Committee

Keeping our community informed and connected to Franklin's schools

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how the School
Committee can better
serve you.

Welcome to the March 5, 2026 edition of the Franklin School Committee Newsletter.

This month's newsletter highlights the approval of the FY27 budget, the vote on the 2026–2027 school calendar, upcoming MCAS testing dates, and support of the Lowell Mason Arts Education Equity Act. We also recognize the outstanding work of our students and share important dates and resources to help you stay informed and engaged.

Based on your feedback, we are making it easier to access specific portions of our meeting recordings. Clicking on the section titles throughout this newsletter will now open the YouTube recording directly to the start of that agenda item.

Question of the month: What is one positive take away from the current school year that you've observed?
What is a hope you have for the next school year?
Click the feedback form link to the left to share your thoughts.

The Franklin Middle School Project 351 ambassadors, Madeline, Olivia, and Cameron, with support from FHS sophomore and 2024 alum Chloe Bowser, collected coats and jackets that will be distributed to community partners to help keep Franklin students warm this winter.

They will also be leading a children's clothing drive in the coming weeks and welcome the community's support. To learn more about Project 351, visit <https://project351.org>. Thank you for representing Franklin and embodying the principles of the [Portrait of a Graduate](#).



Pictured: Madeline Sampson, Chloe Bowser, Cameron Ethier, and Olivia Parker.

February 10th School Committee Meeting

FY27 Open Budget Hearing

The School Committee fulfilled its annual responsibility by conducting a detailed, line-by-line review of the FY2027 budget developed by Superintendent Guigire and his staff. During the review, members asked numerous questions to clarify changes and better understand the reasoning behind specific budget amounts.

The discussion and supporting materials reflected the care and thoroughness that went into building the budget, with a clear focus on serving students effectively while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The FY27 budget is available [here](#).

Lowell Mason Arts Education Equity Act

The School Committee recently voted to support the Lowell Mason Arts Education Equity Act, **House Bill 4297**. This legislation would dedicate an additional 1% of funding based on the district's Chapter 70 State allocation, specifically to expanding arts education in public schools across Massachusetts.

If enacted, the bill would assist in the assurance that every public school student has meaningful access to arts education (including music, visual arts, theatre, dance, and media arts) by supporting the hiring of additional certified arts educators and strengthening arts programming. The funding must supplement, not replace, existing arts programs.

The proposal aims to promote equity across districts, reinforce the arts as core academic subjects, and invest in students' creativity, engagement, and overall growth. The Massachusetts Legislature is currently considering the bill. If passed, it would take effect on July 1 following its passage.



Portrait of a Graduate

*"You can't use up creativity.
The more you use, the more
you have."
~ Maya Angelou*

February 24th School Committee Meeting

*"The most important day of a person's education is the first day of school, not Graduation Day."
~ Harry Wong*

FY27 Budget Vote

The FY27 Recommended School Budget was approved by a 7-0 vote. The approved budget of **\$72,341,254** reflects a 2.5% increase over the FY26 budget. Committee members expressed their appreciation for the efforts put forth by administration to prepare the recommendation early in the budget season, along with the extensive work that was put towards ensuring its overall transparency and accuracy. Additional gratitude was acknowledged to highlight some of the town councilors for their engagement in gaining a better understanding of the school budget.

Upcoming budget related meetings to note:

- Finance Committee Budget Hearings - April 6-9th
- Town Council Budget Hearings - May 20-21st
- Joint Budget Committee Meetings TBD

2026 - 2027 Calendar

The 2026-27 proposed FPS calendar was presented by Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Dr. Tina Rogers to the committee for review, discussion and vote. Survey results disclosed that 1,495 stakeholders participated in a three question- Calendar Input Survey, distributed in early February. The consolidated results were utilized not only to draft the calendar, but to provide community input to assist in the deliberation before its final approval.

Key take aways:

- Participation included 1,183 community members and 813 teachers
- Half days were reduced by 30% in FY27; 7 days down from 10 days in FY26.
- Professional Development days will consistently be held on Fridays. Impacted specials will be rotated to help minimize curriculum disruption.
- 75% of community respondents and 55.8% of educators were at the primary level, grades K-5, while 31-34% of respondents were at the secondary level, grades 6-12.

The school committee unanimously voted to approve the FY27 calendar.



2026 MCAS Schedule

Elementary

- April 1-2 Grade 3 ELA
- April 7-8 Grade 4 ELA
- April 9-10 Grade 5 ELA

- May 6-7 Grade 5 STE
- May 12-13 Grade 3 Math
- May 14-15 Grade 5 Math
- May 18-19 Grade 4 Math

Middle School

- March 25-26 Grade 6 ELA
- March 30-31 Grade 7 ELA

- April 1-2 Grade 8 ELA
- April 29-30 Grade 6 Math

- May 5-6 Grade 8 Math
- May 7-8 Grade 7 Math
- May 12-13 Grade 8 STE
- May 27-28 Grade 8 Civics

High School

- March 24-25 Grade 10 ELA
- May 19-20 Grade 10 Math
- June 2-3 Grade 9 Science



Upcoming School Committee Meetings

School Committee Meetings

- **March 10th at 6 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building.
- **March 24th at 6 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building.

Subcommittee Meetings

- **Budget Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Paul Griffith (Chair), Nadia Mausolf & Ruthann O'Sullivan
 - **Last meeting:** 12/9/25
 - **Upcoming meeting:** No upcoming meetings scheduled
- **Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Al Charles (Chair), Stephen Karunakaran & Nadia Mausolf
 - **Last meeting:** 2/9/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** March 15th at 6:30 PM
- **Policy Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Dave Callaghan (Chair), Al Charles & Reis Hansen
 - **Last meeting:** 1/13/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** March 6th at 8:15 AM
- **Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Paul Griffith (Chair), Stephen Karunakaran & Ruthann O'Sullivan
 - **Last meeting:** none for the 2025 - 2027 School Committee
 - **Upcoming meeting:** Subcommittee activity typically begin in the spring
- **Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Dave Callaghan (Chair), Reis Hansen & Ruthann O'Sullivan
 - **Last meeting:** 2/26/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** No upcoming meetings scheduled



Community Events

- **Jazz Cafe at FHS**
 - **March 6th at 6 PM** in the Franklin High School Cafeteria
- **Franklin High School Theater Company Presents: Animal Farm**
 - **March 13th at 7 PM** in the Franklin High School Auditorium
 - Entry for the show is free, but donations are appreciated.
- **DESE Presentation on Chapter 70**
 - **March 18th at 6 PM** during Town Council meeting
- **All Town Showcase Concerts**
 - Chorus & Orchestra
 - **March 17th at 6 PM** in the Franklin High School Auditorium
 - Bands
 - **March 19th at 6 PM** in the Franklin High School Auditorium
- **Franklin Conversation Q&A**
 - **March 18th at 11 AM** in the Franklin Senior Center
- **State & Town Officials' Breakfast/Coffee Hour**
 - **March 19th at 8:30 AM** in the Franklin Senior Center

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](#).



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 [2025 - 2026 Meeting Packets](#) section.
- 2025 - 2026 Franklin Public School calendar is available [here](#).
- There is a wealth of School Committee content available on the [Franklin School Committee website](#).
- 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.