February 6th 2026

Franklin School Committee

Keeping our community informed and connected to Franklin's schools

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

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STAY CONNECTED

Franklin Public Schools has a smartphone app!

Visit the **Apple Store** or **Google Play** to download. Sign up for school alerts to stay up-to-date with the latest news and alerts.

We value your feedback! Please share your thoughts and suggestions through our **feedback form** on how the School Committee can better serve you.

Budget Season is Upon Us

The new year School Committee meetings kicked off with important budget season discussions. These conversations will continue over the next few months. Notably the Open Budget SC hearing date is scheduled for February 10th at 6 PM. Community members are encouraged to participate, and will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

Another important update to note- future School Committee meetings will be held at 6pm on Tuesday evenings. We hope the earlier start time will encourage more community members to attend.

Other updates and presentations, summarized in this newsletter, were shared by Franklin High School, Central Office, ECDC, and Lifelong Learning, highlighting progress across the district.

Our monthly engagement question is back! This is your opportunity to share general feedback along with your thoughts on a specific topic with the Committee.

Question of the month: What additional, fee-based after-school programs/Clubs would you like to see offered at the Middle School? Click the feedback form link to the left to share your thoughts.

Congratulations to the 30+ FHS students who performed at all-district and the FHS Varsity Girls Swim Team on their **6th consecutive** Hockomock League Swim Championship





January 13th School Committee Meeting

Franklin High School Program of Studies

FHS Principal, Dr. Weber presented an overview on Franklin High Schools Program of Studies (PoS). A multi-phased process was utilized to conduct an extensive review of PoS programming resulting in the following notable adjustments.

- Innovation Career Pathways programming*
- Competency Determinations (Graduation requirements based off DESE guidelines)
- Course Proposals
- Curriculum Opt out district policy (Right to review)



Portrait of a Graduate

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

New course proposals linked to Visual & Performing Arts, Science, World Language, Social Studies, Health/PE, and Business were outlined. Introduced offerings include; Art Exploration, Learn to Jam, Honors Earth Science, Specialty Latin courses tailored to legal & medical fields, American History thru Sports, Ref Reps, Entrepreneurship 2, and AP Business w/Personal Finance.

*Innovation Career Pathways are State recognized pathways that connect students to high demand industries. Franklin currently has two DESE approved ICP's; Business & Finance, and Health & Social Assistance. Through structured coursework, real world experience, and employer partnerships, students are enabled to build valuable skills prior to graduation. Completion of an ICP concludes with a 100 hour Internship or Capstone experience with a community partner.

Office of Teaching and Learning

The School Committee received a comprehensive update from Dr. Tina Rogers, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, along with Elizabeth Morrison, Director of Curriculum for ELA & Social Studies, and Eric Stark, Director of Curriculum for STEM. The team provided an overview of the Office of Teaching and Learning goals & responsibilities, and shared results from key student assessments, including i-Ready and MCAS.

The Office of Teaching and Learning is focused on four primary goals:

- Expanding structured and collaborative professional learning time for educators
- Strengthening Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Ensuring high-quality, inclusive instruction for every student
- Enhancing communication to improve district-wide alignment and transparency in curriculum, instruction, and assessment

Progress toward these goals supports the district's commitment to delivering a high-quality education for all FPS students.

The Office of Teaching and Learning also monitors student achievement through assessments such as i-Ready and MCAS. Click **here** to view the full presentation and detailed results.

Little Solutions - Child Care Center

The School Committee received an update from Lifelong Learning Director, Patty Gay, on plans to launch a high quality toddler program for district staff. The program will follow Massachusetts Early Education and Care (EEC) guidelines, and early childhood best practices.

Enrollment is expected to open in August at the Pond Street location, with space for at least nine toddlers ages 15-33 months. This effort is an integral first step toward building a scalable program that supports the recruitment and retention of educators and staff, while modeling strong early childhood practices within the school community.

The School Committee will receive another progress update in May or June.

The replay of the 1/13 School Committee is available at this **link**.

January 27th School Committee Meeting

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
~ Benjamin Franklin

Superintendent FY27 Recommended Budget

The School Committee received a detailed presentation from Superintendent Guigere and School Business Administrator, Jana Melotti, on the recommended FY27 budget. The proposal focuses on protecting core programs, prioritizing students, and reducing reliance on one-time revolving funds to support long-term financial stability, while recognizing the Town's current structural deficit.

The recommended FY27 budget totals **$81,155,254**, representing a **3.8% increase over FY26**. This includes a **2.5% increase to the operating budget** and a substantial **14% increase in health insurance costs**.

District leaders shared their thoughtful and methodical approach to building the budget, emphasizing careful consideration of student impact and proactive steps to manage controllable expenses.

The full presentation is available **here**. The next step in the process is the Open Budget Hearing on February 10, where the School Committee will review each budget line item and ask questions of the Central Office team. Community members are welcome and encouraged to participate.Budget documentation will be available **here**.

The replay of the 1/27 School Committee is available at this link.

February 3rd School Committee Meeting

"The budget is not just a collection of numbers, but an expression of our values and aspirations."
~ Jack Lew

Healthcare Budget Transfer

The School Committee held a special meeting to review and vote on a proposed change to how employee healthcare costs are budgeted. The proposal would shift the healthcare line item out of the Franklin Public Schools (FPS) operating budget and into the Town's centralized Health Benefits budget. This approach would align the School Department with other municipal departments by managing all healthcare administration and premium costs in one place.

Centralizing healthcare is intended to improve consistency, efficiency, and transparency in how benefits are managed across the Town. It also provides a clearer picture of year-over-year school spending. Under the recommended FY27 budget, the FPS operating budget reflects a 2.5% increase when healthcare costs are excluded. When healthcare expenses are included, the overall increase is 3.6%.

This proposal was unanimously approved (7-0) by the School Committee. You can view the meeting at the Franklin School Committee **Youtube** page.



Upcoming School Committee Meetings

School Committee Meetings

- **February 10th at 6 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building.
- **February 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:** 1/12/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** February 9th at 6:30 PM

- **Policy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Dave Callaghan (Chair),** Al Charles & Reis Hansen
  - **Last meeting:** 1/13/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** No upcoming meetings scheduled

- **Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Paul Griffith (Chair)**, Stephen Karunakaran & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** none for the 2025 - 2027 School CommitteeUpcoming **meeting:** Subcommittee activity typically begin in the spring

- **Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Dave Callaghan (Chair)**, Reis Hansen & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** 1/23/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** February 26th at 2:30 PM

Community Events

- **Franklin High School Concert Hour Recitals**
  - **February 24th and 25th at 7 PM** in the Franklin High School Auditorium. Snow date for this event is February 26th

- **Franklin High School Theater Company Presents: Animal Farm**
  - **February 27th** in the Franklin High School Auditorium
  - **February 28th** in the Franklin High School Auditorium
  - **March 13th** in the Franklin High School Auditorium
    - Follow **https://www.instagram.com/fhstc** for ticket details.

- **Jazz Cafe at FHS**
  - **March 6th at 6 PM** in the Franklin High School Cafeteria

- **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

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**.