April 2nd 2026

Franklin School Committee

Keeping our community informed and connected to Franklin's schools

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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.

Welcome to the April 2, 2026 edition of the Franklin School Committee Newsletter.

This month's newsletter recaps highlights from our March School Committee meetings, including an inside look at Franklin Food Services, Lifelong Learning, and a DESE Student Opportunity Act funding overview. We also share the full 2026 MCAS testing schedule, upcoming community events, and important dates to keep on your calendar.

Reminder - Clicking any section title in this newsletter will now jump directly to that point in the YouTube recording.

Question of the month:
Recently we've engaged In community coversations at the Senior Center & the Lincoln St. Book Fair. What's the best way for us to connect with YOU? As we plan our quarterly outreach events, let us know where and how you'd like to engage with the School Committee.

Click the feedback form link to the left to share your thoughts.

Congratulations to the FHS Music program on their wins at MICCA!

- Concert Band and Wind Ensemble earned a Gold medal
- Franklin Repertory and Franklin String Orchestra earned a silver medal
- Concert Choir and Treble Choir earned a silver medal









March 10th School Committee Meeting

What's for lunch?

During the March 10th School Committee meeting, the Director of Operations, Colin Boisvert, along with Assistant Director of Food Services, Aaron Lenart shared an overview on the district's Food Service systems and operations.

Things to note:

- **Mr. Boisvert was awarded Food Service Director of the year!**
- A $10K grant enabled the district to onboard an Executive chef who incorporates fresh items into the menu like meat and produce.
- Approximately 18% of purchases are locally sourced. The lettuce from the fan-favorite salad bar is sourced from Little Leaf Farms in Devens, MA.
- A new Franklin Food Services logo was completed in a collaborative effort with FHS students.
- Franklin Food Services (FFS) provides the National School Lunch and Breakfast program (including Free & Reduced Meals), serving Pre-k thru 12.
- FFS serves Amego & the YMCA, through contracted services.
- FFS provides inner-district catering services.
- The Average FY25-26 student participation rate across all district schools is 64.7% for lunch and 17.2% for breakfast (thru Jan'26).
- Lunch items vary daily but occassionally include specialty items like Beef Brisket, Tamales, Bolognese & fresh fish.

All food service revenues and expenses are managed through a self-funded revolving account, and do not impact the general operating budget. Through strategic and forward thinking planning, timely investments have been made for new equipment, facility upgrades, and new metal trays, limiting the use of plastics.



Portrait of a Graduate

"A healthy outside starts from the inside." ~ Robert Urich

Mr. Lenart's intrinsic passion for his role was apparent as he shared Information on student engagement initiatives; theme days, corn shucking, and a fish bake -touch'n learn table. He also elaborated on staff structure and the importance of strong employee engagement, ensuring a positive atmosphere. Future initiatives include expanding the menu, production, strengthening partnerships, employee engagement/training and facilities improvements.

Committee members noted that even with the Universal Free Lunch Program, it is still recommended to apply for Free and Reduced if needed.

Check out the Food Service YouTube page **here**.

March 18th Town Council Meeting

"Let us not think of education only in terms of its costs, but rather in terms of the infinite potential of the human mind that can be realized through education." ~ John F. Kennedy

DESE Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Presentation

Representatives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Director of School Finance Rob O'Donnell and State Aid Programs Manager Meghan Ryan, recently presented to the Town Council on the Chapter 70 funding formula. Their overview explained how the local contribution is determined and highlighted the impact of the hold harmless provision, which provides Franklin with more than $13 million annually in additional state funding due to the siginficant student population increase in the 90s.

The full slides for the presentation are found **here**.

March 24th School Committee Meeting

"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you." ~ B.B. King

Lifelong Learning Presentation

Patricia Gay, Director of Lifelong Learning, recently provided an overview of the district's Lifelong Learning program, highlighting its wide range of offerings, recent improvements, and exciting additions on the horizon.

Lifelong Learning encompasses several programs, including the Solutions Program, Community Learning, Music Academy, Summer Program, and more. Like Food Services, the program is fully self-funded and operates across seven locations, serving more than 2,195 children and adult participants.

Looking ahead, Lifelong Learning is expanding its offerings with the introduction of a staff childcare program set to launch this fall. For more Information on this fantastic opportunity, reach out to Ms. Gay.

Families and community members can explore programs and register online at: https://www.franklinlifelonglearning.com/

New Resource!

The district has developed its **News You Can Use** webpage as a paperless alternative to traditional backpack flyers. Parents and guardians can visit the page to find approved notices and flyers from FPS, Town of Franklin departments, non-profit community organizations, and local businesses.

2026 MCAS Schedule

Elementary

- 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

- May 19-20 Grade 10 Math
- June 2-3 Grade 9 Science



Upcoming School Committee Meetings

School Committee Meetings

- **April 14th at 7 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building.

Subcommittee Meetings

- **Budget Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Paul Griffith (Chair)**, Nadia Mausolf & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** 3/24/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** Joint Budget Subcommittee 4/16/26 - representatives from Finance Committee, Town Council & School Committee

- **Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Al Charles (Chair)**, Stephen Karunakaran & Nadia Mausolf
  - **Last meeting:** 3/15/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** April 8th at 6:40 PM

- **Policy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Dave Callaghan (Chair),** Al Charles & Reis Hansen
  - **Last meeting:** 3/6/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** April 10th 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 begins in the spring

- **Horace Mann Legacy Subcommittee**
  - **Members: Dave Callaghan (Chair)**, Reis Hansen & Ruthann O'Sullivan
  - **Last meeting:** 3/30/26
  - **Upcoming meeting:** No upcoming meetings scheduled

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



Community Events

- **Finance Committee Budget Hearings**
  - **April 6th - 9th at 6 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building
    - April 6th - General Government
    - April 7th - Schools
    - April 8th - Public Safety & DPW
    - April 9th - If necessary

- **FHS Family Science Night**
  - **April 9th at 5:30 PM - 8 PM** in the Franklin High SchooL
  - This free event offers PK-6 students the opportunity to engage directly with our Science National Honor Society students through a wide variety of hands-on demonstrations and interactive activities. All are welcome to attend!
  - Details about the FHS Science National Honor Society and the Family Science Night can be found **here**.

- **Franklin Conversation Q&A**
  - **April 15th at 11 AM** in the Franklin Senior Center & Virtual.

- **State & Town Officials' Breakfast/Coffee Hour**
  - **April 16th at 8:30 AM** in the Franklin Senior Center

- **State & Town Officials' Breakfast/Coffee Hour**
  - **May 3rd** more information to come

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**.
- **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**.