

— September 3rd 2026 —

Franklin School Committee

Keeping our community informed and connected to Franklin's schools

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

[Summer Learning
Program Review](#)

[New Administrators](#)

[2026-2027 Student
Handbook Updates](#)

[Transportation and
Summer Facilities
Update](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Resources](#)



Welcome to the first edition of the School Committee newsletter for the 2026-2027 school year! We hope you had a great summer and are ready for another exciting year in Franklin Public Schools.

The School Committee started the year by focusing on many of the important items that help prepare the district for a new school year, including staffing, summer facilities work, transportation, student handbook updates, and more.

In the coming meetings, the School Committee will also review the District and School Improvement Goals, along with the Superintendent's goals for the year ahead.

Continue reading for highlights from the August School Committee meetings. You can also watch the meeting recording by clicking the  **YouTube** icon to go to the start of that portion of the meeting.

We look forward to a great year and to continuing our work advocating for Franklin Public Schools students, staff, and families.

August 11th School Committee Meeting YouTube

Summer Learning Program Review YouTube

Paula Marano & Pattie Gay provided an update on the learning opportunities available to students this summer.

The **Extended School Year Program**, which supports students who require additional services as recommended by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), ran from July 6 through August 6. Approximately 75% of eligible students participated, receiving individualized academic, behavioral, and functional skill support. The program also included opportunities beyond the classroom, such as community trips, visits from Franklin Police Department staff, and time at a local splash pad.

The committee also received an update on the NECC Partner Program, which was currently in progress for students who receive services through the New England Center for Children.

For students who were looking for additional summer activities and learning opportunities, Lifelong Learning offered a wide variety of programs open to students in kindergarten through grade 12. This summer, 1,018 students enrolled across numerous programs.

While summer may be over, Lifelong Learning continues to offer programs for both students and adults throughout the year. Learn more about current offerings at [**Franklin Public Schools' Lifelong Learning page.**](#)



Portrait of a Graduate

"One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by." ~ Jeannette Walls

August 25th School Committee Meeting YouTube

New Administrators YouTube

While students were enjoying their summer break, Franklin Public Schools staff were busy preparing for the new school year and filling important positions across the district.

Nine new members have joined the administrative and district staff teams:

- Gary Brown, FHS Athletics Director
- Elizabeth Burch, Lincoln K-5 Administrator of Student Services
- Lisa Burger, Washington K-5 Interim Administrator of Student Services
- Kayla Harris, Washington 3-5 Assistant Principal
- Mark Gaffney, FHS Assistant Principal
- Kate Merten, Assistant Director of Innovation & Instructional Technology
- Nicole Green, Human Resources Generalist
- Krystale Bithoney, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
- Suzanne Roma, Nurse Leader

The Human Resources team is continuing its work to fill remaining ESP and non-union positions. Current openings are posted on [SchoolSpring](#).

2026-2027 Student Handbook Updates YouTube

School leaders provided an overview of updates to the student handbooks for the upcoming school year.

Most changes at the ECDC and elementary schools were relatively minor and focused on areas such as arrival/dismissal procedures, food & beverages, photographs and social media.

More significant updates were made to the Franklin Middle School and Franklin High School handbooks. Several of the changes address the growing role of artificial intelligence, including expectations for AI use, generative AI, and deepfakes.

At FHS, additional updates include changes to community service requirements, academic dishonesty policies, and the tardy policy. The handbook also includes updates to the cell phone policy in anticipation of a proposed **bell-to-bell restriction** on cell phone use during the school day.

A district-wide update was also made to the policies and procedures regarding physical restraint and seclusion, to align with state guidelines.

School handbooks can be found **here**.

Transportation Update **YouTube**

There are approximately 2,600+ students registered to ride the school bus for the FY26-27 school year. Routes were developed based off the following criteria; Safety, geographic distribution, Bus & Program capacity, Ride time, Traffic Flow, Regulations, District Policy, & Contractual requirements. Bus routes are posted by school under the transportation tab on the FPS website.

If you have any questions about ridership, contact **schoolbus@franklinps.net**

Summer Facilities Update **YouTube**

Colin Boisvert provided an update on the many facilities projects completed throughout the district this summer, as well as preparations for the new school year's transportation needs.

Work took place at every Franklin Public Schools location and ranged from routine annual maintenance to larger improvement projects, including the revitalization of the Lincoln Street courtyard.

Projects were funded through a variety of sources, including Community Preservation Act funding, revolving funds, Department of Public Works funding, donations, and other resources.

The majority of projects were completed before the start of the school year, while some additional work will continue throughout the year.



Community Events

Franklin SEPAC for Popsicles on the Playground

- **September 11th at 3:30 PM** at the Nason Street Playground. Click [here](#) for the flyer with additional details and to RSVP. If you have any questions, email FranklinSepac@gmail.com.

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

- **September 8th at 7 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building
- **September 22nd at 7 PM** in the Franklin Municipal Building

Subcommittee Meetings

- **Budget Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Paul Griffith (Chair), Nadia Mausolf & Ruthann O'Sullivan
 - **Last meeting:** 4/16/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** 10/13/26
- **Community Relations/Public Schools Advocacy Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Al Charles (Chair), Stephen Karunakaran & Nadia Mausolf
 - **Last meeting:** 6/18/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** 9/29/26 (*tentative*)
- **Policy Subcommittee**
 - **Members:** Dave Callaghan (Chair), Al Charles & Reis Hansen
 - **Last meeting:** 8/11/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** 9/8/26
- **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:** 8/21/26
 - **Upcoming meeting:** 9/14/26

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**.