



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee

October 11, 2022,

10/7 PD

On Friday, October 7th, FPS staff participated in an early-release professional development day.

- PreK - Teachers began a course on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support through a partnership with Project Aspire. Some staff also continued their coursework in the Safety Care approach to student support.
- Elementary and Middle Schools - Our elementary and middle school staff worked within their buildings to examine student data and calibrate effective approaches to supporting student growth through goal setting.
- High School - The high school participated in department-guided professional development to support curriculum alignment and implementation.

We are currently preparing for our full professional development day on November 8th. The morning of November 8th will kick off our 2-year PK-5 Science of Reading PD, while the secondary level will focus on building-based initiatives. Last year the feedback on the full-day PD from our teachers was positive regarding opportunities to collaborate on the district, school, and/or team initiatives. As such, the afternoon will focus on offering a menu of choices. The Office of Teaching and Learning sent a Request for Proposals to all educators. They were asked to consider facilitating one of three types of sessions:

1. Present an idea or strategy to colleagues
2. Facilitate a roundtable discussion
3. Lead a collaborative planning session.

We are excited to report we have already received over 70 responses! Sessions led by colleagues, school and district administrators, and outside providers.

Late Buses

https://www.franklinps.net/sites/g/files/vyhlif4431/f/uploads/franklin_late_2022-2023.pdf

After-school clubs and activities began at the middle schools and high school last week, and late buses began operating. We were able to staff 4 late buses this year, vs. 5 in prior years. General routes are posted on the transportation website, but bus stops will vary daily based on who is actually riding. Students might not be dropped off at their regular bus stop but should be within a ½ mile from their homes. Routes have started later than anticipated and have taken longer this past week.

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice”
Equal Opportunity Employer

- We are working with Holmes Bus Company to make adjustments to reduce the time students spend on the bus, and they are also trying to get the buses to the schools earlier.
- We encourage parents to review the late bus routes with their students so the student knows which bus to take and which stop to get off. Please reach out to schoobus@franklinps.net with any questions.

Opting Out of Sexual Education

As a follow-up to the last meeting's citizen's comment regarding opting out of parts of the curriculum. The MGL, c. 71, sec. 32A was referenced, and I wanted to take this opportunity to share more information regarding the law.

- MGL, c. 71, sec. 32A affords parents/guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from the curriculum, which primarily involves human sexual education without penalty.
- In accordance with MGL, c. 71, sec. 32A, the Franklin School Committee has adopted a policy IHAM-E which outlines Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education
 - Each school year, the District **notifies** parents/guardians and provides a description of the human growth and development/human sexuality curriculum that will be covered. The notice includes
 - information regarding parental rights to **exempt** their child from any portion of the human development and human sexuality curriculum
 - The right to **review** instructional materials to the extent practicable upon written request to the principal.
 - Students who are exempt from the human sexuality curriculum will be provided an alternative activity/assignment and will receive credit for completed work.
- The opt-out law focuses on a course or curriculum "which *primarily* involves" human sex education or sexuality, which is defined as
 - "Curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, courses (typically, discrete units of health education) for which the instruction and materials focus principally on human development, the biological processes of human reproduction and sexual development."
- Aspects of the curriculum which are not primarily involved in such matters are not included in the opt-out program pursuant to MGL, c. 71, sec. 32A.
 - Massachusetts law does not prohibit instruction in a curriculum such as English, History, or Science where themes related to human sexuality are embedded in the course materials but not the course's primary subject.
 - In Franklin Public Schools, the work related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will focus on themes of belonging, identity, and equitable access for all students - there is no opt-out for belonging or this goal.

Staffing

As requested, we have a staffing update.