



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee April 27, 2021

Budget Update

The Massachusetts House of Representatives recently released their budget; the House (and eventually Senate) budget typically adds to the Governor's Budget, which is released at the end of January.

The House Ways and Means budget increased Chapter 70, overall, putting the state on track to fund the Student Opportunity Act over six, not seven years, and meet the goal of full funding by FY27. While this is important progress for districts, most districts remain at minimum aid.

For Franklin, like the Governor's budget, the House budget bases Chapter 70 school aid at \$30 minimum increase per pupil, based on our October 1, 2020 enrollment numbers and the value is identical between the two budgets. The House Ways and Means Charter school tuition reimbursement is a decrease from the Governor's budget, however this is largely negated due to a lowered Charter tuition assessment.

The House Ways and Means budget set aside \$40 million for grants for pandemic related enrollment fluctuations given that many districts lost enrollment for October 2020 and may see increases for October 2021. For Franklin, Jerry McKibben noted that we did see a decrease from his projection (which had already projected a decrease) of about 2.2%. We may see an increase in October 2021 and we are watching numbers very carefully. That being said, these grants will take many factors into consideration, including whether the municipality is receiving any aid above their target share as a result of having a municipal contribution below their target share. We noted in our budget hearing presentation that Franklin is, indeed, receiving above the target share, so there may not be much enrollment related grant money if this formula is approved.

In line with House 1, the House Ways and Means Committee's budget includes \$367 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker account, a \$22.5 million increase over fiscal 2021. The Student Opportunity Act expanded the circuit breaker by including out-of-district transportation, an important enhancement for cities and towns.

The House is entertaining amendments and a Senate version will come out within the next few months.

Values can be followed on the DLS "Cherry Sheet":

<https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=CherrySheets.CSbyProgMunis.MuniBudgEst>

Staff Appreciation

Spring is an exciting time to recognize our staff. Recent and upcoming recognitions include:

1. Administrative Professional Appreciation -- April 21
2. Principal appreciation day -- May 1
3. Teacher appreciation week -- May 3 -- May 7
4. School Lunch Hero -- May 7

DT/Keller Transition

We are currently at the point of implementing the Transition Plan that was shared with faculty/staff and families for input during March and early April. The Steering Committee continues to meet monthly to learn updates and shape next steps. The last meeting was held in person at the Keller Elementary School. Committee members took a comprehensive tour of the school. Input from that meeting will help to shape a video and in person tours that are being planned for the future. Additionally, in the coming weeks, staff will begin to engage in discussions related to student placement and curriculum planning.

FHS Student Achievements

We had 150 students compete this year with DECA. 85 moved on to the State Competition and another 25 moved onto Nationals. One solo student (Elaine Pu) qualified into the final round (top 20) but will be unable to compete due to timing. A team (Vinay Bilaji, Prem Pendkar, and Shreyas Kumar) have also qualified for the top 20 and will be presenting in front of a live judge on Friday morning. I have attached their paper and recorded presentation. Furthermore, FHS has a DECA elected officer for the first time in 20 years -- Anish Gunimeda is a MA DECA State Officer. He and his State Officer team have introduced the development of the MA DECA Cultural Advisory Board that has been formed to promote inclusivity throughout the MA DECA organization.