

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: FHS Athletics Plan if Remote

Date: January 12, 2021

Dept: FHS Athletics

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

FHS Athletics if Remote

I recommend approval of the plan for athletics if remote as discussed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
A Bergen:	Y / N
J D'Angelo:	Y / N
J Pond-Pfeffer:	Y / N
E Stokes:	Y / N

T Keenan:	Y / N
M J Scofield:	Y / N
D Spencer:	Y / N
Action:	_____



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
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Phone: 508-553-4819*

To: Franklin School Committee

From: Sara E. Ahern, Ed.D., Superintendent

Date: January 7, 2021

RE: FHS Participation in MIAA Athletics if Remote Only

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) presented *Joint Guidance on Modified Sports Seasons for School Year 2020-2021* on August 18, 2020. This guidance outlines a modified sports schedule for the organization taking the *Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Guidance* provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) into consideration. This guidance was ratified by the MIAA board on August 19, 2020. Additional guidance has been issued for safe competition of fall and winter sports.

When the school year began, FPS students started the year remotely, and the Franklin School Committee voted to approve the participation of its high school student-athletes in the MIAA sports seasons. This vote was required by DESE due to the remote learning environment. At that time, health metrics including case counts and percent positivity in Franklin were different than they are today. The high school has since transitioned to a hybrid learning environment.

Although current health data suggest remaining in a hybrid model, we are prepared to pivot the entire school to remote learning under two conditions. One condition would involve moving to remote learning as a result of difficulty staffing the school due to faculty/staff attendance and challenges with securing substitutes. This has happened on occasion in other schools in the district and would likely be short in duration (1-2 days). Alternatively, health data may require that Franklin High School move into remote learning for a longer duration of time due to situations including but not limited to a cluster of cases within FHS or a significant municipal outbreak.

Under these latter circumstances (health metrics), it would likely be unwise for athletes to continue with their athletic competitions. Therefore, I recommend that the School Committee vote to discontinue participation in MIAA athletics should health metrics in the community, after consultation with the local health department, result in a move to remote only learning.