

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: FY20 Budget

Date: August 13, 2019

Dept: School Committee

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

Budget Discussion and Revised Budget

I recommend that the School Committee adopt a revised FY 20 budget of \$64,702,500.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
A. Bergen: Y / N	D. Schultz: Y / N
C. Douglas: Y / N	MJ Scofield: Y / N
D. Feeley: Y / N	G. Zub: Y / N
M. Linden: Y / N	Action: _____



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4819*

To: Franklin School Committee
From: Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Schools
Date: August 8, 2019
Re: Additional Allocation Request for FY 20

As you are aware, the final FY 20 State Budget is more favorable towards Franklin than the House Budget upon which the approved FY 20 Franklin Public Schools Budget was based. On August 6, 2019, the Franklin School Committee's Budget Subcommittee met to discuss the final FY 20 State Budget that was signed by Governor Baker last week. Although additional allocations, when available due to revised state budgets, are considered by Town Council in the fall, I submitted a respectful request on behalf of the School Committee's Budget Subcommittee that the Town Council approve an additional allocation to the Franklin Public Schools for FY 20 in the amount of \$102,500.

This allocation would go towards two items, which were listed as a means of reducing the \$2.2 million budget gap. Time is important as these items are time sensitive due to school starting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

Eliminate the High School Parking Fee *\$52,500*

The School Committee instituted a new parking fee at Franklin High School as part of its revised budget in the amount of \$150 per student vehicle. This fee would have been applied to the ongoing maintenance of the lots through the DPW and it would require an agreement between the schools and the town.

While this was certainly a consideration when proposed, we are concerned about the management and enforcement of this fee by our administrators in an already complex situation to administer.

Include 2 Kindergarten Educational Support Professionals (ESP) *\$50,000*

The School Committee's original budget included 6 K ESPs, one for each elementary school. Over the course of budget discussions, it was determined that we could only support 4 through the budget and 2 were part of the reduction list when the gap was closed. These positions are critical for instructing students in small groups according to their academic and social-emotional needs in the earliest years when students' school experiences vary widely and intervention can be most successful for the long-term success.

This is creating an inequitable situation and we see a need within all of our elementary schools for additional classroom support.

In advance of Town Council's review of a resolution to this effect at their Wednesday, August 14, 2019 meeting, I recommend that the School Committee adopt a revised FY 20 budget of \$64,702,500, which includes an increase of \$102,500 for the items described above.