



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee January 22, 2019 School Committee Meeting**

#### **Weather Conditions**

I would like to thank our DPW and facilities staff for the diligent work and communication over the weekend. This storm had been particularly difficult to clean up after, given the accumulation of snow, followed by sleet, and the rapid overnight freeze on Sunday evening. The prolonged cold limits the effectiveness of salt and sand, leaving ice on streets, sidewalks, and parking lots. I also want to thank the staff, students, and families for patience in arrival today.

We instituted Emergency Busing and on mornings such as these, we are lenient with attendance in our understanding that arrival takes time under these conditions. We will continue Emergency Busing for Wednesday, January 23.

Again, we want to thank everyone for their patience.

#### **Franklin Cultural District**

This announcement has previously gone out but I want to make sure you are aware that the Franklin has been awarded Cultural District Status by the State of Massachusetts. It was a unanimous vote of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, making Franklin the 46th Cultural District in the state. This status makes the FCD eligible for a variety of state grant programs, state economic development opportunities and monies, strategic planning and historic preservation assistance, and marketing through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

#### **Project 351 Ambassador**

We are pleased to announce this year's Project 351 Ambassador from Franklin.

Project 351 shares the following information about the program:

"Our story began in 2011, when former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick sought to celebrate his second inaugural with a focus on young people and community. The concept of Project 351, which had been developed by Carolyn Casey, reflected Governor Patrick's belief in

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice"  
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the Beloved Community and the unlimited potential of young people. His embrace led to the realization of Project 351 as a one-day celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., statewide unity, and youth leadership.” Project 351 website: <https://project351.org/the-351-story>

Each year, an eighth grader from each of the Commonwealth’s municipalities participates in this leadership development experience and related service projects.

This year, Franklin’s representative is Aimee Alston, an 8th grader at Remington Middle School. We look forward to sharing more about Aimee’s experience at the recent kick off this past weekend in boston as well as her developing service project. Congratulations Aimee!

### **Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Mid-Winter Meeting**

MASS Mid-Winter meeting: Thursday January 24, 2018 -- I will be attending with Dr. Joyce Edwards

We will start with a breakfast meeting with the MAPLE consortium to connect with those like districts that are pursuing personalized learning for students.

After that, we will hear from keynote speaker will be Andrew Calkins, Director, Next Generation Learning Challenges. His remarks are entitled, “Five Reasons Why Massachusetts’ Schools Can Genuinely Lead the Nation – and What That Would Look Like If It Were True.”

According to the MASS program: “The Commonwealth’s public schoolchildren already lead in one important metric: NAEP scores. But the 21st century demands much deeper, broader competencies of its high school graduates. Educators and communities in Massachusetts and across the nation are exploring the school, learning, and measurement approaches that can enable student development of those competencies. Who’s gone the farthest and showing the most promising early outcomes? Gloucester resident and national reform catalyst Andy Calkins can paint that picture; his non-profit, Next Generation Learning Challenges, has helped educators develop many of the nation’s most advanced next gen learning schools. In his keynote and in the superintendent panel that will follow, Andy will describe and clarify the enormous opportunities – as well as the complex challenges – we face in making Massachusetts’ schools #1 in all of the ways that count most.”

We look forward to sharing more about our professional development experience with the Committee upon our return.

