



Franklin Public Schools

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

Superintendent's Report to School Committee

May 25, 2021

Fire Last Evening

Our thoughts go out to the Franklin citizens and families affected by yesterday's fire at Franklin Crossing. Upon learning of the situation, our principals identified and reached out to potentially involved families and they mobilized resources such as assistant principals and counselors.

I really want to thank those who have reached out and offered support. We will be in touch on ways you can contribute.

MASS Spring Meeting

Today marks one year since the murder of George Floyd in police custody. Undoubtedly, educators and students continue to reflect on and discuss the tragedy and related events that occur both nationally as well as locally. The DEI Committee continues its work and I will be sharing more the the SC and community prior to the end of the school year.

We are not alone in our work. DESE has recently issued some resources, which we will review, as related to cultural proficient teaching practices in the classroom. Our associations, including MASCD, MSAA, and MASS are also partners in this work.

The spring meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents is this Thursday, May 27, 2021. The focus of the meeting will be on learning more about and contributing to the MASS Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy. District Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents will share what they are learning from the students in their district, reflect on the importance of this work, and define the "what" of the work ahead. It will tie to the professional learning of the MASS summer institute. I have been asked to be a facilitator during the breakout groups.

Budget Update

The MA Senate Ways and Means budget was released for FY 22. Overall, Chapter 70 funding is identical to the GOVERNOR's and House budget previously released, as state aid is based on an additional \$30 per pupil. Overall the balance to Franklin is a slight decrease in aid, largely due to a decrease in Charter tuition reimbursement. The Senate proposal fully funds Circuit Breaker at 75% and includes costly specialized transportation as noted in the Student Opportunities Act; this is proposed to be funded at higher rates than the previous two budget

iterations. Budget amendments were filed and the Senate began debating those today. There will be a reconciliation process before the final budget is delivered. Bottom line: no major changes.

Bravo - Mental Health and Substance Use Forum

Many thanks to Lucas Giguere, Paula Marano, Anne Bergen and representatives from SAFE, William James Project Interface, and YouInc for the informative and helpful presentation last evening on addressing mental health and substance use among young people. The presenters were both contricutive and optimistic while also empathetic and realistic about the challenges facing our community in addressing mental health and substance abuse. We will post a video and share the presentation soon.

Mike D'Angelo Shares His Expertise with Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a Virtual Roundtable via Zoom on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

At this Roundtable, there will be a discussion on the history of Germicidal UV-C technology as a solution for creating safe and healthy buildings. Panelists will review current application standards, contaminant/ virus survival times and how to calculate UVGI dose for a target 95% inactivation rate. We'll discuss the results of recent studies, UVGI system options, costs and benefits and learn about the Town of Franklin UV-C journey and challenges to ensure student, staff, and teacher safety for today and beyond in 19 of their municipal buildings. Mike will be presenting with Steve Di Giacomo | Founder & Professional Engineer, Energy Management Associates.