



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee August 13, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Leadership Retreats this Week

Our leadership retreats will be taking place over the next two days. Tomorrow, we will have a retreat with the District Leadership Team, comprised of the central office administrators and the principals. Our focus will be about taking some next steps in our work related to cultural proficiency. We have been doing great work in this area, particularly as related to responding to incidents of bias when they arise. We are seeking to be more explicit and intentional in our work by embedding additional culturally responsive practice in the curriculum, professional development, practices, and hiring.

On Thursday, we will have a day long retreat with the entire Administrative Team, comprised of all central office administrators, including assistant directors, principals, assistant principals, and the directors of Lifelong Learning and Food Services. We will continue our work on Cultural Proficiency with this team. Additionally we will review a draft of the District Improvement initiatives this year and provide time for school teams to develop School Improvement Goals. Of course, there are a few "Nuts and Bolts" items related to the opening of school.

Back to School Traditions

Many think that back to school happens on August 26 when our faculty and staff return and then on August 27, 2019, when our students return. I want to recognize, though, that there are a multitude of building-based events happening across our schools to celebrate at this time as well as to ease the anxiety that comes with transitions. Many thanks to our principals for putting orientations and gatherings together.

While several buildings hold such events, the most notable might be High School experience, which had another fantastic turnout last week. Many thanks to Chris Nayer, Director of Lifelong Learning, Kristin Letendre, our Director of Wellness, as well as the staff and students who worked the sessions so that nearly 350 of our freshmen feel included and welcome at FHS next year!

Hiring Update

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice"
Equal Opportunity Employer

I am pleased to share that we are closing in on fully staffing our buildings for the year. We have a few open positions but our administrators are moving quickly, but thoroughly through our processes to bring on highly effective faculty and staff. We will host the new teaching staff next week at our annual three-day New Teacher Orientation, where they learn a lot about district and building expectations. The highlight is a bus tour and we even have an exciting and seasonal surprise for this cohort of new teachers. We are very enthusiastic about these new hires -- our principals have done phenomenal work in identifying candidates. We will share our new hires at the next School Committee meeting.