



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee November 24, 2020 School Committee Meeting

FY 21 Budget Update

The Senate Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives released their FY 21 budgets recently. Here is a link to the "cherry sheet" estimates.

<https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=CherrySheets.CSbyProgMunis.MuniBudgEst>

Continuing with the trend that we have experienced with the interim budgets thus far, Ch. 70 aid to Franklin for FY 21 remains at FY 20 levels (with a small bump for inflation but no minimum aid increase). The ratio of Charter reimbursement vs. tuition assessment leaves Franklin with less \$ than FY 20. However, we no longer anticipate major cuts to Ch 70 funding, as we did over the summer. When the Governor proposed his budget, he suggested that the state would look to make up for lesser revenue by using the state's rainy day account OR additional funding that may occur as part of a new federal stimulus package. The House budget contains a continued amount for Coronavirus relief at \$25 per student (\$75 if low SES). None of the budgets include Student Opportunity Act funding.

The budgets were sent to the Conference Committee yesterday and the legislature will be debating and amending the budgets over the next few weeks.

The House and Senate budgets differ in Circuit Breaker reimbursement. The Senate level funds at \$345M; House is at \$328M.

At this time of year, we typically engage in a round of fall Capital proposals for funding. Fall capital is on hold in an effort to budget cautiously while the remainder of the FY 21 budget comes into view with the state and FY 22 begins to shape up. There may be a possible spring round of capital once more is certain about both FY 21 and FY 22.

I have mentioned this to the Budget Subcommittee and would like to inform the entire committee. We have been invited to attend the December 15 Finance Committee meeting. Miriam and I will be spending time over the next few weeks preparing for that, as they have provided us with some thoughtful and important questions about school finances.

Winter Athletics at FHS

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

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) just announced the plans for the winter season. Registration for winter sports will begin via FamilyID on Wednesday, November 25 and will be open until Friday, December 4.

Winter season practices may begin on December 14. The sports that will run are Basketball, Ice Hockey, Gymnastics, and Swimming. Indoor track will be moved to the Fall 2 season (February). Wrestling and winter cheerleading are being moved to the spring.

Modifications are being made to these sports as suggested by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines. They were approved by the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee and MIAA COVID-19 Taskforce.

MIAA Sports-specific modifications:

http://www.miaa.net/content/easy_pages/view.php?sid=38&page_id=317

EEA Guidelines:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iii-step-2-effective-11720/download>

Downtown Decorations

I received a very complimentary note regarding our girls' ice hockey team. Team members were downtown Saturday morning decorating planter barrels and assisting with the decorating of the island/railroad bridge section. They were supported by the Garden Club, Downtown Partnership, and various community volunteers. Thanks to our students!

Donation Details

Later this evening, as part of the consent agenda, is the acceptance of a donation for \$3500. The Franklin Education Foundation received this funding from Dell Technologies in order to support the FHS Robotics Club, advised by teacher Alyssa Taranto. We appreciate FEF's assistance as well as the donation from Dell.

Staples #ThankATeacher

An Oak parent nominated Ms. Jenna Perro, first grade teacher, for the Staples #ThankATeacher program. Ms. Perro won and was recognized last Thursday and the school was awarded a \$5,000 Staples Award. Congratulations to Ms. Perro and Oak St. Elementary School!