



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

March 9, 2021

March 3 Professional Development Recap

The District held a half day professional development day last week, on March 3. Sessions included:

- PreK-12 Staff: Pool Testing Orientation; PD activities as directed by their principal which included a focus on curriculum and instruction in the hybrid environment as well as other initiatives such as cultural proficiency.
- REACH staff worked with a consultant from Consulting Associates for Children and Youth. They discussed what should be universal across the program and what should be tailored and responsive to the developmental differences across the age span and the needs of individual students and particular groups of students. They examined the Mission and Purpose, Vision, Guiding Principles for the Work and Critical Features of the Services and Settings in REACH.

A Note about Singing Instruction

We are aware that many are eager for us to implement the new DESE guidance which permits singing instruction in person indoors with additional safety measures and precautions. We are pleased with this advancement in this content area, however we are not rushing to begin this District-wide as we are actively considering how our spaces will need to be used for full and in person instruction (which will be discussed later this evening). Once some initial parameters are set, we will then take the new guidance into consideration where possible.

DT/Keller Transition Update

The Steering Committee of parents/guardians, educators, and administrators from the DT and Keller communities held their first meeting last week on March 4. It is a wonderful group of people with the same, consensus goal: to provide a positive and smooth transition for DT students to the Keller school. The second meeting will be tomorrow and the group will weigh in on a draft set of action steps as part of a formal Transition Plan. This Transition Planning document will be published next week for input from families and faculty/staff and a final version will be published shortly thereafter.

Question about Cold Chain Technology

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

This company manufactures the containers the vaccine is shipped in. I inquired about their possible contributions to a vaccine clinic and it does not seem feasible as they are not a vaccine manufacturer. Vaccine doses are distributed through the government; we continue to advocate for a local vaccine here in Franklin through our legislators and contacts.

SEL Event by Senate President Karen E. Spilka

Senate President invites families to a virtual event that she is hosting on March 19th, “Supporting our Students through COVID-19 and Beyond.” She writes, “I know that this time has not been easy on our students. Their future success depends on their continued social-emotional learning, particularly skills like self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and healthy relationship-building. I am holding this event, in collaboration with the Rennie Center, to ensure that the members of our communities and schools are equipped with the tools and knowledge to support student’s health and wellbeing. A part of my Metro West Kids Initiative, this is my fourth annual Social Emotional Forum – and while I am happy to say that past year’s events have been successes, never before has the need been so great.

If you would like to RSVP to the event, which will be held on Zoom, please do so here: <https://karenspilka.com/sel>. The event will be from 10:00 am to noon on March 19th. The event will feature experts in education and social-emotional learning.”