



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee May 11, 2021**

#### **Budget Update**

Last Tuesday, May 4, Miriam Goodman and I presented the School Committee's Budget to the town Finance Committee. The budget figure is \$67,914,184; increase over FY2021 by \$2,255,684 or 3.44%. The Committee voted to recommend the budget to Town Council. The Town Council budget hearing will be May 26.

The major takeaways of the conversation included:

- Curiosity about the consultant regarding long term facilities planning/redistricting and forecast of enrollment of students in the district.
- They also asked about the Student Opportunity Act. We noted that the SOA does not provide much additional funding for Franklin in Chapter 70 due to our hold harmless and the \$11 M excess aid over target; we will get \$30 minimum aid per student. We noted that SOA supports Franklin most in the area of funding of Circuit Breaker for large special education costs and the inclusion of out of district transportation in the Circuit Breaker formula.
- We noted that the state's expectation of the percentage of local funding towards the FPS budget has increased and will continue to increase over time.

#### **Update on Curriculum Director Search**

As you know, we are engaged in a search process for two Directors of Curriculum. The Interview team is to be commended for their work last week in interviewing semi-finalists and forwarding two names to me as finalists. I would like to thank the Interview Committee, Chaired by Assistant Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Director of Human Resources Lisa Trainor, for their work. This committee was composed of teachers and staff, administrators, and a School Committee member. Thank you, Dr. Bergen. This team spent many hours interviewing candidates and deliberating. We are most grateful for their work.

Each finalist will be visiting FPS -- one on Thursday, May 13 and the second visit will be Monday, May 17. Candidates will tour and elementary and middle school and meet with the following principals/assistant principals; central office administrators; curriculum leadership of the District; faculty/staff.

The finalists will be announced within the next few days.

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

## **Project 351 Update**

Project 351 is an independent nonprofit organization that builds a movement of youth-led service by engaging an unsung hero from each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns. United for a year of leadership and service, ambassadors transform communities, elevate kindness, advance social justice, and gain the courage, compassion, and capabilities to lead change. Project 351 began in 2011, when former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick sought to celebrate his second inauguration with a focus on young people and community. Each year, our Project 351 Ambassador rotates from among our middle schools.

This year, Noah Gorgas (ASMS Grade 8) participated in the Project 351 Launch Celebration on May 7th with other 8th grade students throughout the Commonwealth. He is embarking on the 12 month ambassador journey of service and leadership. This month, Noah launched the service campaign in support of Cradles to Crayons and has asked for residents of Franklin to donate gently-used and like-new clothing for children experiencing homelessness and economic hardship.

Noah has demonstrated his strong leadership by creating an [action plan](#) to layout the project with timelines and steps, as well as a [website](#) to share with students, families, and residents of Franklin. As a member of the ASMS student council, Noah is encouraging other students to take part in this project as well. He created a [resource website](#) for student council to use as well.

Starting on Monday, May 10th and going until Monday, May 17th, we will be collecting cold-weather clothing (pants, sweatshirts, long-sleeved shirts, etc.) in sizes newborn to youth large at Annie Sullivan Middle School. Monetary donations can also be made [online](#). Noah will then sort and count the collected items and donate them to Cradles to Crayons.

We are so proud of Noah and look forward to the donations coming in next week.

## **Staff Appreciation**

Spring is an exciting time to recognize our staff. Recent and upcoming recognitions include:

1. National School Nurse's Day -- May 12