



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee July 23, 2019 School Committee Meeting

MASS Executive Institute

Dr. Edwards, Mr. Giguere and I attended the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Executive Institute, held July 9-11, 2019. As noted in June, the agenda included:

Remarks from Commissioner Jeffrey Riley

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Tyrone Howard, Professor and Dean at UCLA and Dr. Adolph Brown, President and CEO of the Business and Education Leadership Authority

We also attended breakout sessions on SEL, leadership, and equity among other topics.

Dr. Howard spoke about equity. He encouraged us to aspire from good to great by engaging in courageous conversations about equity and not to let equity be another "buzzword".

For me, I was blown away by the remarks of Dr. Brown. It is so hard to capture how motivating he was, but he shared his tale as a student who, as he described it, had a foot in the worlds of alternative education, having grown up in poverty and with a trauma history and in gifted education due to his talents and growth potential. He spoke of how educators influenced him along the way, especially the "balcony people" who raise others up. He is an educator himself at the College of William and Mary and was truly astounding. I know I felt that my well as an educator was filled so that I can strive to be a balcony person, to lift others up.

Commissioner Riley unveiled his "Our Way Forward" to Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents and which is linked here:

<https://d279m997dpfwgl.cloudfront.net/wp/2019/06/Our-Way-Forward-vFF.pdf>

Four major themes will be the focus:

- Deeper learning for all -- going beyond MCAS towards building relevance and connections.
- Holistic Support and Enrichment -- supporting SEL and behavioral health needs so that students can access the deeper learning.
- Innovation and Evidence-based Practices -- scaling and sharing homegrown/and evidence-based innovation, promoting educator workforce diversity, fostering statewide

curriculum curation by teachers, expanding access to early college partnerships, fostering labor management partnerships.

- The State as a Partner -- individualized support to districts versus cookie-cutter approaches and applying incentives/rewards.

Safer Schools and Communities Grant for Local Equipment and Technology

Thanks to the efforts of Lucas Giguere and Mike D'Angelo, the district was awarded \$60,000 as part of the Safer Schools and Communities Grant for Local Equipment and Technology grant. This state level grant was funded as part of last year's supplemental state budget.

We had been seeking Capital funds from the Town to support the installation of equipment at our schools to bring all locations up to speed with current security technologies to be consistent with the standards we have implemented at the high school. This money will augment Capital allocation from earlier in the year.

FY 20 State Budget

We have received preliminary good news from the State legislature that the FY20 budget that awaits the Governor's approval includes key investments in "education, local aid, mental health, and healthcare".

Compared to early state budget figures we anticipate increased funds for Chapter 70 and additional funding for reimbursement of additional Charter tuition that is being assessed. There are two earmarks for Franklin Public Schools including \$58,000 for the Substance Abuse Prevention Taskforce and \$50,000 for vaping detection and prevention. There are additional special projects with funding attached for the town and other Metrowest programs benefiting Franklin residents.

We are hopeful that this will be favorable for Franklin Public Schools. The Governor has yet to approve this, however. It still requires his signature and items may be vetoed.

We hope to have final figures within the next 10 days or so. Should more funds be available, the Budget Subcommittee will meet to discuss a revised budget, which would come to the full School Committee in August.

