



## **Franklin Public Schools**

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### **Superintendent's Report to School Committee April 26, 2022**

#### **Budget Update - House Ways and Means Proposal Released**

The Massachusetts House of Representatives is about to begin debating its Ways and Means Proposal during the coming weeks.

The proposal fully implements the second year of a six-year phase-in of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). Chapter 70 increases significantly by \$495 million, or 9%. For Franklin, an increase in Chapter 70 aid is proposed as the House budget bases Chapter 70 school aid at \$60 minimum increase per pupil, rather than \$30 per pupil in the Governor's budget and as originally outlined in the SOA. High inflation is a big factor, as is foundation rates increasing for low income students, students with special education needs, English learners, and other components of the formula like healthcare.

The impact to Franklin would be an additional \$155,000 in Chapter 70 aid to the town for a total of about \$310,000 over FY22.

The proposal budget sets aside an additional \$67 million for Circuit Breaker reimbursement, which is closer to the fully funded amount of \$460 million at \$441 million. Charter reimbursements rise from \$155 to \$244 million, or 58%. This appears to achieve 100% funding of the formula, meeting the 3-year target stipulated by the SOA and 100% funded for the first time since 2012. Homeless transportation increased by 59% from \$14 to \$23 million.

There is a proposed \$110 million increase for free school lunch programs; this would replace federal COVID funding which is going away.

The House will debate the Ways and Means proposal during the coming weeks, resulting in a final House budget. The Senate will follow. It is early to make projections on where this will end but I want to keep you informed throughout the process.

#### **Update on Davis Thayer Elementary School Building**

I know many in the community are wondering about what's going on with Davis Thayer.

In January, I updated you that this fall, building principals walked the building and identified items that are being repurposed throughout the district.

Both in January and currently, the building is currently in use for some much needed storage throughout the district. It is holding all of the district and town PPE at this time.

We noted in January that we wanted to seek input from MSBA, which we have recently done, informing them of steps we have taken so far as taking Davis Thayer out of the purview of the School Committee has implications for future building projects.

As you know, we have recently established a Space Needs and Facilities Assessment Subcommittee who is examining space, space needs based on our enrollment and specialized programs, and utilization across the District with an eye towards potential building projects and redistricting.

### **Elementary Science Night**

Congratulations to members of our National Science Honor Society for an amazing evening of science enrichment. I toured every single room and saw amazing, interactive, engaging activities in the areas of physics, biology, chemistry, computer science, robotics, and more. It was such a fun night and a pleasant return to more of our normal and amazing traditions. Well done!

### **Director of DEI - Parent/Guardian Night**

Reminder - Ms. Heidi Harris engage with parents/guardians from 6:30 – 7:30, Tuesday, May 3 in Council Chambers. She recently spent half a day in the District, meeting with students, administrators, touring Oak St. school buildings, having lunch at FHS, and meeting with the DEI Committee.

### **Night of the Arts - 5:30 PM Friday Evening at Franklin High School**

### **Jefferson and Parmenter Kindergarten Classes win Honor of Naming Norfolk County Sheriff Comfort Dog**

Congratulations to Mrs. Rogers Kindergarten class at Jefferson Elementary School and Mrs. Forde's class at Parmenter Elementary School! Sheriff Patrick McDermott formally announced that they won the Comfort Dog naming contest! They received over 1,500 submissions from 35 Norfolk County schools, and there were many great submissions. In the end, it was hard to choose just one, so they combined a few of their favorites – Teddy, Edward, and Buddy – and decided to name him Eddie! Students in the classes helped to suggest some of the winning names. They are scheduling a visit for the class to meet with Eddie and help him celebrate his new name! The Sheriff has also recorded a video announcing Eddie's new name and thanking the winning classes, which you can find here: [https://youtu.be/lkE\\_yQSnHBU](https://youtu.be/lkE_yQSnHBU)

"P.S. Eddie has a new Instagram account if you or your students would like to follow his adventures. You can find him at @EddieTheComfortDog."

### **Appreciation Weeks**

We honor and recognize our faculty and staff in advance of appreciation days and weeks. Coming up we have...

*Principal Appreciation Day – May 1*

*School Lunch Hero – May 6*

*Teacher Appreciation Week – May 2 – May 6*

*School Nurse's Day – May 11*

We thank the PCCs for their support of our educators all the time, but especially in providing appreciation efforts during the past three most difficult years, as a result of the disruptions, fear and anxiety, and additional attention to student needs. I know the PCCs are busy planning efforts and we thank them for their assistance in recognizing the contributions of our faculty and staff.