

Franklin School Committee Newsletter

April 4, 2024

Greetings, Franklin Families and Residents!

In this issue, we'll provide a summary of our recent budget meetings, offer insights into upcoming meetings, and shine a spotlight on the achievements of FPS students. Additionally, we're thrilled to introduce our "From the Subcommittee Chair" feature, showcasing Dave Callaghan's Comprehensive School Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Finally, we'll wrap up with an overview of the School Committee's role and responsibilities.

Thanks to those who answered the **March Pop Quiz** question. Franklin High School students will visit 8 countries between 2021 and 2025! The countries are *Spain, Belize, Italy, Costa Rica, Greece, Vietnam, Cambodia, & Thailand*.

March Meeting Highlights

During the first meeting of the month, Superintendent Giguere shared his recommended **FY25 budget proposal**. The budget request for FY25 was for \$81.3 million (\$9.3M increase) to provide a Level Service + budget. The Level Services portion, which accounts for \$7.3M of the increase, is to keep the exact same services provided in FY24. The Plus portion, which is the remaining \$2M, is for salaries of 20.1 new employees to maintain acceptable class sizes, restore late bus service, and partially restore middle school clubs. The **Superintendent's Recommended FY25 Budget presentation** can be found [here](#).

The first **Joint Budget Subcommittee** meeting was on March 6th. Town Administrator Jamie Hellen presented a primer to the FY25 budget and Superintendent Giguere shared his recommended FY25 budget presentation. The full meeting is available [here](#). The Town Administrator's proposed FY25 Town budget should be available for review around April 12th.

During the second School Committee meeting of the month, the School Committee received a budget review presentation from the Superintendent and then conducted a line-by-line **review of the proposed FPS FY25 expenses**. The full meeting is available [here](#). You can view the Line Item Budget document [here](#).

On the 26th, a special School Committee meeting was held for a presentation from Dr. Fran Locker, from Locker & Associates, about the **Portrait of a Graduate & Educational Visioning**. Dr. Locker expanded on the findings of the [Portrait of a Graduate Application Workshop and the Visioning 2-day Workshop](#). There will be a **feedback forum for Family & Community** in the Franklin High School Cafeteria on April 8th at 6 PM.

The March [5th](#) and [19th](#) School Committee meetings are available on YouTube.



The total square footage of town and school buildings in Franklin is approximately 1,200,000 square ft. How much of the square footage is occupied by Franklin Public Schools? Enter your guess in our [feedback form](#). The answer will be announced in the May newsletter.

Around the Corner

The School Committee will **vote on approval of the FY25 Budget** during the April 9th meeting.

A **special joint Town Council & School Committee** meeting will be held on April 24th to discuss how to solve Franklin's budget deficit. The meeting will be held in the Franklin High School Auditorium at 7 PM. All residents are encouraged to attend as the budget deficit impacts all of Franklin's services.

The second School Committee meeting of the month will be on April 30th.

The **Comprehensive School Facilities Assessment: Family & Community Forum** will be held on April 8th from 6 - 7:30 PM at FHS Cafeteria. Please attend to share your perspective.

Upcoming Student Events

Franklin High School is hosting a **Post High School Fair** on April 4th from 6 - 8 PM in the Franklin High Cafeteria. Explore, network, and discover many different ways Franklin students can continue to learn and be supported in their goals after graduation. Here is the list of [participating organizations](#) that will be at the fair.

Franklin Music Students are participating in the **three-day MICCA Concert & Choral Festival**. Performances are held across various high schools. There is a \$10 admission charge for adults. Seniors and Students are admitted for \$5. See below for the locations, dates and times of the Franklin Music Students' performances.

Performances at King Philip Regional High School on April 5th:

- Horace Mann Middle School Symphony Band 4 - 4:30 PM
- Remington Middle School Symphony Band 4:30 - 5 PM
- Annie Sullivan Middle School Symphony Band 6:30 - 7 PM

Performances at Bellingham High School on April 6th:

- Franklin High School Repertory Orchestra 8 - 8:30 AM
- Franklin High School Symphony Orchestra 10:30 - 11 AM

Performances at Foxboro High School on April 6th:

- Franklin High School Concert Band 2:30 - 3 PM
- Franklin High School Wind Ensemble 3:30 - 4 PM

Performances at Norwood High School on April 6th:

- Franklin High School Chorus 10 - 10:20 AM
- Franklin Middle School 7/8 Chorus 10:40 - 11 AM

The Franklin High School National Art Honor Society will host their annual **"Create Art Around the World"** event on April 24th from 5:30 to 7:30 at Franklin High School for students pre-K-8. NAHS Members will help participants create art based on a featured artist from four different countries. Participants will be provided with a passport that will be stamped as they visit the countries. The event is free, thanks to a generous grant from the [Franklin Cultural Council](#).

Make sure to mark your calendars for our next newsletter on May 3rd.

Franklin Student Program Highlight

The Franklin High School Theatre Company competed in the annual **METG High School Drama Festival**. Their one-act festival entry of *Flowers for Algernon* was featured in the preliminary and semi-final rounds, both of which were hosted by Franklin High School. The METG hosts this multi-round theatre festival in the month of March, where 114 schools compete to move on to future rounds. FHS was so fortunate to move on from the preliminary to the semi-final round this year. Over 70 students participated in facets of performing, technical work, and hosting responsibilities. Within each round, students are recognized for excellence in their theatrical work. Below is a list of students who were awarded within the various categories:



METG Preliminary Round - March 2, 2024

- Excellence in Acting for the Role of Charlie Gordon: Reece Lorenzo
- Excellence in Acting for the Role of Alice Kinian: Bella Nuckolls
- Excellence in Acting for the Role of Norma Gordon: Virginia Bernstein
- Technical Excellence in Scenic Design: Hope Guange, Eden Donovan, Rocco Marano, and Caleb Pazvakavambwa
- Technical Excellence in Lighting Design: Shannon Pimentel.

METG Semi-Final Round - March 9, 2024

- Excellence in Acting for the Role of Charlie Gordon: Reece Lorenzo
- Excellence in Acting for the Role of Alice Kinian: Bella Nuckolls
- Technical Excellence in Sound Design and Music Composition: Connor Houghton
- Technical Excellence in Costume Design: Will Heater

The FHSTC will produce one more mainstage production, ***Peter and the Starcatcher***, on June 7th and 8th.



The [Franklin Public School's Portrait of a Graduate](#) are five essential skills each student practices and develops, individually and collaboratively, through teamwork throughout all grades in Franklin Public Schools. These skills help our students make a difference in the greater community. As the Franklin representative for [Project 351](#), **Chloe Bowser** has demonstrated all five of the Portrait of a Graduate skills:

- Confident and Self-Aware Individual
- Empathetic and Productive Citizen
- Curious and Creative Thinker
- Effective Communicator and Collaborator
- Reflective and Innovative Problem-solver

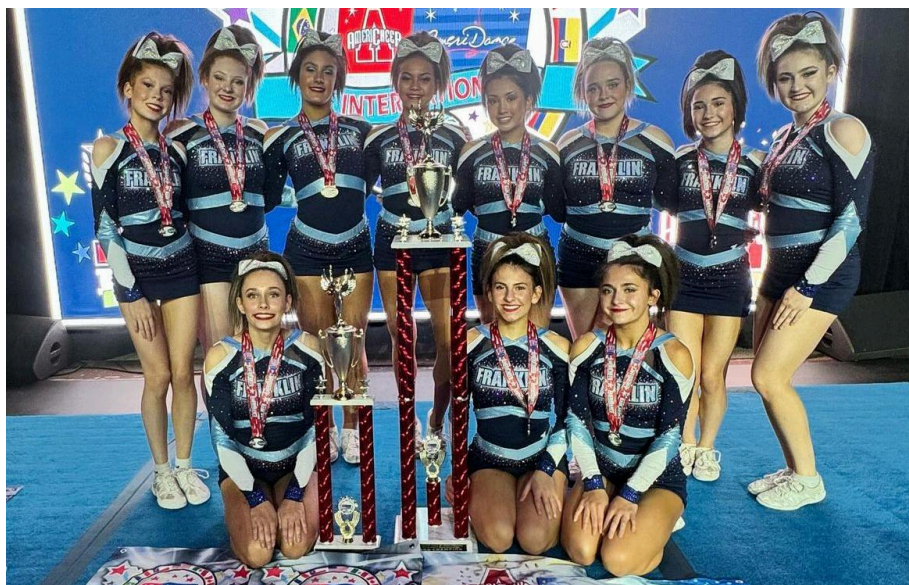
Here are some words from Chloe about her Project 351 experience.

My name is Chloe Bowser, and I am an 8th grader at Annie Sullivan Middle School. I was selected by my Social Studies teacher, Mr. Mello, as well as my principal, Ms. Morrison as the Project 351 ambassador for Franklin this year. Project 351 is “a program that seeks to develop the younger generation into service leaders in the community through customized service learning, hands-on community-building, and values-based leadership training.” Educators select ambassadors from each of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts for their exemplary ethic of service and the values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude.

For my spring service project, I connected with principals and placed boxes in four Franklin schools to collect new or gently used clothing for children and young adults for Cradles to Crayons. If you are not familiar with Cradles for Crayons you can get more information here: <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/>. The project was very successful and I will be donating over a dozen large bags of items to Cradles to Crayons. I sincerely appreciate all of Franklin’s help in my community service project.



Congratulations to the **Franklin High Varsity Cheer Team** National Champions and Grand National Champions!



From the Subcommittee Chair

Dave Callaghan is the Chair of the **Comprehensive School Facilities Planning Subcommittee**. The subcommittee members include Al Charles & Erin Gallagher. The Comprehensive School Facilities Subcommittee aims to develop a long-term vision for Franklin students' education. To achieve this, they are focusing on three key areas:

1. **Demographics** - Studying community demographics to understand population trends and enrollment forecasts over the next decade.
2. **Educational Facilities** - Assessing existing educational facilities, including building lifespans, maintenance costs, educational adequacy, and optimal facility utilization.
3. **Educational Vision** - Evaluating the current educational model as it relates to Franklin's Portrait of a Graduate, assessing its effectiveness, and ensuring educational adequacy and equity across the district.

Their objective is to produce a roadmap that guides the community in delivering the best education possible while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This roadmap can aid current and future School Committees in decision-making, addressing declining enrollment while accommodating potential population growth. By integrating these aspects, they aim to create a comprehensive educational plan for Franklin, depicting the present state and envisioning the future of education in the community.

The Superintendent presented an update on March 26th, providing historical context, actions completed, and next steps for this Subcommittee. All details on the work led by the subcommittee can be found [here](#). They hope this better illustrates the charge of this subcommittee and welcome all to meetings (available both in-person and via Zoom).

What Does the School Committee Do?

From the [Masc Roles and Responsibilities](#) website - "A School Committee must be responsive to its constituencies in governance, sensitive to the diverse needs of all learners, an advocate for students and learning before the people of the community and, as such, a vigorous ambassador for public education before all citizens.

Procedures, determined locally in each school system, should be reviewed annually to assure compliance with current policy.

Harmonious and productive relationships between school committees and superintendents will flourish if two-way communication is established and maintained. Such teamwork will work to enhance and improve the Commonwealth's schools, enriching the lives of all Massachusetts students."

One common misconception is that the School Committee is involved in the day-to-day operations of the school district. The School Committee is an oversight body that holds the Superintendent accountable to enforce policies and guidelines.

In the simplest form, the School Committee is responsible for three areas:

1. Hire and review the performance of the Superintendent
2. Develop school policy
3. Oversee the annual budget

The three areas can be expanded to include subcategories listed below:

Policy	Performance Standards	Curriculum
Finance	Professional Development	Governance
Staffing	School Councils	Communication
Collective Bargaining	Advocacy	

A detailed description of the responsibilities listed above can be found at [Masc Roles and Responsibilities](#). The site differentiates the responsibilities of the School Committee and the Superintendent in each of the areas.

Connect with Us

We value your feedback! Please share your thoughts and suggestions through our [feedback form](#) on how the School Committee can better serve you.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to keeping you informed about Franklin School Committee matters.

Missed a Meeting?

- Catch up on previous School Committee meetings at the [Franklin School Committee YouTube](#) page.
- Content shared during School Committee meetings are available online in the [2023 - 2024 Meeting Packets](#) section.
- Previous District wide communications from the Superintendent are available at [District Communications Archive 2023-2024](#)

Resources

- Previous School Committee Newsletters are available [here](#).
- There is a wealth of School Committee content available at the [School Committee website](#).
- Don't get lost in the educational jargon. The ["Eduspeak" Glossary of Educational Terms & Acronyms](#) helps you stay in the conversation.
- Stay informed on the happenings in Franklin by visiting [Franklin Matters](#) or listening to [Franklin Matters Podcasts](#).
- SAFE Coalition is a community organization educating and supporting those affected by both substance use disorder and mental health concerns. For more information visit www.safecoalitionma.org