



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
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To: Franklin School Committee
From: Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Schools
Date: June 5, 2020
Re: Reluctant Recommendations to Reduce Budget Gap

The School Committee adopted a budget of **\$68,767,873** on April 28, 2020, which represents a 6.03% increase over FY 20. The FY21 fiscal forecast, however, does not support this budget and it is anticipated that the School Committee will need to reduce it. Figures available to us at this time, which are based on the Governor's Budget released in January, project an increased allocation from the Town amounting to \$775,000. This leaves a shortfall of \$3,409,373.

Your packet contains a spreadsheet of reluctantly submitted recommendations of areas to reduce in order to meet the proposed Town budget figures, which are based on the Governor's Budget of January. A series of administrative team meetings and budget subcommittee meetings have occurred within the past few weeks to develop this list. In framing this list, we sought to consider items that would have the least impact on students in the classroom. Additionally, we tried to anticipate, as best as possible, what the 2020-2021 school year might look like with respect to holistic student needs, the prospect of school being in session physically, social distancing expectations, hygiene and sanitization, instruction, co-curriculars, attendance matters, transportation, and school lunch, among other considerations.

The Budget Subcommittee met on June 5, 2020 to review this list and have a discussion where several questions and comments were raised from both the subcommittee members as well as members of the public during public comment. School Business Administrator, Miriam Goodman, and I will be prepared to address these questions and comments as part of the School Committee's budget discussion at the June 9, 2020 meeting. We look forward to feedback and input from the entire School Committee during the Budget Discussion.

Uncertainty continues in the budget development process and we expect to have to further reduce the budget when state aid figures are better known. We do anticipate further cuts to state aid and a need to add additional items for reduction.

[For reference: May 26, 2020 Budget Memo to SC](#)

Also, for reference, your packet also contains a guide on unfunded/underfunded mandates from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees from 2014.