

Franklin School Committee Newsletter

May 3, 2024

Greetings, Franklin Families and Residents!

In April the School Committee has been engaged in a series of events. There were two School Committee meetings, a special joint meeting of the Town Council and School Committee, an interim School Business Administrator was hired, and a recommendation was made regarding the consolidation of elementary and middle schools.

Thanks to those who answered the **April Pop Quiz** question. Franklin Public Schools account for 1 million square feet of town buildings which is 83% of the Town's square footage.

April Meeting Highlights

The School Committee unanimously **approved the FY25 budget** of \$81.3M. This is a budget request to provide a "Level Service Plus" budget. The Level Services portion keeps the exact same services provided in FY24 while the Plus portion will support the addition of 20.1 new employees, restore late bus service, and partially restore middle school clubs.

On April 25th, the Town Council and School Committee held a **special joint meeting** to delve into the details of the FY25 budget. This meeting, lasting over three hours, featured important discussions with community members.

Tom Mercer, Town Council Chair, set the expectations for the joint meeting. Town Administrator Jamie Hellen shared an overview of the town's fiscal year 2025 budget. Following suit, Superintendent Lucas Guigere and School Business Administrator Dr. Bob Dutch provided insights into the details of the school budget and explained the reasoning behind a potential override.

Franklin residents were given the opportunity to share their opinions on the proposed override, resulting in a variety of viewpoints being expressed. Whether in support or opposition of the override, community members actively voiced their positions. The complete video recording of the meeting is accessible on [YouTube](#).

On April 25th, the School Committee interviewed the current Assistant School Business Administrator, Janaina Melotti for the role of **interim School Business Administrator (SBA)**. She was unanimously approved for the position at the following School Committee meeting. Ms. Melotti will officially transition to this role on July 1st.

During the April 30th School Committee meeting, Superintendent Giguere provided further details about the **recommendation to consolidate schools**. The Superintendent explained the rationale behind consolidating K-5 students into two complexes (Keller/ASMS & Jefferson/Remington), merging the three middle schools into one central unified middle school at the current Oak St/Horace Mann complex, decommissioning Kennedy and Parmenter, and considering the expansion of ECDC at the existing Kennedy building for pre-K daycare. The presentation established the framework and that many of the questions raised that night would be addressed. The complete presentation is available [here](#), and updates, along with an email address for inquiries, can be found [here](#). The School Committee is set to vote on the approval to proceed with the recommendation during the May 14th meeting.

Also during the April 30th meeting, the School Committee addressed the draft of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** from the Town Administrator, which outlines the allocation of funds raised from the override for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond.

At the May 1st Town Council meeting, the Town Council approved the scheduling of a special election for the **Proposition 2 ½ Override** to take place on June 11th.

The April [9th](#) and [30th](#) School Committee meetings are available on YouTube. The Town Council meeting is also available on Youtube [here](#).

Around the Corner

- The public is invited to a School Committee hosted **open forum** to discuss the proposed Comprehensive School Facilities recommendation from 9AM - 11AM on May 4th in the Franklin High School Auditorium. A second listening session will be on May 7th at 7PM in the Franklin High School Media Center.
- The Finance Committee will be hosting three **FY25 budget hearings** in May. The meetings will be in the Council Chambers starting at 7PM on May 6th, 8th, and 15th.
- The School Committee will be **voting on the facilities recommendation** from the Comprehensive Facilities Analysis Subcommittee on May 14th.
- The second **School Committee Meeting** of the month will be held on May 28th.

- Visit the School Committee at their booth at the **Strawberry Stroll** on June 7th from 4PM - 8PM. There will be 2024-2025 calendar magnets designed by FHS students. Stop by early before they are all snatched up!
- The **special election** for the Proposition 2 ½ Override will be on June 11th at Franklin High School.

Upcoming Student Events

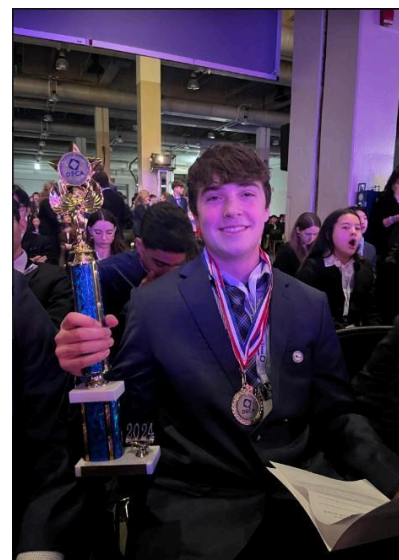
- Franklin High School Band at the **FHS Pops Concert on Wednesday, May 8th**. The concert begins at 7:00 pm and will conclude at approximately 9:00 pm.
- The Franklin Footlighters middle school theater company invites you to “**Footloose: Youth Edition**” on **May 10 and 11!** This version of the popular musical is appropriate for all ages. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets. Tickets can be purchased at the door, however there will be a \$2 surcharge.
- The Franklin Public School Bands will honor fallen soldiers by participating in the **Memorial Day Concert on 5/24**. The parade steps off at 10:30 am sharp and should conclude at approximately 11:45 am, ending at the Franklin Town Common.
- Jazz Band students will be performing at **Franklin's Porchfest event on Saturday June 1st**. Each of the jazz bands from the middle schools and high school will perform on Franklin Town Common from 1:00-2:00. Each group will have 15 minutes on stage.
- The **final Middle School Band Concert** of the 2023-2024 school year will be June 4th - 6th. All concerts will take place at Horace Mann Middle School.
 - Horace Mann: Tuesday, June 4th
 - Annie Sullivan: Wednesday, June 5th
 - Remington: Thursday, June 6th

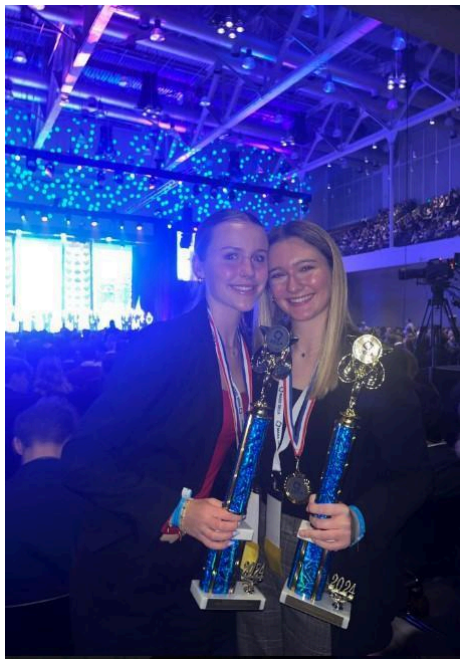
Make sure to mark your calendars for our next newsletter on June 6th.

Franklin Student Program Highlight

FHS DECA has a proud history that dates back to the 1970s. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. The program provides growth opportunities through competency-based learning, innovation, integrity, and teamwork.

Over the years students have competed at the International Development Conference (ICDC) in Nashville, TN; Anaheim, CA; Orlando, FL; Atlanta, GA; Dallas, TX; and Salt Lake City, UT. This year ICDC is being held in Anaheim, CA.





This school year 215 students participated in FHS DECA. Students were invited to compete in numerous categories and three conferences. In our first conference, 209 students competed in Mansfield MA for the January 4th & 5th regional competition. From Mansfield, 84 students progressed to the Massachusetts State competition (SCDC) held in Boston, MA on March 7th - 9th. Of 4,000 competitors throughout Massachusetts, 14 students from Franklin progressed to the International Competition (ICDC) in Anaheim, CA on April 26th - May 1st.

Go to <https://www.deca.org> to learn more about the DECA organization.

The students participating in DECA exhibit Curious and Creative Thinker, Effective Communicator and Collaborator, & Reflective and Innovative Problem-solver [Franklin Public School's Portrait of a Graduate](#) traits.

Congratulations to the 19 FHS World Language Latin students who have been recognized for their outstanding performance on the **2024 National Latin Exam**. This contest is administered annually by the American Classical League and National Junior Classical League..

- Gold Medal - Summa Cum Laude Student is one of the first place winners in their level
 - Benjamin McBride & Athena Watts
 - Silver Medal - Maxima Cum Laude Student is one of the second place winners in their level
 - Samantha Alberti, Lindsey Callahan, Hannah Feldman, Jessica Froment & Kayna Singh
 - Magna Cum Laude - Student is one of the third place winners in their level
 - Mairead Boozang, Jake Blanchard, Samantha Federico, Stephen Hasenfus, Samuel Shoneman, Sarah Oommen & Taylor Stacy
 - Cum Laude Award - Student is one of the fourth place winners in their level
 - Mohamed Akar, Max Arffa, Alice Drewry, Yosef Esayas & Andrew Hidden
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From the Subcommittee Chair

Dave McNeil is the Chair of the **Budget Subcommittee**. The subcommittee members include Paul Griffith & KP Sompally.

The Franklin School Committee Budget Subcommittee is responsible for examining budget-related matters before they are brought to the entire School Committee. The process to develop the school budget for the following year is a non-stop process. The Superintendent, School Business Administrator, and Admin team closely monitor education service requirements, staffing, enrollment trends, and costs to project what the financial needs of the District in the coming year will be. A significant part of this is through conversations with the leadership of each school to understand what their needs are and will be in the coming year. These findings and projections will be shared with the Budget Subcommittee, before the development of the recommended budget, in order for the subcommittee to ask questions and gain an understanding of what the coming budget will likely shape up to be and how that will impact the educational experience of Franklin students. The subcommittee votes on budget matters before they are brought to the full School Committee. During the formal School Committee budget discussions, the subcommittee serves to discuss and debate potential budget alternatives and possibilities, as needed. Though the School Committee has already approved the FY25 Franklin Public Schools budget, they will not know the final allocation until it is voted on by the Town Council. If the final approved amount is different from what was voted on by the school committee, the Budget Subcommittee will be required to craft and vote on a revised budget to bring before and be voted on by the entire School Committee. The budget development process is one of the main responsibilities of the School Committee, and the Budget Subcommittee ensures that the process is always subject to thorough examination and thoughtful deliberation.

What is a School Business Administrator

A School Business Administrator (SBA) plays a critical role in the effective management and operation of educational institutions. Similar to the Superintendent, the SBA is involved in many aspects of the district. Whenever you see a Superintendent, the SBA is usually not far behind. Their responsibilities encompass various financial, operational, and administrative functions essential for the smooth functioning of schools.

Here's an overview of what a School Business Administrator does and why their role is important:

Financial Management: One of the primary responsibilities of a SBA is managing the financial resources of the district. This includes budgeting, financial planning, and

ensuring compliance with financial regulations. They develop annual budgets, monitor expenses, and allocate funds to different departments or programs within the school.

Accounting and Reporting: SBAs oversee financial transactions, maintain accurate accounting records, and prepare financial reports for stakeholders such as the School Committee, administrators, and government agencies. They ensure transparency and accountability in financial matters, helping stakeholders make informed decisions.

Human Resources Management: They support personnel matters such as hiring, payroll administration, benefits management, and staff development. This involves ensuring compliance with employment laws and regulations, as well as fostering a positive work environment conducive to employee satisfaction and retention.

Facilities and Operations Management: SBAs oversee the maintenance, safety, and security of school facilities. They coordinate with maintenance staff, contractors, and vendors to ensure that facilities are well-maintained and conducive to learning. Additionally, they may be involved in strategic planning for facility upgrades or expansions.

Policy Development and Compliance: They stay up to date on relevant laws, regulations, and policies affecting educational institutions and ensure that the school operates in compliance with them. This includes areas such as education funding, procurement, safety regulations, and data privacy laws.

Strategic Planning and Decision Making: SBAs play a key role in strategic planning initiatives aimed at improving the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the school. They provide valuable financial and operational insights to inform decision-making processes and help the school achieve its long-term goals.

Community Relations: They often serve as liaisons between the school and the community, representing the district at public events, engaging with parents, local businesses, and community organizations, and promoting positive relationships that support the district's mission and objectives

The importance of School Business Administrators cannot be overstated. Their management of financial resources ensures that schools can provide quality education while staying within budget constraints. They also play a crucial role in maintaining compliance with regulations, ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff, and supporting the overall mission of the school. In short, School Business Administrators allow educators to focus on teaching and learning by handling the administrative and operational aspects of running a district effectively.

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](#)
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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
- Sign up for the Town of Franklin email notifications at <https://www.franklinma.gov/subscribe>