



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee April 14, 2020 School Committee Meeting

FHS Principal Search Update

Process

I would like to thank the Interview Committee, Chaired by Assistant Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Director of Human Resources Lisa Trainor, for their work in interviewing semi-finalists for the position of Franklin High School Principal. This committee was composed of teachers and staff, administrators, parents/guardians, students, and two School Committee members. They spent many hours interviewing candidates and deliberating. We are most grateful to their work.

They have forwarded three names to me, which I am announcing tonight. The detailed biographies will not be read at the School Committee meeting but will be posted with this update.

Mr. Rick Arena: Currently the Assistant Principal at Groton-Dunstable Regional High School(G-D), Rick Arena has served the students of those communities for most of his career. A graduate of Bowdoin College with a master's from Simmons, he was a high school teacher for fifteen years, innovative travel and club advisor, coach, a Dean and an Assistant Principal. He has been involved in significant scheduling and curriculum changes, created and taught several courses and served as G-D's first football and lacrosse coach. The one constant is his focus on having students place a high value on individual progress and the contributions they can make beyond the classroom. He has a lifetime record of serving the common good through organizations such as the Kidney Transplant/Dialysis Association, elected Town Meeting, Cub Scouts, youth sports and civic and social groups. Rick enjoys hosting large family events, working on house projects, exercising, music and cooking. He lives on a pond in Westford with his wife, two sons, a water-obsessed lab and a very mello cat.

Mr. Josh Hanna: Mr. Hanna holds a Master of Science in Education degree in Educational Leadership from Simmons College, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in US History from Framingham State University. He has worked at the Hopkinton High School since 2013 as an Assistant Principal. He previously served as a Social Studies Teacher and Coach at Natick High School from 2000 - 2013.

Mr. William Klements: Mr. Klements is currently in his fourth year as the deputy principal at Franklin High School. He has also served as an assistant principal at Sharon High School and prior to that taught English at Norwood High School. He has taught at the Boston College School for Continuing Education and began his career as an educational researcher conducting site visits and conducting data analysis in conjunction with the National Science Foundation. Mr. Klements holds a Bachelor of Arts from Providence College and Masters in Education from Boston College and Endicott College. He lives in Plainville with his wife and five children.

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice"
Equal Opportunity Employer

We are preparing for each to participate in a remote "site visit". Typically we host finalists to our schools, providing an opportunity for stakeholder groups to engage with the candidate and for the candidate to learn more about the school. We will try to replicate this as best we can in a series of virtual meetings with principals, central office leadership, the high school leadership team, faculty/staff, a student focus group, and a parent/guardian focus group. Most of these will be closed to participants, but the parent/guardian focus group will be broadcast to families so more individuals will have an opportunity to learn about the finalists. I will seek feedback from each group. The feedback from these visits is very valuable to me in making what I believe is one of the most important decisions a Superintendent can make.

After the site visit, I will interview each candidate individually as well as conduct reference checking before making a final decision. My aim will be to conclude the process within the next few weeks.

Congratulations to FHS Girls Who Code Team

Hannah Burr, Lily Kripp, Elizabeth Ball, Sophia Seremetis and Pratusha Nouduri were recently featured by Code.org for an app they developed. They were highlighted on Facebook Live and interacted with Ashton Kutcher over the app. It is an app designed to address mental health and provide support and resources to its users. A link to this can be found below:

They named their app "Checkin' In"

On Facebook at <<https://www.facebook.com/Code.org/videos/221983958869058/>>

Hannah and her team come on just after the 12 minute mark.

The episode will also be posted soon on code.org at <https://code.org/break>

Scroll down and look for Episode #3.

FHS Music in a Remote Environment

Diane Plouffe, the Director of Music for FPS, shared the following message recently:

"During this time of isolation, the music students and teachers from Franklin High School decided to "Keep Music Alive". It is our hope to share a variety of performances from home with the community. We hope that it will bring some joy to your days. It has taken us some time to figure out how to do this remotely, but we are learning more each day! Our performances may come in a variety of formats. We will do the best we can.

I have participated in our first release to kick things off! Miles Reed, senior, and I will both be performing pieces by J.S. Bach. More to come!"

Miles Reed, Cello - Sarabande from the 3rd Cello Suite by J.S. Bach

 [IMG_0715.MOV](#)

Diane Plouffe, Violin 1&2, Ted Cetto, Organ - 2nd Movement from the Concerto for 2 violins by J.S. Bach

 [Bach-Double Mrs. Plouffe Vln 1&2.mp3](#)

We look forward to more musical pieces to enhance our lives during this time of stress and disruption.

Franklin Education Foundation Updates

I have a few updates from FEF to share with you. After numerous years of supporting the organization, Kit Brady is stepping down from FEF.. He has led the academic grant program with distinction, kicking off numerous, creative initiatives within Franklin Public Schools such as the elementary ukelele program and Empty bowls, to name a few. Additionally, he spearheaded the Educator of the Year Award. We want to sincerely thank Kit for all the work he has done to support the students and teachers across Franklin Public Schools.

Given the closure, there may be some questions about FEF planned activities. The FEF grants span a calendar year, so spending is suspended for now, but will be able to continue into the fall. The Educator of the Year Award and Symposium were to be held for the first time on May 4, Horace Mann's birthday, however they are on hold.