

FRANKLIN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Update – June 2019

“THEY ALWAYS FIND THE MONEY”

No, They Don't Always Find the Money!!!!

For the last several years our town leaders have painstakingly laid out the fiscal forecast for our community. As Jeff Nutting, our recently retired Town Administrator, explained: “We collect a certain amount of revenue and we can only spend what we collect...the cost of doing business, driven by Federal and State laws and regulations is rising so much faster than our ability to keep up”.

Over the last several years, the School Committee has called attention to the enormous challenge of maintaining services as the costs around us soar! We have struggled to maintain a high quality educational program, but let's be clear in order to maintain a level serviced budget:

We couldn't FIND the money to KEEP

- Spanish in the Elementary Schools
- World Languages in the Sixth Grade
- French and Latin in our Middle Schools
- Music Education in our Middle Schools
- The Elementary Band/Strings Program
- Librarians in the Elementary and Middle Schools
- Aides in every Kindergarten Classroom

We couldn't FIND the money to prevent

- Adding and raising fees for bus transportation
(accounts for 40% of overall transportation costs)
- Adding and raising fees for athletics and other activities

We can't FIND the money to meet important Critical Needs

- Additional counselors
- More instructional interventionists,
- Curriculum leadership,
- Tech Integration specialists,
- Health and Physical Education support

We couldn't CONTROL all the outside factors

- All of the new curriculum initiatives mandated by the state with no funds to support them (Math, English/Language Arts, Science, Digital Literacy, Civics)
- The cost of tuition for out of district placements
- The cost of transportation for our special needs students
- The rising costs and impacts of technology
- The rising costs of health insurance
- The rising expectation to meet the needs of students and families **beyond** academic instruction
- The transfer of almost \$37,000,000 to the Charter School since FY 09; money that normally would have been used to save the programs and positions listed above. The current reimbursement formula (not the fault of the Charter School) must be remedied.

We are so grateful for the untiring support of the Parent Communication Councils, the many Booster organizations, the Franklin Education Foundation and organizations such as the Franklin YMCA. Without your help, we could not maintain the level of enrichment opportunities that our students enjoy!

The future will hold some serious fiscal concerns. It will be up to the citizens of the community to decide what we want our schools to be; what services in our town are critical to a healthy, safe, thriving community. Please stay involved!

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