



# Franklin Public Schools

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April 14, 2020

Dear Franklin Public Schools Families,

Good evening. This information has been shared with FHS families, but I would also like to send it to you as future FHS families. As you likely know, we are engaging in a search process for the next FHS principal.

The Interview Team is to be commended for their work last week in interviewing semi-finalists and forwarding 3 candidates to me as finalists. I would like to thank the Interview Committee, Chaired by Assistant Superintendent Lucas Giguere and Director of Human Resources Lisa Trainor, for their work. 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.

The finalists were announced at this evening's School Committee meeting and are:

**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.

As a next step, each candidate will participate in a virtual “site visit”. Typically we host finalists to our school, providing an opportunity for 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 in order for families to be able to view the candidates and their interactions among focus group members.

Additionally, I will interview each candidate and conduct reference checking. Following the visits, I will seek feedback from each group. The feedback I get from the process is very valuable to me in making what I consider to be one of the most important decisions a Superintendent makes.

Virtual Site Visits will be conducted on **Tuesday, April 21; Wednesday, April 22; and Thursday, April 23**. More information will be coming soon about the opportunity for families to learn more about each candidate through the virtual forums.

Please contact me at 508-553-4819 or via email ([aherns@franklinps.net](mailto:aherns@franklinps.net)) if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
Sara Ahern  
Superintendent of Schools