



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee February 25, 2020 School Committee Meeting

Professional Development Day Preview

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 will be a district-wide professional development day, as directed by the district's Central Office. The day will be split into three segments.

All staff will participate in a workshop related to Trauma Informed Care. They will do so by breaking into two groups (elementary and secondary). Participants will

- deepen their understanding of the prevalence of childhood trauma and the impact of trauma and toxic stress on learning and development
- explore multiple strategies for education staff and community members to utilize with children with (known and unknown) trauma histories – helping to sustain learning-ready states
- collaborate to identify best practices associated with trauma-informed care that they can implement into their settings
- reflect on how this information impacts their role and their overall health, collecting several suggestions for self-care and self-awareness.

Elsewhere in the district, curriculum teams will be meeting to work on new learning related to the implementation of curriculum frameworks as follows:

Elementary -- science standards implementation and new social studies frameworks

Secondary -- curriculum based professional development by content area

Lastly, educators across the district will be provided with 15 minutes to complete a required technology training aimed at limiting cybersecurity risks, as discussed during Technology Director Tim Rapoza's recent presentation to the School Committee (February 11, 2020).

Thank you to Facilities -- Deep Cleaning over February Vacation

I would like to thank Rich Gaskin, manager of Franklin Public Facilities who supervises our custodial staff. I also want to be sure to thank our custodial staff for their work over February vacation. Areas of our schools had extra cleaning and were disinfected.

We are remaining informed of guidance around Coronavirus through our Nurse Leader and her contacts with the State of Massachusetts. According to the latest information issued by

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

Massachusetts Department of Public Health School Health Division (February 24, 2020), Massachusetts remains at a low risk however the CDC has issued some additional information about school preparedness. I wish to reassure the community that we are following the guidance provided. The latest DPH guidance promotes the same behavior we would expect for the cold and flu: promotion of good hygiene habits and deep cleaning.

Again, we are remaining informed of agency guidance and will update the community, if necessary.

Public Meeting Information

Some questions arose today about tonight's public School Committee meeting and whether or not we needed to cancel and repost for a different point in time. We experienced website outages Monday (2/24/2020) (as a result of widespread problems our vendor experienced) and Tuesday (2/25/2020) during business hours. We had originally posted for this meeting, as required, on Friday. We sought guidance from the Attorney General's Office and because the website was restored within a six business hour window, we are able to hold tonight's meeting.

SAFE Coalition Open House

A few of us had the pleasure to attend the SAFE Coalition's Open House, held on Thursday February 13, 2020 at their new location on Dedham Street in Norfolk. They have a very attractive office suite which will be a very comfortable and functional space for therapy, counseling, education, and support services. We wish to extend our congratulations to one of our valued community partners.