



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee November 12, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our new School Committee members. All of us at Central Office are very much looking forward to working with you.

Emergency Busing

It is beginning to be the time of year when we implement emergency bus service. When the forecast calls for frigid temperatures, cold wind chills, and icy spots on roads and sidewalks, the Franklin Public Schools often utilizes **emergency busing**. Students who do not normally ride the bus who are walking or waiting along the route will be picked up by our drivers.

In the afternoon, if emergency busing is in effect, families can call the office and arrange with the administration for a bus ride.

Report from MASC/MASS Joint Conference, November 6-9, 2019

Last week, I attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Joint Conference on Education. There were keynote speeches on both Thursday and Friday, as well as numerous breakout sessions. Additionally, I attended the annual MASS business meeting.

The keynotes included:

1. Norman Ornstein, Political Scientist and Resident Scholar at American Enterprise Institute. His remarks reflected on making policy amid a tumultuous political climate.
2. Derrick Gay, Diversity Consultant, who remarked on reframing diversity for the 21st century.

The breakout sessions I attended included:

1. Strong Communities/Strong Public Schools: Time to Start the Dialogue -- the focus was on supporting students' SEL needs with community based "wraparound" services
2. Student Health and Wellness: Combating E-Cigarettes and Vaping -- the focus was to learn from a fellow district about their comprehensive SEL and wellness initiatives
3. Compelling Communication: How to Strengthen Your District's "Brand" in the Community -- the focus was on strategic communication; he validated our work in this area and provided me with additional ideas for 2020-2021

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

4. Achievable Energy Savings, Facility Upgrades, and Renewable Incentives and Student Enrichment -- we learned how one district partnered with Trane, Inc. to implement solar carports, a biomass boiler, LED lighting, and other improvements while reducing utility spending.
5. Lessons from Dedham -- the focus was on understanding more about the recent strike in that community.
6. Stories of Personalized Learning Change and Challenge in MAPLE Districts -- the Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech Consortium hosted four catalyst districts, who shared their approach and strategies to implementing personalized learning in their districts. We joined MAPLE in 2018 as a member.
7. Evaluating the Superintendent -- New and Improved. A MASC field director led this session where Dr. Bergen and I sat on a panel and shared Franklin's approach to supervision and evaluation of the Superintendent.

Professional Status Reception

Every fall, we recognize the milestone of achieving Professional Status for our educators. Professional Status is awarded to teachers/counselors and other professionals in that bargaining unit, after three full successful years of employment in the district.

We note it with a reception to celebrate their achievement, as the bar to attain PTS is a high one. Within the first three years, these educators must complete a mentoring and induction program and they are supervised and evaluated annually on Developing Educator Plans under the careful direction of their building administrators. And while we support them, they must demonstrate that they meet our high expectations.

This year 30 educators are receiving professional status and we invite our School Committee members to join us on Monday, November 18 at 3:30 PM in the high school library. A follow up e-mail will follow.

Upcoming Events

Sleep Education Night

Dr. Judith Owens, Director of the Center for Pediatric Sleep Disorders and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. She will be sharing her expertise about children and sleep as well as matters related to school start times in districts across Massachusetts and the country. It will be held Tuesday, November 19 from 6:30-8:00 PM at Franklin High School in the Lecture Hall.

Other events, which are related to this education series: Social Media Night (which occurred on October 21, 2019) and a Vaping presentation, which is scheduled for early January. We will also look to hold a family presentation about homework.

Footlighters

Our Middle School theatre group returns with their performance of The Wizard of Oz! This is a collaboration among students from all three of our middle schools and promises to be excellent. We have over 50 students in the cast and FHS students are assisting as technical crew and in the Orchestra.

Showtimes --

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Friday, November 22nd & Saturday, November 23rd

7:00PM at HMMS

Tickets \$10 at the door

FEF Wizards Game

Team FPS will be taking on the Harlem Wizards, Friday, November 22 at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School, beginning at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM.

It promises to be another exciting game for fans of all ages as faculty, staff, and student basketball players help to raise money by taking on the very entertaining and talented Harlem Wizards in support of the Franklin Education Foundation's grant program. We gratefully acknowledge the tremendous support FEF has given over the years -- supporting nearly \$30,000 each year for innovative educator-initiated projects.

