



# Franklin

## COUNTY SCHOOLS

Superintendent Rhonda C. Schuhler, Ed.D

### Superintendent's Report May 8, 2023

#### **Celebrating our Teachers**

Teacher Appreciation Week is officially this week- May 8-12th. We are so grateful for our teachers and for all of our staff who make sure that our schools are safe, nurturing environments for our students to learn and grow. We are very fortunate to have staff who are committed to the children in our district and although this is the week designated to honor them, every week they deserve our respect and appreciation for making Franklin County Schools a great place to be.

#### **Budget Process**

Since the last BOE meeting, district leadership has met with the Franklin County Manager on several occasions, as well as with each of the County Commissioners to review our request for local funding for the upcoming year and to answer any questions that they may have. We have appreciated this opportunity to advocate for our schools and to have open lines of communication with county leadership. The County Manager will share the "Manager's Budget Presentation" at the May 15th meeting of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. From there, we will have a better sense of the direction that the county may be going in terms of funding. We will keep you posted.

#### **A few reminders regarding our local budget request for 2023-24:**

- A per pupil allocation of funds for current expenses is provided by the county for every Franklin County resident enrolled in either Franklin County Schools or a charter school. According to state law, the funds follow the student. Franklin County Schools advocates for funding for all students served, and we operate as a "pass through" for charter school funding.
- Approximately 25% of local current expense funds designated to Franklin County Schools go directly to charter schools. This means that for every dollar needed for Franklin County Schools to operate, we must request \$.75 so that \$.25 can go directly to charter schools serving Franklin County residents.
- The number of Franklin County students served is projected to increase by more than 985 students over a two year period of time. With this level of population growth, if the per pupil allotment amount was to stay the same the county would be spending over \$2.1 million more to maintain the same level of funding per student.
- Inflation is also impacting the district. National inflation rates have increased 15% over a two year time period. Franklin County Schools is requesting an inflationary adjustment of 9% for both Franklin County Schools and charter schools for the 2023-24 school year.
- The increased request of \$3,417,214 to the local budget for Franklin County Schools is based upon two factors: significant growth in Franklin County student enrollment and increased costs of goods and services (inflation).



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- Franklin County Schools' request is intended to cover operational costs, including supplies and materials, AIG, CTE and STEM support, teacher supplements, employee salaries and benefits, maintenance services, utility costs, and insurance for our facilities, district owned vehicles, and employee dental and life insurance.
- Our request for capital projects is \$3 million. Capital outlay funds provide for building construction and upkeep, supporting safety and security measures, and addressing recurring expenses related to maintaining school programming.

### **Strategic Plan Committee Review**

Last week, the Franklin County Schools Strategic Planning Committee convened virtually to review progress towards our Blueprint Goals. The meeting was well-attended. For Fall, we will be filling several additional slots on our committee and we will be meeting to revisit existing strategies to make any recommended adjustments as we move into year four of our five year strategic plan.

### **Blueprint Goal 1: Preparing FCS Students for College, Career and Life Beyond the Classroom**

As we approach the end of the 2022-2023 school year, planning and preparation for all of our FCS Summer Learning Camps is in full swing. Our FCS 2023 summer learning opportunities include more than 75 hrs of reading and math support for identified K-1 & 4-5 grade students, with eligible 2-3 grade students being offered more than 75 hours of targeted reading support from mid-June through mid-July.

Identified middle school students in grades 6-8 will be invited to receive both reading and math support during a 6 day summer learning camp in July. Additionally, middle school students have the opportunity to attend CTE career camps in late June. Finally, for a 2nd consecutive year, rising 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in our District C Teamship camp in July.

High School students will have opportunities to participate in credit recovery offered in each of our traditional high school campuses from June to early August. Rising 9th-11th grade high school students will also have the opportunity to participate in the District C Teamship.

### **Blueprint Goal 2: Achieving Student Success in Academic Areas**

Schools will kick off end-of-year assessments beginning May 26. Elementary and middle schools will complete regular EOG test administration by June 2. High schools will test students on End-of-Course exams during the last five days of school. Students who are not proficient on EOGs and EOCs will have the opportunity to remediate and retest June 12-14.

### **Blueprint Goal 3: Creating a Safe, Orderly and Caring Environment for Students**

The Board of Education and FCS staff have held four work sessions to assess and prioritize our Long Range study. There are more sessions planned as the work continues. Board members and staff are evaluating facility needs school-by-school to condense the information into a workable plan. The result of



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these efforts is a 10 year plan that will sustain and improve our facilities far into the future.

### **Blueprint Goal 4: Recruiting, Supporting, and Retaining High Quality Staff**

The second annual "Frankies" is just around the corner. The pre-ceremony festivities start at 5:45 pm. There will be a red carpet with on-camera interviews, pictures, and heavy hors d'oeuvre in the lobby area. Then we will transition into the auditorium for the ceremony to start promptly at 6:30. We are excited about another opportunity to recognize some of the best employees in the state. Our presenter list includes Congressman Don Davis, Senator Lisa Stone-Barnes, Representative Matthew Winslow, and more. "The Frankies" will occur on June 9th at Franklinton High School.