

**June 2020**

**FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:**

**REQUEST FOR A REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY AND EFFICACY OF DEPARTMENT MODERNIZATION, MERGERS AND EFFICIENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Framingham City Charter in Article X, Section 8(e) recommends that the Mayor and City Council shall investigate the feasibility and efficacy of “merging school and municipal finance, personnel, and technology functions,” and

**WHEREAS**, per Massachusetts General Law, decisions on merging departments require close coordination and votes by both the City Council and School Committee, with concurrence by the Executive Branch; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple municipal and school departments already work collaboratively together and have streamlined processes and reduced costs such as in Finance, Procurement, and Human Resources, yet additional opportunities may exist in areas such as but not limited to technology, facilities, capital projects, parks, libraries, and buildings and grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the differences in roles between elected officials and day to day municipal managers requires that the specific details of a proposal come from the Executive Branch; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple staff members in municipal and school department have participated in interviews and data calls with a consultant compiling a report on these topics; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge for municipal finances, requiring the need to think differently and consider multiple options to direct funds and create efficiencies across multiple fiscal years; therefore, let it be:

**RESOLVED**, that the School Committee request a report on the feasibility and efficacy of the aforementioned modernization, merger and efficiency options by October 1, 2020 so its findings can be utilized and considered as part of FY22 budget planning efforts; and

**RESOLVED**, that municipal departments, as well as the Superintendent, Executive Director of Finance & Operations, and school department designees are requested to be invited to be involved in the development of the final report; and

**RESOLVED**, that the School Committee shall invite the City Council to schedule a joint meeting in November or December, 2020 to hear findings from the administration and consultants, and discuss next steps.