

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM X



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

February 4th 2013 City Council Meeting

From: Krystal Alpers, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: Afterschool Program Update

In September 2012, the Parks and Recreation Department presented an Afterschool Program to Council for students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. With successful approval, we started the program on October 1st with 9 children. We have added about 3-4 students per month and now have 24. The program is breaking even as I only hired one person and have one Event Supervisor overseeing to start. Over the past week we have added 3 students so I will be hiring on another staff and will continue to break even with the additional enrollment.

In an effort to keep the 10 to 1 ratio we have a Grandmother through the foster grandparent program that comes daily to help staff and we also have an intern from Plymouth State University who has recently started helping with the Afterschool Program and our basketball program.

My hope is to continue to grow the program as it is a need in the community. At this point many families have found something that is working for them but as those plans start to fall through, I will continue to increase enrollment which is how I have gained the 15 students since the beginning of the program.

With the move to the Bessie Rowell Community Center, the space for this program is much better and more conducive. Now that I am closer to the Middle School, I hope to increase my Middle School numbers by implementing Clubs for this age group.

I have recently met with the NH Children's Auction Board for an interview as I applied for funding to start a scholarship program for the Afterschool Program. The meeting went very well and I hope to have an answer by the end of the month. This money will help offset the full weekly price for families as Casey Family Services was able to offer significant scholarships.

Overall, the program has been successful and is off to a great start! We hope to continue to grow the program over the next few months and kick next year off with increased enrollment and more focus on the Middle School age as well.