

School Council Meeting
March 10, 2022

Meeting commenced at 4:35 pm

1) School Improvement Plan

a) Review of draft

- i) Angie requested the Council look over the SIP while waiting for the rest of the attendees to arrive
- ii) Angie met with Marco after last month's meeting to discuss the multicultural goal

b) Multicultural Education Benchmarks

- i) The Council looked over the 8 benchmarks listed on the document Marco supplied; these aren't all the possible benchmarks.
- ii) Angie asked if all subject areas should have benchmarks in multicultural education. Marco would like to see explicit explanations of the school's position on multicultural education and anti-bias, as well as in terms of faculty and staffing.
- iii) Angie wondered if it would be a good idea to put the statements under School Culture.
- iv) Rowena feels that putting a statement under every subject area where it could be lost or at least not emphasized could be ineffective and suggested that it should have its own section in the SIP.
- v) She would like to see new hires have training steps they go through to learn how the school's emphasis is on multiculturalism and anti-bias , anti-racist practices.
- vi) Angie noted that the state in its weekly newsletter is looking for schools to pilot programs looking into how grading is done, taking into account the backgrounds of students.
- vii) Ann approved of the wording of the 8 points, which we can use.
- viii) Helen talked about Boston schools and their efforts in anti-racism and anti-aggression.
- ix) Mary talked about having brought high school students to a MARC presentation and the things that were talked about there. Students were leading other students in groups where they could talk about things they were experiencing, including racist verbiage and name-calling.
- x) Jordan talked about the presentations done here where the high school kids talked to the younger kids, and it's been very effective. Angie and Joe agreed.
- xi) Angie feels we are getting closer to a more normal school environment, which could encourage more of these kinds of presentations as before.
- xii) Helen would like to see more mentorship from older students with younger students.

- xiii) Angie spoke about a MARC program on anti-racism that we would like to have access to. It has training for the teachers in professional development and its other resources are free.
- xiv) Angie is hoping that the SIP can be voted on in either the April or May meeting (there is no June meeting).
- xv) The state has changed the Physics exam so that there will be retests available instead of having students wait a full year to take it again.
- xvi) Angie showed and explained the new Physics pathway in answer to Jordan's question. Basically the order of science classes may be changed with Physics coming first.
- xvii) Next year, if this pathway is implemented, the 8th graders will not have an introductory physics class due to the requirements of MCAS.

2) Student and Family Handbook 2022-2023

a) Code of Conduct

- i) Angie especially wants to look at the K-8 pieces, particularly under Group C. She's particularly interested in dividing the school into more sections, to differentiate how, for instance, first and second level students are handled for infractions as opposed to middle and high school students.

b) Exit Standards

- i) Angie brought up the Handbook, a 70-odd page document.
- ii) It's not very user-friendly, being so large, but the state has certain requirements that have to be met.
- iii) She would like the Council members to look it over and try to find a way to make it more user-friendly, i.e. moving sections around, bringing the more important parts to the forefront.
- iv) She also wants them to look at the Exit Standards, which have been affected by Covid
- v) One of the items is the Portfolio, which has been ineffective for a variety of reasons. The other is Exhibitions of Mastery, which has been a core part of the school from the beginning.
- vi) The previous two years, there has been only one EOM a year, instead of the two per year we used to do.
- vii) The two always included science and Project, but she would like to see if we can amend that to include other subjects besides science.
- viii) As far as the audience for EOMs, we have always had parents in. However, many parents preferred to do it by Zoom as they did last year. From a security point of view it's certainly safer, but also not the same as having people physically in the room to observe and ask questions.

c) Rowena thought we could look at other schools' Handbooks and see how they deal with the issues we have with our Handbook being so unwieldy.

d) Ann asked if we would be open to having the Handbook be divided into sections by grade levels.

- e) Typical public schools often have a Handbook for elementary, middle and high schools.

3) New Business

Attendees:

Rowena Samuels

Angie Pepin

Mary Carter

Reegan Whipple

Ann Mantil

Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst

Joe Kay

Helen Li

Jordan Alexandre

Marco Pedulli

Ann Mantil