

Excellence in Student Achievement (EISA) Subcommittee

MINUTES

12-16-20

In attendance: Chair Tammy Mahoney, School Board Subcommittee members Jamie Fitzpatrick and Dawn Dutton, Superintendent Tom Ambrose, Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. Patricia Haynes, High School Principal Brian Stack, High School Assistant Principal Steve Krzyzanowski, High School Assistant Principal Matt Malila, Bakie Principal Christopher Snyder, Memorial Principal Ryan McCluskey, Middle School Principal Christine Desrochers, Title 1 Administrator Kim Conant, Secondary Math Coordinator Grace Evans, District Math Coordinator Donna Donnell. Called to order by Mahoney at 4:30 pm. Minutes of the 11/18/20 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by a roll call vote. Ms. Mahoney opened the meeting by reading “A Checklist to Ensure Meetings Are Compliant with The Right-To-Know Law during the State of Emergency.”

Dr. Haynes reported on the Alma rollout. Progress reports have been distributed at the elementary level and report cards will be going out shortly. Teachers reviewed the procedure for accessing them during parent conferences, and will continue to provide support and confirm that parents are able to access students’ information. Dr. Haynes acknowledged the tremendous assistance of Ms. Conant and Ms. Donnell throughout the implementation process.

Dr. Haynes presented a proposal for the assessment data to be included in the Annual Report. Some assessment data that would typically be included isn’t available, such as the NHSAS, which was suspended. The available data will include Fontes & Pinnell, NWEA, PSAT, and SAT test results, along with attendance and post-secondary school retention rates. She will include a narrative of how instruction shifted during the pandemic for the historical record.

As part of the ongoing effort to assess math instruction, the committee requested a report on the number of minutes students receive. Mr. Snyder reported that pre-K has 30-45 minutes of math concepts, and grades K-3 have 60 minutes of math instruction every school day. Mr. McCluskey reported that currently, under Tier 2, grades 4-6 receive 35-45 minutes/day, with an additional 30 minutes of math-directed WIN periods, 3 times each week. In a regular Tier 1 school year, grade 4-6 students receive 45-55 minutes with 30 minutes for WIN 4 times each week. Ms. Desrochers reported that grades 7-8 receive 90 minutes of math every other day, for a total of 270 minutes each week. Mr. Stack reported that grade 9-12 students are required to complete 3 math credits plus 1 math experience before graduation. A math credit class offers 60 minutes of math instruction every other school day, for a total of 120 hours of instruction. He noted that under Tier 2, students may receive less than 120 hours.

The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the High School’s efforts to review and make recommendations for revisions to the board’s policies on graduation requirements and HS program of studies, and to the schedules in the HS. The objectives of these revisions are: to achieve more balanced class sizes, to improve instruction by increasing instructional time in

ELA and Math, and revisit the requirements for the Diploma with Distinction to promote increased rigor. Mr. Stack proposed forming an ad-hoc committee to work on these goals beginning in January 2021, with the target date of January 2022 to finalize the program of studies for the 22-23 school year. The committee will be comprised of a variety of stakeholders including students, parents, and other community members working with administrators and staff, and will provide regular updates, and recommendations for revisions.

In addition, as an interim step to increase the focus on ELA and Math, scheduling changes will be made for grades 9 and 10 next year to raise the seat time from the current 120 hours to 180 hours for those courses.

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Mahoney at 5:35.