

Excellence in Student Achievement Subcommittee

1-19-22

Minutes

In attendance: Chair Tammy Mahoney, School Board Subcommittee members Jamie Fitzpatrick and Dawn Dutton, Superintendent Tom Ambrose, Director of Teaching and Learning Patty Haynes, Director of Academic Intervention, Assessment, and Accountability Christine Desrochers, Director of Guidance Heidi Leavitt, HS Principal Brian Stack, HS Assistant Principal Steve Krzyzanowski, MS Principal Matt Malila, Memorial Principal Ryan McCloskey, Bakie Principal Troy Kennett. Meeting called to order by Chair Mahoney at 4:30 pm. Minutes of the 12/15/21 meeting were reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Desrochers presented information on the district wide NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation process. It's a lengthy process that will extend into 2024. NEASC will be evaluating the district on these standards: learning culture, student learning, professional practices, learning support, and learning resources and a rubric has been provided with the foundational elements that need to be met. In February surveys will be issued for all stakeholders to complete and a report will be produced before the end of the year. The first visit from NEASC will be next year, and the accreditation visit will take place in December 2024. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed some concern over the resource consumption for this multi-year process, but the administration believes that this work will help to support the strategic plan work, as the district reflects on its goals and vision for the future and creates priority areas for school growth plans.

Mr. Ambrose reported that the grading task force has a call scheduled with Ken O'Connor, a well-known education consultant, to discuss grading practices. The next EISA meeting will have an in-depth discussion of grading practices, beginning at 3:30.

Mr. Malila provided an update of the HS Schedule committee's work to revise the requirements to earn a diploma with distinction. Based on research from other schools it's an uncommon diploma, and most schools that do offer it use GPA as the criteria. The committee will discuss various possibilities and develop a proposal.

Dr. Haynes reported that the 7-12 math curriculum search is progressing. Grades 7-8 have decided to stop piloting Illustrative Math and will now begin a new pilot of Mid School Math. The High School is piloting the 2nd of 3 programs. Materials should be available for review in March.

Dr. Haynes reported that the Strategic Plan 1st draft survey results are being evaluated for incorporation into a 2nd draft, to be issued soon. 2 focus group sessions will be held for community feedback, on January 26 and 27.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Mahoney at 5:45 pm.

Recorder: Chair Mahoney