

EISA Subcommittee Minutes

1/23/19

In attendance: Chair Tammy Mahoney, Dr. Pam Brown, Mr. Larry Heath, Superintendent Ambrose, Interim Director of Academics, Professional Learning and Student Affairs Patty Haynes, HS Assistant Principal Bob Dawson, Director of Guidance Heidi Leavitt. Called to order by Mahoney at 4:30 pm. Meeting was held in the SAU conference room. Minutes of the 12/19/18 meeting were reviewed and approved.

One of the committee's goals this year was to summarize academic data trends in the District Annual Report, which is published for distribution at the Deliberative Session. Pursuant to that goal, Dr. Haynes presented a Targeted Outcomes Report for inclusion in the Annual Report. The report presents the results of performance tests at each grade level for the 2017-2018 school year, specifically the percentage of students at or above proficiency. Multiple assessments are taken at each grade level and the results are relatively consistent, which offers some validation of the instructional practices in place. Generally, about 65-75% of students in grades 3-12 are proficient in ELA and Math, although there is some inconsistency in math scores at or above grade 8. Only 30% of students scored proficient on the statewide assessment in grades 8, 10, and 11. Mr. Ambrose feels strongly that this is attributable to the lack of a middle tier of intervention for struggling students, and that resources are being directed into facilities maintenance which could be more productively used for educating students.

The report also presents average daily attendance rates, which are generally at or above 95%. This suggests that education is being delivered consistently, and should rule out attendance as a contributing factor for any lags in performance testing. The other area presented in the report is post-secondary enrollment and second year retention rates.

The report's format and content were discussed. Dr. Brown recommended the addition of some contextual information, delineating the district's current status and next steps, as well as the provision of some historical information which could help to identify areas of growth. Annie Collyer of Newton offered public comment that the report could set and manage the community's expectations through the use of this contextual data.

Ms. Leavitt reported on the progress of the Early College program research and development, and presented a draft MOU with NECCO for the committee's review. This will be discussed at the next EISA meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Mahoney at 5:45.