

EISA

Subcommittee Minutes

1-22-20

In attendance: Chair Tammy Mahoney, Electra Alessio, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Superintendent Tom Ambrose, Director of Academics, Professional Learning and Student Affairs Patty Haynes, High School Principal Brian Stack, High School Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director Bob Dawson, Guidance Director Heidi Leavitt. Called to order by Mahoney at 4:47 pm. Minutes of the 12/18/19 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Portrait of a Graduate is projected to be ready for presentation in February or March. Feedback has been positive, but there have been some scheduling difficulties.

Test data for 2018-19 was released from NHDOE, and will be included in the Annual Report for the Deliberative Session.

In general, grades 3-8 scores were at or above state average for ELA, roughly in the 64-68% range. For Math grades 3-7 are generally in that range, but drop in 8th grade. Both ELA and Math scores drop markedly between 8th and 9th grade and remain low in 10th and 11th grade. Added intervention and changes in instructional practices are some strategies that are expected to help with ELA, especially in the early grades. Mr. Ambrose noted that K-2 are target areas to improve student reading and writing abilities, as those are crucial foundational skills for learning. Math intervention is also being employed in the high school in grades 9 and 10, targeting students just under proficiency. Other efforts are underway to assess the reason for the underperformance in math and develop a remedial plan. Mr. Ambrose reported on a meeting with the math PLC, which has already made some changes to better realign curriculum for the SAT content. They discussed the possibility of offering Algebra 1 in 8th grade, instead of 9th grade where it has historically been offered, and better utilization of student test

data, such as NWEA. The math PLC has been charged with developing a plan for presentation to the board.

Mr. Ambrose stressed that the goal is not to perform at statewide average. The goal is to have 80% of students at or above grade level, and 20% performing no more than 1-2 grades below but still achieving a year's growth.

Discussion continued from the last meeting about the AP Program. In light of stricter class admission criteria, Ms. Mahoney emphasized the need for student and parental involvement in the class selection decision, particularly if a teacher has withheld a recommendation. Ms. Leavitt outlined the process, which allows for this. Mr. Stack raised the question of summer work under teacher supervision, which would require additional compensation. Ms. Alessio cautioned against year-round schooling, which she does not support. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Mahoney agreed with her stance on year-round schooling, but voiced their support for supervised summer work for AP classes.

Annie Collyer of Newton stated that the student performance scores are heartbreaking, and is glad that the district is looking into the dramatic decrease between 8th and 9th grade. She also supports a summer work option for students.

Meeting was adjourned by Mahoney at 5:55