

Board of Trustees ED Report

August 19, 2021



AMSA

ADVANCED MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE • COMMUNITY

Report Overview

1. Welcome Back to our teachers and staff
 - a. August Professional Development
2. Back to School Topics
 - a. **AMSA 2025:** Teaching and Learning Initiative
 - b. Community of Inclusion and Belonging
 - c. Masking and Safety Protocols
3. Building Update
4. Capital Campaign Update
5. Review of ED Focus for 2021 - 2022
6. Upcoming Events

WELCOME
back
teachers
& staff



August Professional Development

- New Teacher Orientation - August 23rd and 24th
- Teachers, Counselors, and Staff return - August 25th
 - Professional Development - August 25th - 27th

Highlights:

1. ***PTO sponsored LUNCH - YAY!!!***
2. Frontline Training - New Substitute & **Time Off Management System**
3. **Summer DEI Book/Documentary Group Discussions**
4. **IT Security and Student Data Protection** w/ Atty Michael Joyce and AMSA IT
5. Subject Area **Department Meetings** - Preparation Time
6. **Roundtable on Teaching and Learning (AMSA 2025)**

Back - to - School Topics

- **AMSA 2025 - Teaching and Learning Initiative**
- **Inclusion and Belonging 2021 - 22**
- **Masking and Safety Protocols**

AMSA 2025: Teaching and Learning Initiative

What is AMSA 2025?

- *A series of stakeholder forums/surveys - to be lead by a committee of cross section of AMSA adults*

What is our goal?

- To have all of us join together and talk about what is fundamental to everything we do - **how we teach and how our students learn**
- To bring **coherence** to our many different policies and practices (homework, professionalism, communication, mentoring etc)
- To have us create a unique **AMSA vision for Teaching and Learning practices** that address the following questions:
 - How do we best help our students academically, socially, and emotionally?
 - What have we learned about teaching and learning over the years and over this past year of the pandemic?

AMSA 2025: Teaching and Learning Initiative

What is our goal? (continued)

- The goal is **not** to impose a top down approach.
- We will always recognize the different styles that teachers have and the different styles that students benefit from.
- *The goal is to get us paddling down the same river, in the same direction, in our unique boats with unique paddles and strokes!*
- The goal is to hear every voice and bring us all together around a set of practices that best help our students achieve our core values (integrity, excellence, and community) & our Mission (all students of all backgrounds and abilities will excel in all subject)

Community of Belonging

Community of Inclusion and Belonging

Conduct a DEI self-assessment for AMSA with a multi-stakeholder team

- Inclusion Coordinator - stipend position
- Based on result create a multi-year plan targeting priorities
- Working with History UnErased on LGBTQIA inclusion <https://unerased.org/>

To include:

1. Creation of an **AMSA Equity Vision Statement**
2. Creation of an **AMSA website page** dedicated to our Inclusion work
3. **Communicate progress** to the board quarterly

Masking and Safety Protocols

Masking and Safety Protocols

- **Indoor Mask mandate for all students, no matter vaccination status**
 - *Policy to be reviewed monthly depending on school and community data*
- **Mask mandate on buses at all times per federal regulations**
- **Vaccinated adults must wear a mask when working with students indoors**
- **Unvaccinated adults must wear masks indoors at all times**

*** We will look at school and state data monthly and update policy as needed.***

Mask Breaks:

- Lower school teachers may plan 2-5 minute mask breaks at the end or beginning of class. Teachers must accompany students outside during the break.
- Most students in grades 8-12th pass between buildings during the day and should be encouraged to remove their masks outside while walking.

Lunches:

- 6th graders will be distanced and split between two spaces. Other grades will not be distanced but 12th grade students can eat outdoors.

Testing:

- BinaxNow tests - rapid antigen test best when the person is showing early symptoms and will participate in the “Test and Stay” program.

Sports and Clubs: Indoors must mask, outdoor masking is optional

Building Update and Capital Campaign

Building Update

- P&S signed and plan to **pass papers early fall**
- **Locked in interest rate** for 3.31% with Boston Private
- On August 12th, **MassDevelopment's Board of Directors approved AMSA's tax exempt financing application**
- Presenting to the **Designer Selection Board (DSB) on 9/1**
 - We will have a designer in place by 9/15

Capital Campaign Update

- Working with Hannah Street Consulting - Betsy Grenier
 - **Phase I - Complete**
 - Feasibility Study conducted and
 - reviewed by AMSA Board Development Committee
 - **Phase II**
 - Internal and Board **infrastructure**
 - Creating a **Capital Campaign Team** of dedicated volunteers



Review ED Focus: Six Areas of Focus

- *Faithful to our Mission and Core Values*
- **Culture of Trust and Respect**
- **Teaching and Learning Initiative (AMSA 2025)**
- **Inclusion and Belonging Initiative**
- **Purchase and Construction Project**
- **Development and Fundraising**



Upcoming Events

- **August 30** - 6th, 9th, and New Student Orientation
- **August 31** - 1st day of school
- **September 21** - Parent Night Grades 6 & 9
- **September 28** - Parent Night Grades 7 & 8
- **September 30** - Parent Night Grades 10, 11, & 12

Excited for 2021 - 2022!

Go Eagles!

