

Public Hearing BOE Questions

Jan 30, 2024

Can you break out staff from special education consultant services

	Contracted Individuals	Equivalent FTE	Contracted Cost
Consultant Services			
Paraprofessionals*	5	5	\$479,199
BCBA	3	1	\$204,300
Contracted Speech	14	6.5	\$957,900
Contracted OT	8	9.5	\$923,910
Contracted PT	2	2	\$348,470

\*Includes 4 paraprofessionals recommended to be Darien Public School employees on the 1/30/24 BOE meeting.

Note: Not all contracted individuals are full time.

Can you map out the TEAMS at the MS with the proposed changes?

There are several potential models of scheduling and teaming at MMS. The schedule will be developed early spring when all course requests, Articulation PPTs, and course selections have been submitted. The Team structure will be maintained. Three examples of possible [Team changes](#):

- Reducing a Team in 7th grade
- Split Team (for teachers) in 7th and 8th
- 3 Team grade model

What are we protecting/valuing with the TEAM model, what are we giving up?

We are protecting and valuing the collaborative approach to teaching and learning, and creating smaller environments within a large school. The Team Model allows an interdisciplinary team of teachers to collaborate on instruction, social-emotional wellbeing, and support the whole child. Through the team model, teachers are able to meet daily to review instruction, plan interdisciplinary and scaffolded lessons, review student work, and determine specific student supports. For students, nothing is being removed. If we reduce the number of teams, teacher class sizes increase. A split team model or reducing a team in each grade level would require more teachers teaching across grade levels.

**What would be lost if the Department Chair for World Language was reduced and stipends at each level added?**

In the absence of a Department Chair with content expertise, we recognize that building administration will collaborate with teachers within the department to vision new course development and next steps with regard to the continued development of the World Language Department. We will maintain the cycle of curriculum revision, as well as, continue providing educators with responsive professional learning to support instructional practices across the language classrooms. An assigned building administrator will work closely with the curriculum specialists at the elementary, middle and high school levels to ensure coherence and vertical alignment across the K-12 program. The school counseling department and building administrator will serve alongside teachers in the department to determine and resolve course selection and placement determinations.

As in some other departments, the supervision and evaluation of staff in this department will be the responsibility of the building administration, not the dedicated content department chair.

**More data on Teen Talk. What is student usage?**

This a new program/resource and the data represents the first five months of the year. There have been 42 individual students and 252 counseling sessions with Teen Talk. There have also been 7 home visits conducted, which is more than typical for a new program, and often occur outside of school hours. Approximately 43% of referrals were self-generated by students. The Teen Talk counselor provides bilingual counseling services when needed and approximately 21% of students accessing services are from traditionally underrepresented races (American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, African American/Black).

Grade	# of Students	% Makeup
9th	8	19%
10th	14	33.3%
11th	15	35.7%
12th	6	14.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>

Presenting Problems		
Issue	# of Students	% Makeup

<b>Anxiety</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16.6%</b>
<b>Basic Needs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Crisis Assessment</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Depression</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<b>Family Conflict</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11.9%</b>
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16.6%</b>
<b>Peer Issues</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28.5%</b>
<b>School Related Issues</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

**Wellness Center usage?**

**The Wellness Center averages 134 visits per day since September.**