

School Governance Council Meeting 11/14/2023

Attendance:

Dr. Maria Stasaitis

Doug Cheatham

Jessica Gaddis

Daniel Cocchiola

Isa Alves

Dan Ferreira

Hanalei Cocchiola

Mary Case

Mrs. Terhune

Dr. Stasaitis announced the New Vice Principal at WAMS – Dan Ferreira. Ferreira has an Arts background and was the Performing Arts Department Chairperson and Digital Music teacher at WAMS. His position will need to be filled and we hope it will be soon. Ms. Ortega left WAMS. A couple of high school teachers have been covering middle school classes. The lighting candidate has not formally accepted the position. Chip is a lighting and sound technician and is able to mentor our students. New staff Cheryl Katz – Career and College Coordinator and Isa Alves – Parent Liaison. Dr. Stasaitis shared the School Improvement Plan.

Mr. Cocchiola question:

WAMS is able to carry out SIP by:

Vision important to operate like an art school

Targeted professional learning

Outside resources – Cormier

Mr. Case – shows

Ms. Magliaro – rallying around the shows with WAMS staff

Math department – utilizing measuring on stage, etc

Block scheduling 50 minutes vs. 90 minutes. Great time to talk example: incorporate science and music (strings)

Two staff meetings a month and a half-day

Common planning day- teachers Example: Music teachers go to science (strings integrated with wave lengths)

Needs of students that are over performing and underperforming are addressed

Dr. Stasaitis – visited Boston Arts Academy with Dr. Ruffin and few of staff

Miss Cocchiola (Hanalei): Outstanding performance in “Parade.” She said she was learning to play the piano and was enjoying Piano Lab with Mrs. Case.

Ms. Gaddis – Talked about “Dia De Los Reyes” or “Three Kings Day,” this should be the next Nutcracker in the next 5 years. There are two WAMS students participating. Seven students are participating after school, “public speaking,” how much they love WAMS. Upcoming: Romeo & Juliette (Mr. Schulte), Sadako and Thousand Paper Cranes (wars building peace).

Mr. Cocchiola – excited about WAMS new Vice Principal!! WAMS was able to hire a VP with an Arts background. Noted- Families that are out-of-state are not able to apply to WAMS at this time.

Mrs. Terhune - Hispanic Heritage and Culture celebrated @ the Palace

After-School Program funded by the American Savings Foundation and The Next Street Connecticut
“On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan” & “Hairspray”

The program “Turn the Beat Around: Celebrating Culture and Identity through Music” allowed student to participate in workshops to learn theater, culture, history, backstage language, music, community, identity and so much more. The program featured Guest Speakers, WAMS teachers, family celebration, and final project presentations.

December 16-17 Master classes – Dave Flowers

Mrs. Case – Music Winter Concert – band and orchestra joining the show!
After school – Strings

Dr. Stasaitis – so far there are over 1000 WAMS applications – mostly Waterbury. Currently, seeking more outside partners. Dr.Stasaitis is meeting with state leaders for more support generating WAMS applicants.

Mr. Case was nominated for The Regional Magnet School Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Case received this honor 4 years ago.

Mr. Cheatham – Welcomed Isa Alves – Parent Liaison

Mrs. Alves – expressed joy for being part of the WAMS family

Magnet School Certification – in the process of completing WAMS certification.

Next meeting – December 13, 2023