

School Governance Council Meeting 2/7/2024

Attendance:

Dr. Maria Stasaitis

Doug Cheatham

Jessica Gaddis

Daniel Cocchiola

Isa Alves

Dan Ferreira

Hanalei Cocchiola

Samantha Nicolasora

Peggy Terhune

Dr. Stasaitis – Currently past our 100th day of school this year!!! Welcome to our two new hires – Music Department - Dawn Marie Conroy and HS literacy tutor - Laurice Boutagy for additional support to our high school students.

Dr. Ruffin visited WAMS to personally present honorees – Alex Halliwell (8) and Elijah Loucks (12) the 2024 Waterbury Public School Superintendent Student Recognition Award. We congratulate our students and the all the honorees in the district for their academic and community achievements.

Ongoing collaboration continues for our block scheduling.

After school programs are available to our students for additional support in English & Math.

June 1st 2024 we will Celebrate our 20th year! – variety show.

Attendance update - 19% high school truancy 12% middle school truancy - we are urging students to be here.

Mr. Ferreira - Enjoying new position!!

ART integration is a key component to a successful WAMS experience. Created a Fine Arts Pathways for students pursuing the Arts on and off stage.

Pick a Pathway! See information below:

Fine Art Departments



VISUAL ARTS

Students create and interact with objects and concepts that define, shape, enhance and empower their lives through art media exploration and the study of art history.



MUSIC

Students develop and refine their musical skills over time through openness to new ideas, historical styles and persistence of excellence.



THEATRE

Students explore and imagine through creative play, drama processes and historical theatre references to develop diverse performance skills.



DANCE

Students develop an understanding of dance of various cultures, style and genre through the discovery process of movement and historical study.

Fine Arts Technology Pathways



Theater Tech

Students will engage in Practical work related to theatre crafts, including carpentry, properties, costumes, and scene painting.



Video Production

Students will focus on the use of cameras and related equipment to produce live and scripted video and to solve technical problems



Digital Music

Students will learn basic mixing techniques, songwriting techniques, how to sample and will learn how to use sound effects.

Mr. Ferreira – working on project for Hamilton Broadway show tickets!!! Creating more opportunities for our students.

February 1, 2024 - Black History Month Celebration performance at the Palace Theater led by Mrs. Washington and WAMS students.

Up and coming events:

Cinderella auditions / performance

Newsies – The Palace Theater

April 11th - 7pm

April 12th – 9am (School show) & 7pm

April 13th – 1pm

Our Town – Apron Stage

March 14th, 15th, 16th (all shows - 7pm)

Mrs. Terhune – Palace Theater – January/February 2024

WAMS/Palace

- The Palace After School program saw its second show in January, *Hairspray*!
- Program member John Rush worked backstage for the show last week through *Learning in the Wings*.
- *Hairspray* cast members offered a dance masterclass on Thursday at WAMS.
- WAMS students were onstage for 3 days for rehearsals and performance for the Black History Month Celebration (January 30- February 1).
- We have sent out application forms for our next “Behind the Scenes” after-school program, focusing on technical aspects for dance performance: lighting, stage management, costuming, sound. The program is in March and will be done in conjunction with a professional ballet performance of Cinderella, and an evening of student choreography.
 - Tim Scalzo will be on hand for the second week to help coordinate the tech and students.
 - Ingrid Howe-Green will be the coordinator for the student choreographers.
- The National Honor Society met at the Palace in January to sort plastic and aluminum for their recycling program.
- Production meetings for Newsies are ongoing with Dave Flowers and WAMS directors.

Ms. Gaddis - Shakesperience

1. Sadako and the 1,000 Paper Cranes script has a complete draft. If it is too dark, I can make another revision.
2. Romeo and Juliet will perform in April
3. Our after-school program for all Waterbury students has begun and is off to a great start. We currently have two WAMS students Annabella Parra and Jemma Mucherino. We have room to accept more.

Discussion:

Script starts with WWII - It is very dark Mr. Schulte and Dr. Stasaitis have a copy of the script.

Dr. Stasaitis agreed it is dark but very thought provoking - encourages creativity!!!

Mr. Ferreira – emphasized the meaning of hope

Ms. Gaddis – stayed away from weapon

3:30 – 5pm WAMS afterschool program started 2/6/24 now through May 14, 2024

Mr. Cocchiola – Fine Arts Pathways - extraordinary!!!

Process – Theater pathway x amount of credits, is there a form to fill out???

Mr. Ferreira - 8th to 9th grade on paper created an excel spreadsheet

Students fill out information on Power School

Middle School – rotation of the Arts

Want to understand process 4-year plan – for parents

Lottery results? Did we reach our goal?

Dr. Stasaitis - Out of district results – 29.8%

Waitlist with all the grades. New 6th graders - 400 on waitlist!

Looking for a partnership with Watertown! Accepted students from all over the district.

Volunteered for possibility to chaperone for **Hamilton**. Offered parental support where necessary.

Miss Nicolasora –Fine Arts Pathways great!!! Have students share their experiences!! All of the opportunities and choices our community has (middle and high school students). As a high school student, she would like to share with the middle school students all of these opportunities.

Miss Cocchiola – Would like to see more communication with parents with regards to middle school to high school transition.

Miss Nicolasora – Proposed having a buddy system – where high school help the middle school students.

Dan Cocchiola Proposed having the National Honor Society go into 6th grade classrooms to share information. Monitor and report progress.

Dr. Stasaitis – Let's get students in the classroom and Redesign Orientation!!! More information on transition to come.

We are currently looking to fill a position - Magnet Specialist.

Mrs. Alves – Let's work on collaborating during Orientation and discuss with parents the Fine Arts Pathways – make it a Pathways Night!!!!

Next meeting @ 9:00 am - March 6, 2024