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Curriculum and Instruction Committee Agenda
February 10, 2021
Start time: 5:30PM

1. Special Services

- February Newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/f106k>
- Related Services Resuming
- DLM Update

SEPAC meeting feb 16th. Conversation of race and SPED

Dr. Alegria meets with the SEPAC Board monthly

Feedback Received - Parents are appreciative of students who are coming in - K-2 inclusion, self contained, and pullout replacement students along with 2 ABA preschool classes.

There has been an ask to have inclusion students come in 4 days a week, but that will make the cohorts extremely big.

Dynamic Learning Map - alternative assessment to NJSLA - SPED is working with tech to ensure that the information going to the State is correct. We do have a few students in district and quite a few out of district who assess with DLM. We used to have a case manager be the test coordinator but will need a new one as they are unable to do it this year.

Therapists are reaching out to parents to see if they would rather have in person therapy or virtual. We are trying to accommodate as many families as possible.

BOE Member Malespina - Has the State given any guidance in doing this assessment in a virtual environment?

Dr. Alegria - The only thing that they gave us is a Broadcast which is in the Google Folder.

Toby Karten has been working with our students on inclusion virtually. She has been coming in on Tuesdays for the SPED faculty meetings. We will expand this PD to our co-teaching pairs.

2. Policy Update

- Policy 5430- Class Rank (1st Read)
- Policy 5440- Honoring Student Achievement

No discussion needed

3. Equity and Access

- Data/Supports

BOE Member Winfield - Would really like to use our partner (Dr. Fergus) to present this data. Asking Dr. Fergus - Based on our data what is the likelihood that black and brown students will end up in an AP class or Honor geometry?

In response to the data presentation at the Retreat - BOE Member Winfield wonders where the action steps were coming from because there is no information on the root causes. BOE Member Winfield would like to hear how Dr. Fergus could support us in finding the root cause. BOE Member Winfield - We often use quick fixes to bridge gaps and that is why we continue to not move forward. BOE Member Winfield feels we are not grappling enough and that we are oversimplifying this work. BOE Member Winfield - We have great potential with the support we have brought in. I would like to know how they can support and if we can dedicate time in C&I meetings to this conversation monthly.

Dr. Taylor - agrees we need to move forward and that is why District goals are so important. We have great resources with Mr. Alves and Dr. Fergus.

Dr. Perez - Agreed that we need to move away from general data. We need to begin to look at what is effective and what is not based on data. Training is a huge piece to this. And time is our biggest challenge. We need to make sure that our training is in line with Dr. Fergus, BPW, the CEP and the OCRR findings.

Last year Dr. Fergus worked with K-5 principals and is currently working with the secondary principals. He can give suggestions but is not able to walk with us to implement these strategies.

Dr. Taylor - There was a perception that just removing impediments will make these areas attractive to students and it is not. The issue is so much deeper than this.

BOE Member Winkfield - How can the BOE help and support in this work?

What the BOE can do to support is to remember that we are in a pandemic and the mental strain that is happening to our students. When we come out of this many of the students who may struggle the most are those students we want to enroll in AP classes.

BOE Member Winkfield There are many amazing people out there who do this work.

If capacity is an issue we need to troubleshoot this.

Dr, Perez - We are also looking at PD for our staff. We already reached out to one group that Dr. Fergus recommended. This is not a one and done area of PD. We need to look at our trainings and see if our PD is really meeting the needs of our teachers.

4. District Goal #3 (*SOMSD Portrait of a Graduate Timeline*)

Was not specifically address

5. NJSLA Update (*Spring 2021 NJSLA UPDATE*)

Was not specifically address

6. Failing Grade CHS Update (Principal Sanchez presentation)

Maplewood Middle School -

Ms. Gronau -

- We have been working hard having parent meetings with team teachers rather than individual meetings
- We have been having many I&RS meetings - targeting the neediest children.
- We are also working with C&I to look at grading during a pandemic. We are also looking to look out our resubmission of work “policies” for students.
- We have many social workers and interns going out to families to support students who are not engaged.
- We started Saturday Academy this past weekend and it will continue until June.
- Working with supervisors and teacher leaders about student agency grading, and engagement.

BOE Member Malespina - What supports do we have in place for our 7th grade students since AI is just in 6th grade?

Ms. Gronau -AI goes across grade levels, but we emphasize 6th grade.

BOE Member Malespina We are thinking of moving to bring more students back from virtual. Has there been any conversation about bringinning our most struggling students back in the next phase?

Ms. Gronau - anecdotally many of our students who are having difficulty have not opted to come back, but she would like to be a part of those discussions.

Ms. Gronau - We also need to make sure that students who appear to be failing might just have trauma.

C&I dept and other Asst. Superintendents will be working with building administrators to analyse and look at data.

BOE M Cuttle - Middle school is such a transitional time. The layer of getting their footing at CHS might be more challenging now due to the pandemic. What do those supports look like? How do we understand our students who are struggling on the inside? These times might just be harder for our students.

Ms. Gronau - 6th and 7th graders have an advisory period that helps support our students mental health. 8th grade has it once a week. We also work closely with our after school program and counselors in this area.

BOE Member Winfield We do need to look for ways to improve our SEL and look at our kids who are falling through the cracks. We also need to train our teachers in this area. We need to make sure that everything we put in place is district wide and not happening in silos.

Dr. Friedman - Consistency across the District is a goal of C&I but it will take time. We began our work of Profile of A graduate yesterday. This is not a high school goal it is a district goal. He agrees that SEL is a huge part of coming back for students and staff.

Mr. Sanchez -

- structurally we have weekly meetings
- crisis team focusing on struggling social/emotionally,
- I&RS team works with our APs.
- Our new social worker has been extremely beneficial. All of them have been working with 75 students each. They are working with students who struggle academically, absences, and not handing work. They have been making accommodations, working with counselors, and our ESS partnership and Henrick Martin.
- We are dropping off goodie bags, Canvas mentors, supply drop offs, continue to meet in smaller groups, Achieve tutors.
- APs receive emails daily on attendance and they meet to discuss with these students.

Student academic data

- Broke down by dept. - looking for best practices
- Look at by teacher - in order to have targeted conversations
- Looked at grade percentages - 59% or a 12% etc.
- What percentage had an F , but not on the progress report.

We have often sent out information to teachers about grading during the pandemic and will continue to work with teachers in this area.

As we approach the 3rd marking period Ms. Butler is looking at her most struggling students. She brings them into school in the afternoon to do their work. All APs will be doing this soon.

BOE Member Winfield - At what point do you switch to holding teachers accountable for Maslow's hierarchy of needs and grading.

Sanchez - We need to have the big conversation at a building level and then it needs to get more granular at the dept. Level. He also has a faculty committee where he discusses many of the grading issues.

When I&RS is not working for students they are handed over to building administration. They work with parents and teachers directly to zero in on best supports.

Dr. Taylor - The State has announced that they will have NJSLA testing this year and students will take them home.

Many other districts have copied our CIP grading from last spring. We will continue to look at our grading "policies".

BOE Member Malespina - gave an example of what her district does for accepting late assignments.

BOE Member Cuttle - At this point in the school year has every student had the opportunity to meet with their advisor and counselor to check in with them?

Mr. Sanchez not everyone has had a face to face - they have all met with the seniors and juniors at this point. In the survey for students it was a high percentage of students who said they have someone in the building they can go to for support or help.

BOE Member. Cuttle - In the past we have had discussions to try to do these meetings between counselors and students. There have been students who leave the district without ever having 1:1 meetings with counselors. If they get those touchstone moments with counselors maybe they will take risks in their learning.

Mr. Sanchez thanked Board Member Cuttle for the historical background in this area.

7. SeeSaw (*SeeSaw Efficacy Study*)

- Appropriate LMS for students in K-2.
- All of our teachers have used the free subscriptions and they are all expiring.

- K-2 is using this daily because it is developmentally appropriate for our little kids. If we do not purchase it teachers will lose all their work.

8. Professional Development Update

- ATLAS (*Virtual PD Plan*) (*K-2 SeeSaw Data*)(*K-5 Technology Survey*)(Contract)
- Authentic Learning (*Authentic Learning Overview*)
- Code Joy Artist in Residence Program/Teacher Training
- Greg Tang Math - Seth Boyden Pilot this year
- Streamable Learning UPDATE

All PD focuses on a small pilot group of volunteer teachers. Our goal is for these teachers to be a support for teachers in the future as they begin their PD process.