



Curriculum and Instruction Committee Agenda

March 9, 2021

Start time: 5:30PM

1. Special Services

- March Newsletter: Sent out to all IEP and 504 families
- Reopening Update - Families are very grateful for bringing back our most vulnerable students and preschoolers. We have about 200 K-12 special education students in the buildings as of today.
- DLM Update - Still getting ready for DLM assessments. Our autism teacher at the high school will be our point person for DLM (Dynamic Learning Measurement)
- SEPAC Update: Meeting on March 18, 2021 with all Supervisors

Preschool Update - 270 pre-registered for preschool. We will do the lottery once we get guidance from the State. A couple families missed the deadline and will be added if there are spots. Anyone from the Seth Boyden area will be guaranteed a spot.

Compensatory education - Reviewing with families to see if there is any regression for their child. We are creating a checklist that will guide us in our conversations on compensatory services.

Bridge year - Students who are aging out are allowed to stay if they were supposed to age out this year or next year. We are starting to plan for this.

2. Policy Update

- Policy 5430- Class Rank (2nd Read)
- Policy 5440- Honoring Student Achievement (2nd Read)
- Policy 5350- Pupil Suicide
- Policy 5756- Transgender
- Policy 5519- Dating Violence
- Policy 5530- Substance Abuse
- Policy 5533- Smoking

Student Rep questions on policies - Substance abuse and smoking - Could we add Restorative Practices to the policies?

Dating Violence & Pupil Suicide - Can we make sure that our students know about these policies? Could we start talking about dating violence in 6th grade? Substance abuse policy - Please add guardian back to the policy. Dating policy - take out "she/he" and replace with "they".

BOE Member Siders - Marajuana - The state released that Marajuana is still not legal for our students even if it is legal in NJ.

We would like to send these policies to the policy committee tomorrow night.

BOE members will email any other comments on policies.

BOE Member Siders - Feedback from class rank - Thought administration agreed that class rank is allowed if it is needed for scholarship and/or grant. Dr. Alegria will reach out to Mr. Sanchez.

Car insurance offers for student discounts - Morristown has a policy, do we need one?

3. Dr. Fergus BPW Settlement (Dr. Fergus)

Dr. Fergus: Shared some of his presentation - Getting Integration Ready.

Timeline of activities: 2019-2020 - Equity audit of integration readiness for elementary schools. 2020-2021 - Equity audit of integration activities in secondary schools readiness and what has been done (is it working?).

Elementary audit - High Level:

1. Curriculum
2. Instruction work in PLC
3. Intervention Frameworks
4. Perception of Systems and Cultural Diversity

How can these 4 areas could affect the integration of our students? Our schools must focus on these areas so that our kids get what they need to be successful.

Secondary: - Perception of school climate and enrollments in advanced programs in operation.

1. Document Review
2. Interviews
3. Surveys
4. Focus Groups

Biggest bulk of the work is survey work - parents, staff and students. Have been having a hard time getting participants. Dr. Fergus is having an event tonight in order to hopefully get more people in the focus group. We are waiting on parent consent forms for students to participate in the survey. Initially 70 parents signed up; only 30 showed up for the focus group.

Principals have been working hard to get all the information from teachers to Dr. Fergus. How was staff chosen for focus groups? - It is voluntary. 6 staff members signed up; only 1 showed up.

So far 19 focus groups have given their information; we are still waiting on 10 more. We are really trying to ensure that the diversity of the focus groups reflect the community. Staff focus groups are easy for us to get. We are focused on parents right now.

Focus groups: 31

Participants Surveys: 200 respondents - Racial/ethnic self-report: 75% white, 7% black, 6% Asian, 3% LatinX 5% multiracial 4% other

BOE Member Winkfield - We see the integration part as technical, but could you explain the impact on our youngest learners if we do not get all the pieces right?

Intervention processes - One principal says they have I&RS meetings many times a year. Another principal said 1 time a year. Our schools need to be nimble enough to understand best practices and that we have allocated resources. When we blend students into environments where schools do not have as many I&RS meetings because it is not needed our kids who need support are highlighted.

We have to be mindful of the trajectory of students who come into middle school from 5th grade and how they are “leveled” with the invisible leveling.

What is the plan for getting parents and the community to understand the algorithm? Our consultant will be meeting with the committee and at the BOE meeting.

Within the curricular frameworks - what are the set of cognitive goals - critical thinking skills - are they at the top of Bloom's taxonomy or in the middle. We want to push our kids in this area. We also need to make sure that I&RS is not a path to special education. Our I&RS kids will need support & intervention. We also need to be mindful that when our I&RS kids are enrolled in interventions their peers skills are growing too.

4. Access and Equity (Fergus/Severns' work)

Dr. Perez - Dr. Fergus and Dr. Severns work together to ensure that the data work that Dr. Severns is doing with staff connects with Dr. Fergus' work and that her sessions focus not only on data, but also how to use data for instruction.

We have been working on balancing our budget by supporting students and also connecting to the lawsuit. In our conversations today we kept ensuring that we were focusing on student supports.

Is Dr. Severn's goal to align Dr. Fergus' 3Rs? It is one aspect of the work. Her main focus is going to be working with administrators to ensure that they know how to read and use data. She will also be focusing on lesson planning and assessment through data.

5. 9th Grade Humanities Overview (Dr. Bean-Folkes Mr. Preston)

Humanities course - 9th grade humanities course - 2 sections and ELA and a history combined to create a cohort. Our students would travel class to class as a cohort. It will be co taught and planned by ELA and SS teachers. It's a new way of thinking. We are also hoping to see if we can include math classes too. We are trying to look at tiers of achievements (portfolio) and not just tests. Right now we are looking at just 9th grades.

Our English 3 cohort has been extremely successful. All but 5 students stayed in Honors.

6. SOMSD Literacy Project Update (Dr. Bean-Folkes)

SOMSD Literacy Project - 800 leveled bags of books went out to middle school students last week. We are now moving into the elementary schools. PTAs have been incredibly helpful. The bags are filled with books that are a band of levels. Dr. Bean-Folkes has been looking at student reading data and students are given books that are in the reading level band. We tried to make sure there is a mix of books. Teachers have asked for certain books to go out to particular students. The work of Dr. Beane-Folkes has also come through the Library committee. This Literacy initiative has sparked interest in the town libraries.

BOE Member Malespina - How is this being related back into the curriculum? Dr. B-F knows the curriculum so well so she made sure that the books matched the curriculum themes. Teachers are also using these books during conference time.

BOE Member Malespina - What are we doing with the library books? Dr. Bean-Folkes has been working with librarians to show students what is available online for students.

BOE Member Malespina would like to see our libraries open up.
Dr. Friedman explained that we have had many conversations about this and many of our staff are not comfortable with books coming and going within the building.

BOE Member Cuttle - Jen Latimer is working on a consortium between the schools and public libraries to get books in kids hands.

7. Failing and Struggling Student-Supervisor Recommendations (Dr. Friedman & Ms. Bodnar)

A draft has been shared of the feedback from supervisors. We will be meeting with principals and supervisors to discuss next steps. We also have been working at the SLT level discussing summer plans into the next school year. There have been a lot of fluid conversations on this subject.

BOE Member Winkfield - We need to see the data so that we can understand what we are dealing with. We need to see the data broken down by race, grades etc.

BOE Member Malespina - Have we used any of Lily's survey information to guide this?

Can the buildings report out weekly about student Ds &Fs and can this be shared with the committee?

Dr. Friedman will work on getting data to the committee ASAP.

Who is failing because of attendance?

What strategies are coming from building admin, supervisors and teachers. Has this work been discussed with Dr. Perez and Dr. Alegria? We have been working with supervisors, case managers, and principals.

We would like to see where kids are in real time. We would also need attendance data for these students. How are we using guidance to support our students? Dr. Alegria and Ms Balassone have been working with our new social worker. Her main goal is to focus on I&RS. Ms. Balassone is the lead for I&RS at CHS. Additional questions will be emailed through BOE Member Siders. Student Rep Foreman would like to see us focus on getting our seniors graduated by June.

8. Teq Professional Development Update (Dr. Friedman & Ms. Bodnar)

We are offering many PD sessions for our teachers. They will focus on teaching during these virtual and hybrid times. Teachers will be compensated.

Digital database? Where are we on this? We have created a master list to get as much information as possible. We will be reigning it back in.

9. Artist in Residence Update (Dr. Friedman & Ms. Bodnar)

All K-5 students will participate in the coding artist in residence. Achieve and PTAs are finding it.

10. ATLAS update (Dr. Friedman & Ms. Bodnar)

We have started the PD sessions with supervisors and some SLT members. Atlas is continuing to upload our curriculum, should be complete by the end of March. Select teacher curriculum writer volunteers will start PD shortly.

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

We have met with every building explaining to teachers what a Portrait of a Graduate is. We have asked for volunteers to participate on this district team. Right now we have many teachers who are interested.

New Business - BOE Member Maini would like to know if the C&I curriculum would write a letter to our legislature on our position/issues with the HIB legislation. We would also like to write a letter focusing on eliminating state testing this year.