



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023 at 5:30pm

Present were Maryann Welch (Chair), Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, Superintendent Elizabeth McAndrews and Lyn Jacques, the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Ms. Welch called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

Approve Minutes from September 26th, 2023 Meeting

Mr. Noyes moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.

District Strategy Updates

1. Enhancing Teaching and Learning: Ensure that every student is challenged academically through differentiated and advanced learning opportunities, the implementation of high-quality instructional practices, and an inclusive, demanding, and research-based curriculum.

- Curriculum: During the upcoming PRT, principals will be working on the curriculum inventory and aligning it with the Understanding by Design (UBD) backwards mapping framework. The district needs to adjust its' prior curriculum review cycle due to ESSER funding encouraging the district to adopt a new literacy program out of order.
- MTSS/Data: An AMS team analyzed data and recommended student WIN groups to the teachers. Teachers had the option to change the WIN group of their students if they were seeing different needs/performance in their classrooms. Ms. Welch agreed to share the AMS MTSS email she received, as a parent, with the committee.

MAP reports are ready to be sent out to families and likely Dibels for Shay students. MCAS data has already arrived in all homes.

The MTSS SEL committee has been established, the district has a new liaison from the state and will be using the Wayfinder summative assessment three times a year.

MTSS math: The Eureka 2.0 pilot will be starting in November and the large number of teachers who have volunteered to pilot the program will receive program PD at the end of October. Ms. Jacques said it is "great to have an Implementation Specialist" for grades K-4 and she hopes all piloted programs will have PD before implementation.

2. Promote Continuous Development of High-Quality Educators: Enhance the Professional Learning Community by providing rich professional development that ensures everyone's focus on high expectations and continuous improvement for professional practice.

- Professional Development Committee: They have held their initial meeting, are more representative than past committees are developing a PD survey to measure “impact”. The subcommittee had a brief discussion on impact and evaluation tools.
- Due to the new para contracts, paraprofessionals are now invited to professional development. They are currently learning about Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and have requested to be trained in the Science of Reading.
- Professional Development: Holly Cole and Lisa Dupree provide regular presentations. Elementary staff are learning about the new skills-based report cards and 3rd grade teachers are receiving Foundations training and support in developing structured learning lessons. 15 teachers have signed up to participate in a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) cohort presented by staff from Harvard.

3. Progressive Learning and Work Environment that is Safe and Accessible: Create an environment that provides physical and psychological safety for children and adults. An environment that is accessible to all stakeholders and promotes a positive mindset.

- Restorative Practices: There are 5 spots available to work with the Restorative Practices consultant. During the sessions, she works with building leadership to answer questions and problem solve real-life scenarios.
- Central registration process is in place; however, the district needs to add a few more documents to the standard forms.
- Daniel is currently working on the district organization structure.
- The tech team will be working on a plan on October 18th.
- The new district special education hire that oversees the programs, Heather, is currently observing programs and making adjustments, as needed. She has added furniture to one classroom and will be creating descriptions of each specialized program in the future.

Spotlight

- **Applications:** none reviewed
- **Marketing Plan:** The subcommittee reviewed the spotlight flyer, Dr. Jurist Levy made suggestions, and they discussed where to market the program. Marketing locations included: the city website, public library, Bakehouse, Outrider, Mel’s Records, Vermette’s, Wise House, and Ms. Welch’s Facebook page (every two months).

Other: MAP and MCAS data correlation

- Mr. Noyes asked about correlations between data and the new AMS advanced math class.

Mr. Noyes moved to adjourn at 6:29pm, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved by unanimous consent.

Next meeting will be on November 21st.