

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
January 11, 2020 at 5pm**

This meeting was conducted under the 'Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20', signed on March 12, 2020.
The public was able to dial into the meeting using their phones by calling
+1 (872) 240-3412 Access Code: 540-473-629

Present at 5:00 p.m. were Maryann Welch (Chair), Peter Hoyt, Abigail Jurist Levy, Lyn Jacques, the Director of Teaching and Learning and the Acting Superintendent Elizabeth McAndrews.

Ms. Welch called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Approve minutes from November 23, 2020 meeting

- *Mr. Hoyt moved to approve the minutes, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved by unanimous consent.*

Teaching and Learning updates

- The Equity and Inclusion committee meeting is tomorrow. The committee hasn't narrowed down their project. District will ask the PACT group, which meets on Wednesday, for a representative.
- Next week, the district will be administering the MAP reading fluency assessment in grades K-2, if the iPad are ready. Training to administer the assessment was already provided to teachers. During the January 27th PRT, teachers in grades K-2 will be trained on creating and using the assessment reports. Remote students will be offered times to take the assessment in-person; however, the assessment may be completed at home. This assessment evaluates early reading skills. Ms. Jacques is not sure if this assessment will provide similar data to Dibels.
- Curriculum considerations: The Desmos math pilot has been positive in 6th grade and the district may expand the program to fifth grade. Desmos is a computer program, part calculator and part interactive simulation tool. DESMOS is half as expensive as Go Math and conceptually explores math. Ms. Jacques will send out a survey to teachers asking if they want Desmos, Go Math, or another program.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW), with support from Jenn Donais, is pushing Amesbury STEM. The PLTW program in PreK-5 is called Launch and the 6-8th grade program is called Gateway. It is organized in rigorous and engaging modules and this year 5th grade teachers took professional development before implementing the program into their classrooms. The program provides excellent mentoring and can be adapted to remote. At this time, all PLTW PD is paid through a grant. The district is recommending to expand the pilot into lower grades. On Wednesday, there will be a presentation to elementary school teachers and the district will ask if anyone would like to volunteer to pilot a

module in their class. Elementary modules can be 10 hours while higher grade modules can last months.

Years ago, the elementary teachers requested the district purchase a Houghton Mifflin science program. At the time there was no money for the purchase, therefore a curriculum was not provided. Science is supposed to be next on the curriculum cycle so PLTW could provide an option until curriculum review work is complete.

- Student Opportunity Act (SOA): Last year a proposal, supported by various stakeholders, was sent to DESE asking for money to purchase Geodes and other materials to support our early reading program. The money fell through so this Friday, DESE has requested an updated proposal. The district plans to resubmit the proposal.

Progress on district goals

Goal #1: Incremental progress towards establishing an IT Department and 1-to-1 device program

- Ms. McAndrews had planned to work with Tim McCue on Friday, but an Aspen meeting made him unavailable. The district will provide a technology update and a ESSER grant plan, shortly. The hardware is being fixed but the Wi-Fi still needs improvements. Susan is busy doing data for the state, Jessica is taking care of student needs and the district needs someone for the network and rostering jobs. Tim Costello's position is still open but no acceptable candidates have applied. Ms. Jacques is cataloguing the new iPad and hotspots. Sim cards are being placed in all hotspots and apps are being added to the iPad. The district had to order licenses and they just come in. Out of 327 pieces of equipment, they have 85 iPad left to configure. Ms. Jacques said she was overloaded with this additional work and greatly appreciates the people who work in the IT department.

Goal #3: Establish a consistent approach to providing and reporting Social Emotional Learning across the district that supports all students and staff, particularly in light of COVID-19.

- The district will meet with the unions to discuss SEL. They plan to invite SEL knowledgeable guests to the meetings, determine frequency of instruction and how it will be delivered. Mental health is a concern for staff and student across the district. Some students are in crisis and the district may need more supports. In the past, SEL in the elementary schools has focused on just prevention but mental health also needs to be addressed. The district is exploring one SEL curriculum used at AHS that might be adaptable for AMS. Ms. McAndrews confirmed that the schools have previously gone through trauma sensitivity training. Next year, the school councils should support the SEL goal when creating school improvement plans.

Commented [AJL1]: According to my notes, the hot spots had to be opened and SIM cards installed in the ipads and make sure the ipads had all the apps the kids need before they're delivered to students.

(SIM cards are inserted in laptops, they're not something that would be placed in a hotspot)

Remote learning impact

- The district may expand the upcoming MAP presentation to answer the larger question, "How has remote learning impacted the district?". MAP is not used at AHS because it doesn't assess upper level reading effectively.

Preparation for Focus Skills/Elementary report card and MAP presentations

Goal #2: Increase and enhance communication within the school community and across the Amesbury community at-large.

- Focus Skills: This will be presented on January 19th by the elementary principals and Ms. Jacques. Matching the template from Aspen to School Brains has been difficult. Teachers will be training on the report cards in the future.
- MAP data: Dr. Catarius, Ms. Jacques, and Ms. Donais will work on this report. From 2018-2020, MAP reading scores held or showed growth. In math, there was a decrease in mean RIT scores. Teachers are looking at data for intervention and the development of a cohort c. Due to COVID-19, there was a smaller pool of testers which may have skewed the data. However, remote learners were able to do the test at home or come in-person. Moving forward the district plans to follow classes instead of comparing 8th graders to last year's 8th graders. There seems to be a correlation between the 5th grade class using ST Math and the grade maintaining more math knowledge than previous years.

At 6:05 Mr. Hoyt moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved by unanimous consent.

Next Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting planned for end of February 2021.

Amesbury Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Goal

To serve as a conduit between the School Committee, School Personnel, and Community and ensure that student achievement is the schools' utmost priority. The subcommittee will...

- Regularly review the progress and products of the Teaching and Learning Department
 - Recommend spotlight presentations to share academic successes
 - Advocate for specific policy and budgetary needs that support curriculum, instruction, and accountability
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