PLYMOUTH-CANTON
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Student Performance and Achievement (SPA) Board Committee
Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2025

Board of Education members present: Judy Westra and Anupam Chugh Sidhu

District staff present: Dr. Monica Merritt, Superintendent; Beth Rayl, Chief Academic and Innovation Officer; Hal Heard, Executive Director of High School; Anthony Ruela, Executive Director of Middle School Education and PreK-12 Student Support Systems; Dr. Denise Lilly, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Kevin Karr, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Professional Development; Kimberly May, Director of State and Federal Programs and Continuous Improvement; Montyne Barbee, Assistant Principal of Canton High School; Kaelyn Bullock, Technology Integration Specialist; Jan Douglas, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for English Language Arts (ELA) and Media; Dr. Isabel Haller-Gryc, English Language Learner Curriculum Coordinator; Denyaz Farhat, Multilingual Learner Instructional Coach; Heather Schram, Teacher; Patty Snyder, Teacher; and Susan Provenzano, Executive Assistant to the Chief Academic and Innovation Officer

Citizen representatives present: Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz, Megan Rutkowski, and Lakshmi Swaminathan

Student Voice in Action representative present: none

Others present: Byron Roberts, community member

Board member Anupam Chugh Sidhu called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A. Approval of Minutes: The draft minutes from the April 2, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.

B. Public Comments: none

C. Presentations/Discussions

   A. **Multilingual Learner (MLL) Programming:** Kimberly May, Director of State and Federal Programs and Continuous Improvement; Dr. Isabel Haller-Gryc, English Language Learner Curriculum Coordinator; and Denyaz Farhat, Multilingual Learner Instructional Coach, shared information and updates about MLL programming. The department supports 1,193 students representing more than 60 home languages. Committee members asked questions and engaged in a discussion around the overview.

   B. **New Course Proposal: Understanding and Using AI Responsibly -** Kevin Karr, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Professional Development; Montyne Barbee, Assistant Principal of Canton High School; and

Heather Schram, Teacher, shared a new course proposal, Understanding and Using AI Responsibly. The elective 0.5-credit class is proposed for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. The total cost is $20,400, of which $18,000 would be funded from CTE grants and $2,400 would be funded from the Teaching and Learning general budget fund. The committee approved moving this request to the Board of Education meeting on May 27, 2025, for a first reading.

C. **Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition Course Materials:** Kevin Karr, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Professional Development, Jan Douglas, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for English Language Arts (ELA) and Media; and Patty Snyder, Teacher; shared a proposal for a new Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition textbook *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology.* Implementation would be for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. The cost of the textbook would be $17,952.90. The committee approved moving this request to the Board of Education meeting on May 27, 2025, for a first reading.

D. **Out-of-Country Field Trip:** The committee reviewed one out-of-country field trip and approved moving it to the full Board of Education meeting for final approval on May 13, 2025.

E. Cell Phone Policy Discussion: Committee members discussed the current Board of Education policy and its implementation by level (elementary, middle, and high school). The information discussed included emergency contact concerns, Student Code of Conduct violations, challenges with implementation of handbook guidelines, the use of cell phones in classrooms, and the posting of guidance on the district website. An overview of neighboring districts' cell phone policies was shared.

Board member Anupam Chugh Sidhu called for an adjournment at 6:34 p.m., and the meeting adjourned at that time.