

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2021 at 5pm

Present were Maryann Welch (Chair), Peter Hoyt, Abigail Jurist Levy, Lyn Jacques, the Director of Teaching and Learning, and Superintendent Elizabeth McAndrews. Abigail arrived at 5:26pm.

Ms. Welch called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Approve minutes from March 29, 2021 meeting

Mr. Hoyt moved to approve the minutes, second by Maryann Welch. Vote: Yes 2-0. Approved

Summer school update

- Sub-separate students will be offered three weeks in July and three weeks in August. EYS students will be offered three weeks in July and two weeks in August. All students with IEPs will be offered three weeks in August. General education students may also attend these three weeks and focus on support in ELA, math, and SEL.
- The district is using MAP data to determine who needs extra support this summer by flagging students with no data growth or a data decline. The elementary schools will do MAP this week and the middle school has already completed MAP.
- Guidance counselors will support the summer programs in areas of executive functioning and mental health.
- Summer school class sizes will be approximately 10 students per teacher. To encourage general ed. staff interest, the pay has increased to \$50 an hour (comparable to sped pay) and teachers will be provided paid planning time every Monday. Federal money will be used to fund the program.

Equity team update

- The Equity team was born out of the tiered focus report. Its' purpose is to determine instruments for assessing equity and to complete annual reviews across the district. The athletics and co-curricular programs have not received an equity review recently and are a priority for this year's assessment. The team can choose to take deeper dives into a narrow focus every year which can include topics such as racial justice, socio-economic access or gender equality. Twenty teachers were interested in the twelve positions that make up the Equity team. The teams May and June meeting dates have been determined. They plan to post results of inequities by October 1st.

Literacy committee update (gaps, needs, Wit & Wisdom)

- The literacy committee needs additional time to gather information, so the update will be rescheduled to take place at the June Teaching and Learning subcommittee meeting.

Data (mental health, MAP, dyslexia screening results)

- Pettengill, in cooperation with Principal Ricci, surveyed the High School staff concerning their mental health. After reviewing the results AHS planned staff mental health activities; however, the activities were stalled when Wednesdays were no longer planning/training time. Pettengill held a voluntary training at AES and only two teachers attended. The elementary principals say they aren't seeing a significant increase in

student mental health issues. The middle and high school are seeing an increase in student maladaptive behaviors and high schoolers have stated that they feel anxious. McAndrews stated that she is concerned about the staffs' mental health and burnout.

How new data effects ESSER use

- The district will use ESSER II funds first. They will use funds to increase interventions for students and coaches for staff. Funding will be discussed further at the next School Committee meeting.

AES Principal search

- 28 candidates applied for the AES principal position. McAndrews and Jacques reviewed the applications and moved eleven along to be reviewed by the search committee. The search committee interviewed half of these applicants and moved three finalists forward. The public finalist interviews are this week and the community will be able to provide feedback via a survey. The search committee will meet on Thursday to review the finalist feedback and make a final recommendation to McAndrews. McAndrews plans to contact the chosen applicant on Friday.

Spotlight marketing/presentation

- The spotlight form has been completed to honor Tier I staff. McAndrews will prepare a certificate presentation. The School Committee should add a small budget line for spotlight certificates and gifts in next year's budget. McAndrews said she would have someone create a Spotlight Google form and share it with the new HR director.

Other

- The district is looking for fellows to help with before school interventions. Additionally, the district is assessing how to get students home following possible after-school programming for enrichment and academic support.
- The subcommittee discussed the Superintendent selection process. They agreed that it was extremely thorough and the search co-chairs agreed that the MASC consultant was very accessible. However, they would have preferred MASC vetting the applicants and facilitated more of the process.

At 5:49 Mr. Hoyt moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved by unanimous consent.

Next Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting planned for June 21, 2021 at 5pm.

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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