



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Bank Room, Amesbury High School
October 18, 2021 at 5pm

Present 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 5:01 pm.

Approve minutes from September 7, 2021 meeting

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

Teaching and Learning Updates

- Ms. Jacques shared a teacher concern involving the 4th grade “Woodsrunner” by Gary Paulsen core text in Wit and Wisdom. Ms. Jacques and Superintendent McAndrews will review the text to determine if the text is appropriate for the students and if another text should replace it.
- MAP testing has had technical challenges due to availability of tech and/or missing apps.
- Teacher mentors had their second meeting and Amy is providing articles for teacher reflections on Google Classroom.
- The second district leadership learning walk was changed into a problems of practice session to support AMS’s behavioral needs. AES’s district leadership walk will be tomorrow and the focus will be on student engagement.
- Ms. Jacques took a school tour of Wit and Wisdom instruction and is brainstorming PD support and tech issue solutions.

MCAS Results

Superintendent McAndrews stated that the whole School Committee will receive a MCAS report tentatively planned for Nov. 18th. Scores did drop during CoVid and these areas will be addressed in the school improvement plans.

Literacy Intervention Plan

- Elementary ELA: All students have completed DIBELS from K-4. “At risk” students used to be lumped together but the district is being more strategic and currently sorting the group by needs (phonemic awareness, phonics, sight recognition). Students will be going through intervention cycles which will take about 6-8 weeks per cycle.
- AMS: Interventions will be working on comprehension and fluency.

DEI Update

- Ms. Jacques gave an overview of the DEI results. The district’s economically disadvantaged group is growing but Ms. Jacques stated that subgroup has a variety of supports being implemented. The DEI team has chosen ELL resources as their focus for this year because of the lack of supports the district provides. Amesbury currently educates about 67 students that speak

13 languages that are not English. The majority of these students either speak Portuguese or Spanish. The district will use “Talking Points” to translate materials to the students appropriate language.

- On November 2, district staff will discuss cultural competency and implicit bias during their PD with Michael Eatman.
- Ms. Jacques went to a statewide meeting on DEI in hopes of getting additional support. An overwhelming 90+ districts attended the meeting so the state selected a smaller number to continue the program. Amesbury was not selected to continue.
- Ms. Jacques is looking into the very competitive ESSEX County Learning Community 2 year grant which focuses on SEL and diversity needs.

Grants/ESSER 3

The state has taking longer to pass out ESSER 3 funds than anticipated. The ESSER 3 stakeholder surveys were reviewed and had few surprises. Most of the recommendations were already being planned and/or implemented. ESSER 3 will be funding after-school academic supports. These supports will be provided to students identified through MAP and DIBELS scores. Additionally, years 2 and 3 for coaches and interventions will be funded, as well as, math and reading group and MTSS man hours.

Spotlight reviews

No spotlight applications were received since our last meeting.

Other

Math interventions: MAP data will identify “at risk” math students. The district, including Jenn Donais, is currently exploring what tests would be best for identifying math subgroup gaps.

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Approved by unanimous consent.

Anticipated Next Meeting (6 week cycle): November 30, 2021 at 5pm