



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2023 at 4:30pm

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 March 20th, 2023 Meeting

Moved for approval once changed Ms. To Mr. in bullet number 2 by Mr. Noyes, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.

Teaching and Learning Updates

- **Math**

- **DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) data:** DIBELS cohort data was not provided. District will be added DIBELS Kindergarten math assessments next year.
- **Math support**
 - **New Curriculum:**
 - **Desmos (Publisher: Amplify) will stay at AMS this Fall** EdReports, the independent, nonprofit curriculum reviewer, awarded Desmos Math 6–8 perfect scores and an all-green rating for grades six through eight. Green ratings mean that materials met expectations for standards alignment and other indicators of quality, such as design and usability.
 - **Elementary Curriculum Pilots (ST Math, Eureka 2.0, Illustrative Math (Amplify))** The district has asked teachers in grades PreK-4 to pilot a unit each and hopefully be ready to pick a favorite curriculum at the end of the winter. They had wanted to pilot the new ST math curriculum, which goes with the computer program we currently subscribe to, in September but their material launch and vetting has been delayed. Therefore, the district has bumped all pilot plans back. Plan: Amplify (Sept-Oct), Eureka (Nov-Dec) and ST math (possibly in January). They will make sure to look for consistency and a common language across the Desmos middle school math curriculum and the future elementary curriculum.
 - **Interventions:** A Federally funded 3-year grant called the Math Academy will provide intensive PD to one district math specialist through coaching, courses, a practicum, and resources. A certified lead will train them on the brain science related to math and teach them how to match interventions to data. Beth and Jenn will also attend the class-based training but will not participant in the contact hours.
- **Progress with Lunch/Recess Allotment:** Every school will have 30 minutes for lunch. Recess may be divided depending on grade.

- **Arts Program:** We tabled as it would be discussed in the School Committee meeting that evening.
- **MTSS Committees:**
 - ELA MTSS: Phase1 is done. Phase2 is currently being worked on. The district hired a literacy specialist for middle school a couple weeks ago to be a coach to support the MTSS model expanding to AMS and the new ELA Amplify program, which was unanimously recommended after last year's AMS ELA pilots. She will work with data teams to create Tier groups and provide Special Education students with OG instruction. She will be trained by the district this summer and plan the upcoming WIN blocks so AMS can "hit the ground running". Phase2 will likely not reach AHS until the following year.
 - SEL: Grades 6-12 will be piloting a Wayfinder curriculum. Elementary is currently doing the PBIS academy.
- **Spotlight Applications:** none
- **Other**
 - Elementary ELA: District data shows that the students going into 3rd grade next year have significant needs. So, grade 3 will be getting Foundations training in September and the Early Literacy Grant will be expanded to 3rd grade, as well. Data shows that the Early Literacy Grant in K-1 is working. We briefly discussed Title I plans for next year
 - PD Committee: It is meeting and has identified PD for the upcoming year. The district hopes to give the teachers a PD calendar for the year that it is aligned with the strategic plan. The DCAP needs to be revised with Holly Cole and will be brought to the PD Committee to be shared as a tool.
 - State reporting: The district is in the middle of a tiered focus review for ELL students. Next, there will be an onsite review. Then, DESE will send out a corrective action report to the district. The district will likely be flagged for not having enough SEI certified teachers. Most of the district's EL speakers are first language Portuguese speakers. The district also has a few Afghani families.

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to adjourn at 5:39pm, seconded by Mr. Noyes. Approved by unanimous consent.

Next meeting will be in August where we will see the PD plan and discuss math needs further.