

May 23, 2019

Present: Len, Paul, Jeff, Jennifer, Kirsi, Bill

Jane entered at 7:15 PM

Juli Keyes for AEA

Kathy, Rod, Rob, Alison

- 6:38 PM - Open Meeting
  - Late start due to parking issues
  
- Public Comment 6:39 PM
  - No discussion or decisions based on public comment at this meeting.
  - Deborah Savage
    - Parent of 3 children. Head of Arlington Parent Special Ed. Alliance. Comment on District Goals. Networking and advocacy. Spoken to parents. Statistical data from parents. See long-standing problems with SPED practices in the district. See system-wide problems. Concerns backed up by LABBB report. Deb's group is working on a report they are going to submit to the School Committee.
    - Report will address issues that need addressing.
    - Proposed Goals - Little bits are relevant to Special Ed. But as a discrete topic, only appears as one piece of one objective of one goal.
    - Issues - program availability, program suitability, outcomes.
    - Propose new goals - want to come to subcommittee meeting to discuss further and have report in hand. At a minimum, District should do a best practices review.
    - Propose a goal on data relative to student performance. They do not believe there is a system to measure outcomes.
    - They think we need a strategic plan on special ed.
    - This group is organized, informed and want to collaborate.
  
- Curriculum Presentation, Literacy. 6:46 PM
  - Deb Perry, Director of ELA & Literacy. Shannon O'Brien, Maria Amato, Ally Magalhaes, Literacy Coaches. Heather Mahoney, Grade 6 Gibbs, Nicole Eidson, HS English Teacher, Elizabeth Harple, HS English Teacher.
  - Thank SC for this year's budget, approving another coach. Have 4 Elementary Literacy Coaches.
  - Ally - focuses on 1st and 2nd grades. Have been able to work with first year teachers this year. Able to model lessons, observe teacher, debrief. Works with entire grade levels in schools. Able for teachers to see lessons and then apply right away. Ally can coach lesson right away. Principals are very supportive.
  - Maria Amato - works with 3rd and 4th grade. She has the opportunity for teachers to implement new units in readers workshop. Teachers have someone to plan with, model lessons. Also half day PD. Worked with three schools

implementing nonfiction unit. 80% of teachers will do that unit next year. Maria has been able to work with teachers looking at data. Maria worked with new fourth grade teachers.

- Shannon O'Brien. Work primarily with 4th and 5th grades. Give feedback that is not evaluative. Supported 5th grade - piloted several new units. Work with those teachers and look at student data. Correlated with common core standards.
- Heather Mahoney - 6th grade. Book clubs came from conversation among 6th grade ELA teachers. They enter 6th grade as great readers, but as middle school continues, there is more competition for reading. Took book clubs to bridge gap in 6th grade. AEF Grant. This is the culminating unit for 6th grade. Looking at diverse books. Championing authors of color. The teachers piloted this last year. Looking forward to incorporating more explicit instruction.
- Nicole Eidson and Elizabeth Harple. Teach AHS juniors. Last 4-5 years, they have had 6 sections of AP ELA for juniors. A couple units in AP class are discrete and appropriate for all juniors. Working on taking these units and employing them for all juniors.
  - Nicole - this course asks for rhetorical analysis. Talk about rhetoric. Look at how they see the word used in the media recently. Look at how the term is used in a negative way. The teachers talk about how rhetoric does not have to be used in a negative way. Can be civil and effective. Goal is to make students conscientious consumers and take ownership of own writing, speaking. Look at fiction, non-fiction, documentary film. SAT Essay question is asking students to do a rhetorical analysis. Students are asked to take a position. They have to know what is happening in the world. They need to learn that their language has power.
- Elizabeth Harple. Teaches American Literature. Thinking of incorporating units into class. It is about asking students to do something different. Thinking about speaker's or author's choices. Unit on justice in America. Wanted to make Scarlet Letter relevant to students. Empowered students to use evidence, make claims and arguments. Culminated in response paper.
- Deb - themes - power of language. Trying to help students find their own voices. Perspective - try to see world from different places.
- Questions
  - Bill - thanking teachers.
  - Jennifer - Who is being served with these courses and reading groups? Are all students included?
    - 6th grade - chose different books at different levels of difficulty.
    - Reading groups - get closer to personalizing instruction.
  - Len. Pitch to coaches. Great if they could do more marketing that community is aware of the work the coaches are doing.
    - Shannon - have gone to PTO at one school.
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- Curriculum Presentation - Denny Conklin 7:10 PM. Presentation is in Novus.
  - Highlight - 8th grade civics. New Social Science Frameworks.
    - Value placed on diverse identities and different perspectives. Want students to be able to see themselves in the curriculum.
    - Reading comprehension. Better with more background knowledge.
    - SEL Skills.
    - Practice standards
    - Parallel set of literacy standards linked to each grade level.
    - District initiatives:
      - Elementary (see presentation)
        - 5th grade - constitution and bill of rights.
      - 6th grade. Ancient Civ. Thematic Approach
      - 7th grade - from world geography to global studies.
      - 8th grade - civics
      - 9-11. No changes until we figure out MCAS. If there is going to be a test, want to give kids the best
      - 6-12 - research skills. Experimenting with authentic audience.
      - Surveyed students on research.
      - Looking at essential skills for research.
    - Teachers present:
      - Lucy Conroy
        - Why civics and why 8th grade? Big gap for students.
      - Nikki Hocror
        - Sample lessons and sample learning experiences.
        - Try to teach kids how to be active citizens in the community.
        - Respectfully communicate and have civil discourse.
      - Eric Bakke
        - Eric has done Generation Citizen at Ottoson. Age is perfect to get kids knowledgeable about what is going on in town. Get them into public spaces in town. Be a part of the community.
        - Full cluster - very helpful at Ottoson this year. Appreciative of School Community.
        - Include everybody in the units. Want all students to feel included.
        - Maura Healy came to Eric's class.
      - Todd Sundstrom
        - Nice to have some leeway into the curriculum. Appreciated the opportunities to create the curriculum. Great PD.
        - Looking at Essential Questions. Works in progress.
    - Questions
      - Bill - are you going to share SC decisions that were not so great?

- Kirsi? What is the relationship between state standards and what you decide to teach?
    - State has given flexible options. Lots of leeway. Districts can do middle school sequence differently.
    - Standards suggest content, but gives discretion to teachers.
  - Kirsi - hope they can utilize Town Meeting.
    - One unit is titled "All politics is local." Want to build on that. Will go into how town politics work. Action-based project.
  - Jennifer - what is being pushed out of 8th grade curriculum? Discussions of geopolitical changes with maps.
  - Jennifer - Africa is a big continent - where is the focus?
    - 1st grade teachers have been working on PDs - want to teach Africa in a more culturally proficient way. Students will look at overall continent, climate, and then focus on one country.
  - Jeff - what is going to happen to medieval history?
  - Jane - Ancient Civ. is extraordinary. Want more rigor at elementary level.
  - Paul - like that 8th grade civics is able to build from local to state to federal. Have kids' interest in what is going on in community shown more sophistication?
    - Eric - Generation citizen. Highly local problems. This year looked at minimum wage, homelessness, poverty. Gun control. Maura Healy spoke to class. Students are totally aware of the issues.
  - Kirsi - plug in for Mr. Hayner doing mock town meetings with 3rd grades - four elementary schools. Doing something at grade 3 sets seed for everything going on.
  - Hardy 5th graders went to Ted Kennedy Institute. Longer School day one, but more recess time.
  - Paul - with changes in 7th grade, will they no longer be required to learn capitals of countries.
    - Denny - want students to know generally where countries are, but they do not need rote memorization.
  - Paul - motion to accept curriculum report. Second by Jeff. Unanimously approved.
  - Kathy - appreciation for curriculum teams.
- District Goals. 7:56 PM Presentation in Novus.
    - Document is dynamic. Not a static document.
    - Vision of student as global citizen.
    - Look at transferable skills.
    - Discussion of goals will continue at CIAA meeting.

- Different curriculum focus for next year.
- SEL goal .
- Staff excellence and professional development. Every initiative is paired with professional development.
  - Build on the work we have done already. Every year, incrementally move forward.
  - Goals become link for school improvement plans and personal goals.
  - Seek to increase overall diversity of staff.
- Systems/Nuts & Bolts of school system. Continuation of use of data to inform change and instructional practice.
  - Data bank
  - Data teams in every school building. Use data to inform practice.
  - District administrators PD for a consistent way to look at data. Datawise course. Coaches and other support personnel will take the course next year.
- Operations/Communications/Stakeholder engagement
  - If override passes, next year will be very intense on next level of design. Lots of time on thinking about final design components.
  - Includes other initiatives for district. Begun review of essential standards and transferable skills. Want elementary curriculum available for all parents.
- Two more meetings to approve district goals.
- Questions:
  - Bill - ask to report back on whether there could be more concise, specific behavioral approaches.
    - Kathy - set up a schedule on when different groups can come in.
    - Rod - look at the bottom. Last page of goals. We added a disclaimer that some goals may change based on teacher input and student data.
  - Kirsi - question about 3.1 and 3.2. As part of work, Kirsi is interested in seeing examples of how data is being used. Looking for examples of how teachers and administrators use the data. How does it affect students and classrooms?
  - Len - is there a third party tool?
    - Rod - part of package that comes with Google. Data studio. Teachers can use spreadsheets. Teachers can access through a link.
  - Jennifer - data bank - at end of next year, where do we hope to be?
    - Rod - sky is limit. We can add common assessments. Asking curriculum leaders to look at what types of assessments can be added. Make some determination of

what it means. How do we evaluate the data.

Multi-year project. Will not be done in one year.

- Jennifer - urge us to use School Committee as resources. Can give comments on how things are worded.
- Paul - feels very diverse and very ambitious. How are we going to track all of this? How will we watch all moving parts and communicate back to the School Committee?
  - Kathy - it is ambitious. What are the kinds of things we can do that will have the most effect.
  - E.g., social emotional learning.
  - Portrait of students - where does that happen? Everybody has to take a part of it. Every department has to own it. Everyone held accountable.
- Juli Keyes - please send the goals to the teachers.
- Paul - worry that document is too big and too disparate. Feels unmanageable.
  - Rod - look at 1.1. Overarching goal. How that is translated for each department. Rod was explicit and worked with curriculum leaders to choose only one or two for each content area. Mindful of not having too much on plate.
  - Kathy - focus on curricula that is aligned with state standards but is dynamic. Students will learn best in environments where they feel safe and are appreciated and supported.
- Juli Keyes - looking at action plan combined with goals. Appreciate it being broken down like this,
- Jane - relationship learner. Need to see the sum of the whole before she sees the sum of the parts.
  - Kathy - want all third grade students to be at reading benchmark at the end of third grade. Think about what we need to get there.
- Len - goal related to new Dibbles - some of detail is too much. More of the goal without the details.
  - Rod - all are written in SMART goal format.
- Bill - want specificity.
  - Rod - SMART Goal format.
- Paul - teachers would be happy with goals.
- Jennifer - Who is the audience for these goals? People should be able to look at it and understand what the district is trying to accomplish?
- Kirsi - what is going to be different next year? Desired outcome.
- Len - LABBB Report - appropriate to have goal on implementation plan based on LABBB report.

- Kathy - some of the goals are from the LABBB report.
  - Alison - will talk about what the Sp. Ed. Department has been doing to address LABBB report and CPR.
    - Co-teaching goal. Best practices. Engaging in PD. Coaching. Takes root.
    - Science and Math co-teaching at AHS. We all work with special ed. students, all teachers.
  - Jane - when we talked about budget - no section for special ed. All infused. Are goals infused with special education and general education.
    - Kathy - 1.1 - all woven together. We don't want Special Education and General Education to be distinct. They have to work together.
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- EDCO Agreement for Approval 8:50 PM.
  - Summary of changes in Novus. EDCO Board has already vetted.
  - Paul - removing Winchester.
  - Jeff - move approval of EDCO Agreement. Seconded by Paul
  - Kirsi - question - why did Winchester leave?
    - Kathy - Winchester is part of SEEM Collaborative. EDCO has roundtables for all different disciplines.
    - Assistant Superintendent group is one of most dynamic group.
  - Jennifer - change in Article IV - where is that change?
    - Kathy - advisory cannot vote.
  - Unanimous vote to approve EDCO Agreement.
- Monthly Financial Report. 8:58 PM - Mike Mason not present. Will present next time. Send questions to Mike in advance.
- Chapter 70 Funding 8:58 PM
  - Bill - How much of Chapter 70 Increase is coming to the schools?
  - Len - document in Novus. In Arlington, we do not tie school budget to Chapter 70 funding. It does not make sense to do it in one year when there is more funding, because then what happens when there is less funding?
  - FY 20 - \$5million overall increase if override passes. We did approve override commitments regardless of Chapter 70.
  - Paul - driving factor is increase in enrollment. Growth in enrollment will increase Chapter 70. We will have this impact on foundation budget. Growth contingency in fiscal stability plan.
  - Bill - because of formula with town, money comes from that rather than Chapter 70.

- Len - if there was not a large Chapter 70 increase, we do not know what would have happened. We did get an adjustment in growth formula and increase.
  - Bill - money from the town is committed regardless of Chapter 70.
  - Paul - revenues from Chapter 70 are put into the pot/Town stability fund. That is the way we have done it and how we extend the override.
  - Jennifer - if the state were to commit more money to education, I would want the flexibility to go back to the Town.
  - Kirsi - can't see a situation where the state funds education significantly more without decreasing funding in other areas.
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- Appointment to Calendar Study Committee 9:08 PM
  - Jennifer is interested in serving.
  - Jeff Nominates Jennifer. Paul Seconds. Unanimous approval for Jennifer to be appointed to the committee.
- Superintendent's Report 9:09 PM
  - Thank Human Rights Commission to sponsor solidarity event. Very well attended. Commend Bishop DIG committee - had workshop facilitated by Bishop parent, Stacy Davidson - dialogue for preventing hate incidents.
  - Update on AHS Building Project.
    - Tours tonight. One more tour on Sunday, June 2 from 1-3.
    - Good resource is the website. Great building website. Lots of information. Transparent about processes. AHSbuilding.org.
    - Forum the other night. Not particularly well attended.
    - Vote on June 11. People need to inform themselves.
      - Jeff - encourage people to go to web site. Public can e-mail building committee.
      - ACMI has done many segments on building.
      - Fly-through video.
  - Middlesex League - youth risk survey. Similar questions throughout league. Some controversy at Gibbs that survey was given without opt-out. That was a mistake. That will be corrected next year. We will get first preliminary report sometime in the summer.
  - Kindergarten & Enrollment numbers.
    - Kindergarten - 509. A little bit of a slowdown, but we have not hit the summer yet. Looking at buffer zones. We are looking at different plans for classroom space. We will need to have more discussions about space at our schools.
      - Bill - ask to communicate with individual schools. Please let parents know as soon as possible if we are adding a classroom.
        - Kathy - Brackett - we will have 5 first grades. 4 first grades at Stratton. Still looking at buffer zones for Stratton.



- Bill - RFP for population survey.
      - We need to take another look.
    - Jane - we need to look at the map. We need to give more flexibility to the Superintendent. Hardy should buffer with at least two schools. Need to expand the buffer zones.
    - Kirsi - looking at physical map itself. Spy Pond makes it difficult.
      - Athletics - softball and boys tennis qualified for playoffs.
      - Culmination of schooling in Arlington for 12th graders. Graduation at 3:00 on June 1.
      - Ottoson Veterans Day ceremony - 1:00 on May 24.
      - Art Exhibit at Town Hall. Exhibit is terrific.
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- Consent Agenda 9:25 PM
  - Warrant withheld.
  - Motion to approve (other than warrant) by : Bill
  - Second by: Jennifer
  - Unanimous
  - Motion on warrant - Jennifer
  - Bill second.
  - 6-0-1 Paul abstained.
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- Subcommittee/Liaison Reports 9:28 PM
  - Budget
  - Community Relations. After school. Another meeting on June 3. Inviting reps from after school programs.
  - Curriculum - need to schedule a meeting
  - Facilities - nothing'
  - Policies - no
  - Legal - no
  - Building - already talked about
  - Liaisons
  - Announcements -
    - Bill - Rotary dinner on June 4.
    - Len - will send doodle for potluck
    - Len - possibility of retreat. Might be useful. Over summer possibly.
      - Paul - very valuable to have retreat.
    - Len - possible summer meeting. Good to have one in August. Will send a doodle.
- Executive Session 9:31 PM. Will return
  - Motion by - Bill
  - Second by Paul

- Roll call vote - unanimous.
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- Return to Open Session

Motion to approve Unit C Contract.

Bill - Motion to Accept Uit C . Second by Jen. Unanimous

Motion to Approve Unit A.

Jen moves. Bill second.

Unanimous.

- Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn - Jennifer
- Second - Paul .
- Unanimous