



Town of Littleton School Committee



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JEN GOLD, Vice Chair
STACY DESMARAIS, Member

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BINAL PATEL, Member
ELAINE SANTELMANN, Clerk

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES October 12, 2023 7:00PM

PRESENT: Justin McCarthy
Jen Gold
Stacy Desmarais
Elaine Santelmann
Binal Patel

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Karen Solomonides

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Justin McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Stacey Desmarais and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the September 28, 2023, agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous).

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

1. Student Representative(s) Report: Student Representative, Jacinda Sanders gave an update of events for each school.
2. Superintendent Clenchy recognized Mike Lynn for all the hard work on reorganizing games. We have had a great fall season. It was nice to see new pavement on Russell St, and we are headed in the right direction.
3. John Harrington recognized 3 high school students for their performance on the SAT's

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Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Kelly Clenchy gave an update on the 2023-2024 Enrollment as of October 1, 2023. We had a few shifts but the numbers remained the same.

The Enrollment Information is found in the packet.

2. DESE Targeted District Review: Districts are randomly selected. They have interviews with students and various other focus groups, structural observations in our schools and randomly look at educator evaluations. There are 3 areas that will be looked at which are Leadership and Governance, Human Resources and Professional Development and Financial and Asset Management. A couple of school committee members will be interviewed. People from the organization will be on site the week of November 13th. Parents will receive an information letter.

Justin McCarthy: When will we hear from these folks for the interviews and how will we hear? When was the last time we had one of these?

Superintendent Clenchy: I will let you know, we don't have a schedule yet. We haven't had one of these since I've been here, it's been quite a while.

Jen Gold: Do you have a sense of how many of these are being done simultaneously across the state?

Superintendent Clenchy: About 15.

Justin McCarthy: Is there anything that is going to pertain to us in terms of budget documentation, the financial and asset management that will be school committee related as well?

Superintendent Clenchy: No, we will be uploading reports from the Central Office.

3. LPS Connections Series 2023-2024:

Superintendent Clenchy reported that the Connection Series was a good session and people that were there had an opportunity to ask questions. Pleased that we were able to have people come from the community behavioral health centers present to share about local resources.

Justin McCarthy: I thought it was very well done, the speaker was dynamic. It was powerful and I got a lot out of it and I would encourage us to do this again.

Elaine Santelmann: What's the funding source for accessing services from Advocates?

Superintendent Clenchy: People can use their health care plans.

Lynn Snow: But even though without health insurance no one would not be turned away.

Flyers for the Connections Speaker Series and Advocates are in the packet.

PRESENTATIONS

1. New School Improvement Plan Updates: Standard 1: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Presentation can be found in the packet.

Michelle Kane discussed goals, action steps and indicators of success for the school committee, she talked about the different programs being used at Shaker Lane. We had a consultant come in and work with us on our math program. She did a walkthrough of 3 classrooms at different grade levels and provided positive feedback to our staff.

Elaine Santelmann: Does MAP give you similar information to Lexia, how do they integrate?

Michelle Kane: Lexia is an adaptive reading program that meets kids where there are a lot of phonetic usage and builds them up. So if they are working on letter ID and sounds, those are the activities that they are presented with and then the program adapts to where they are ready to learn. The MAP Growth assessments are universal.

Elizabeth Steele: One is curricular; it allows students to do lessons and build upon their skills in lesson format and then can be assessed after they have done some skill learning. Whereas MAP is a one time dipstick of just an assessment the teachers have to provide the path and the skills and the lessons moving forward, where Lexia is programmatic.

Cheryl Temple: Discussed goals, action steps and indicators of success with the school committee, she talked about the different programs being used at Russell Street. They use a standards based report card. Have been working on updating curriculum maps and ensuring alignment of curriculum with the frameworks. Have focused on PD for our new standards based report card. Walkthrough visits with Samantha from Lesley University. Working on an updated curriculum in social studies and began working on a new scope to match new standards. Monthly data meetings per grade level. Our goal is to have 80% of all the students in the exceeding or meeting category.

Elaine Santelmann: Do you have a process where you look at the standards that are addressed by questions that students typically miss to see if there is some impact on the curriculum?

Cheryl Temple: The teachers have all of the information, so they can go back and see if there's some impact on the curriculum.

Elaine Santelmann: Can you talk a little bit more about your process for the standard based report card?

Cheryl Temple: Some of the things in the standard based report card didn't align with the curriculum framework. We want to make sure that as the curriculum framework changes we are able to make those edits.

Binal Patel: I would like to comment on the 80% MCAS goal, I appreciate that you set a goal like that. Given the statistics you set, that is not an easy one, feels doable so I appreciate that.

Justin McCarthy: Thank you for bringing back the monthly data meetings.

Jason Everhart discussed goals, action steps and indicators of success to modify the existing SST (Student Support Team) process. The Middle School will be focusing on that one goal this year to address it with fidelity. He talked about establishing thresholds for students to access Tier 2 supports. The goal is to modify our support team and Tier 2 services, which include Math Lab and Lit Lab to be an extension of what is happening in class.

Binal Patel: As you sort of move up in the pyramid it's focused on bringing kids up to grade level as opposed to those that need additional challenge? We're looking at a specific group of students that are sort of below meeting grade level expectations bringing them up not necessarily pushing those that are above?

Jason Everhart: Larger districts might be able to handle that in a way that's different because they can be more flexible, we have enough to meet these services and needs for kids at the middle and lower level. But within that we also don't want to just say to high achieving students, "Well, you're gonna be fine when you go to high school." We work with our teachers to say if these kids are really high performing how do we keep them engaged. Kid by kid basis. We used to have virtual high school and we are hoping to bring some of these programs back.

Stacey Desmarais: There has been a need for an increase of services since COVID probably see in increase as the kids are moving into middle school how are you doing with supporting these kids now with staffing and are there any plans to or needs to increase that staffing as you're starting to see potentially those numbers increase more?

Jason Everhart: We found a way to implement a 6th teacher for grade 6 that wasn't just taking what other teachers were doing and doing in their classrooms. We were able to create a second ELA class. We have ELA reading and ELA writing.

Justin McCarthy: Is that strategy of dividing the ELA going to stay in 6th grade or is it going to follow this cohort through middle school?

Jason Everhart: The plan is for it to stay in 6th grade.

Justin McCarthy: Has the SST process taken place yet?

Jason Everhart: This will be an upcoming meeting including having teachers join in, which wasn't done in the past. This is in the process.

Elain Santelmann: Tier 2 services, are these pull-out services? How do you keep all this pull-out from blowing up your schedule?

Jason Everhart: We schedule these classes during our unified art block. We let the child and family choose, but we want to give families a stake.

John Harrington discussed goals, action steps and indicators of success with the school committee, he talked about the different programs being used at the high school. We are adopting and implementing a curriculum review cycle. World history and social science are being reviewed during this year. Review and refine assessments and grading practices during a PD day. We will be doing an inventory of different assessments at the high school. Further incorporating UDL practices in teaching practices. We've adopted the program Character Strong for social and emotional learning. There are 15 sessions by grade level. Topics included for 9th grade are: welcoming and getting to know you activities, building connections and community and a sense of belonging, 35 minute session once a month during flex block. Some other topics are; perspective taking, managing emotions, empathy and goal setting.

Jen Gold: Is Character Strong a package that you chose among other competitive programs? Are they graded?

John Harrington: Yes, we had a variety of different options, this is the one that was consensus for sure. We felt the sessions were really helpful, there was a choice in the activities. No, they are not graded, but we can track the students' engagement from the advisory teacher.

Binal Patel: Is social/emotional curriculum a DESE requirement or is this something you chose to do?

John Harrington: We chose to do this, I don't think many school districts have adopted some form of SEL curriculum. It's strongly encouraged by all the administrative associations. It's not framework based and not mandated but strongly encouraged by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Binal Patel: I really appreciate it because you don't hear a lot about social/emotional learning at the high school age. I appreciate the priority and value.

Elaine Santelmann: I appreciate your focus on assessment and appreciate how you're tackling this complex issue at the grass roots level to ensure buy-in. Are your anticipated innovations with assessments going as far as changing report cards or is this more of what's happening in the classroom?

John Harrington: We want to start just improving basic fundamental facts to things that are really doable. The standards-based report card is done at some schools like charter schools. That hasn't come up yet, we are just really looking to see how we can do what we are doing currently, how we can do it better and incremental approach.

Justin McCarthy: I'm excited about these goals. Your presentation spoke to me and it was very powerful.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. PMBC:** High school roof 98% - 99% completed. Snowmelt system has been installed onto roof drains.
- 2. Budget Subcommittee:** Meeting was held last week at the superintendent's office, there was discussion on preliminary budgeting and capital items potentially for our wishlist, preferred maintenance. Plan on getting a meeting scheduled every month. Steve Mark revisited the \$15,000 from the budget that it's not a deficit, there's nothing to worry about the money didn't roll forward to the new fiscal year, it was just a timing issue.
- 3. Policy:** None
- 4. SEPAC:** We have a meeting on the books.
- 5. Shaker Lane:** Meeting with MSBA on November 2

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Binal Patel and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to adjourn at 8:31PM. Roll Call Vote: Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; Elaine Santelmann, AYE; Binal Patel, AYE; and Stacy Desmarais, AYE.

**NEXT MEETING DATE
October 26, 2023
7:00PM**

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

**Littleton Public Schools Enrollment
DESE Target District Review**

LPS Connections Series
Community Behavioral Health Centers
School Improvement Plan