



# ***Town of Littleton School Committee***

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JEN GOLD, Vice Chair  
STACY DESMARAIS, Member

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BRAD AUSTIN, Clerk  
BINAL PATEL, Member

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES September 29, 2022 7:00PM**

**PRESENT:** Justin McCarthy  
Jen Gold  
Brad Austin  
Stacy Desmarais  
Binal Patel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kelly Clenchy  
Steve Mark  
Bettina Corrow

### **NOT PRESENT:**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

On a motion by Binal Patel and seconded by Brad Austin it was voted to approve the Sept. 15, 2022, agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous).

### **INTERESTED CITIZENS**

None

### **RECOGNITION**

- 1. Student Representative(s) Report:** Student Representative, John Feltus, gave an update of the events happening at each school.
2. Superintendent Clenchy mentioned that the district will bring back "Connections Workshops" on Oct. 26 with daycare provided by Park and Rec. More information about this event will come soon.
3. Superintendent Clenchy mentioned a Covid Vaccine clinic was held on Wednesday Sept. 28 and more to follow in October. The flu vaccine will also be offered.

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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. NWEA MAP Report:** Director of Teaching and Learning, Elizabeth Steele gave a presentation on the NWEA MAP Growth Assessments for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Important Reminders about MAP Growth**

- This data is a piece of the puzzle
- MAP Growth Assessments are adaptive
- Assess 3X a year
- Provide real time data on current achievement
- Provide real time data on what students are ready to learn next

Mrs. Steele presented the Student Growth Summary for all four schools and compared the data from Fall 2019 through Spring 2022. The overview of the data was included in the presentation.

She went through the strengths and areas of improvement for both Reading and Math. She also presented the individual grades achievement in both subjects in each grade assessed. Each grade demonstrated growth in each subject. It is even higher than the 2020 national norm.

Kelly Clenchy - We use this assessment because it is real time data, it is adaptive, and we can use this data in real time when gearing our instruction in the classrooms to both the high achievers as well as the students who might need some help in certain areas.

### **Key Takeaways**

- Our students continue to learn and demonstrate growth.
- We continue to meet the students where they are.
- We are seeing signs of rebound from the pandemic.

Brad Austin – I am happy that we are having this kind of an assessment tool.

Stacy Desmarais – What kind of questions are in these tests? How is the test presented to students?

Beth Steele – There are multi-choice, drag and drop, and fill ins for example. Students are aware that this test is only for the teachers to learn where the students are academically, and that the results will not be on a report card.

Justin McCarthy – Our students are achieving at the National Norm in Grade 6. At what level of degree are we shaking things up?

Beth Steele – It depends on the data we receive. We can switch groups around depending on data received.

Cheryl Temple – Each assessment period is important, and even with three times a year the instruction in between the assessments is crucial and gives the teachers time to focus on strengths and areas of improvement.

Justin McCarthy – How long have we used this program? Do we ever evaluate if there are other programs that have data, where we could compare to other MA school's data?

Kelly Clenchy – We have used it since 2014. I am critical when I am looking at assessment programs and if we are taking the time to do these assessments, I want to make sure the data is valuable, and we are successful.

- 2. Review of Strategic Plan:** Principal Kane and Principal Temple reviewed the Strategic Plan as noted: Standard 1: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Each Schools will discuss SIPs specific to goals for the 2022/2023 school year, discuss major accomplishments, challenges, and any suggested

revisions or goals that should be taken into consideration as we review Standard 1 as part of the process for creating an updated Strategic Plan, 2023-2028

### **Russell Street School Presentation:**

#### **Goals:**

- Implement a standards-based Pk-12 curriculum that is aligned with the state frameworks and is well articulated vertically and horizontally
- Develop and implement a five-year curriculum review cycle
- Use multiple forms of data to measure and evaluate student achievement
- Identify and implement effective instructional practices to support the academic achievement and social-emotional skills of diverse learners

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Standards-based report card
- K-5 professional collaboration for vertical alignment
- PD for math workshop model and extended writing tasks in reading, math and science
- Math curriculum review and implementation of new math curriculum (ongoing)
- Foss materials purchased and shared
- Use of grading rubrics
- Addition of a kiln to support the fine arts program
- Implementation of 1-1 Chromebook program
- Regular data provided with MAP testing (3 times per year) and Acadience

#### **Challenges:**

- Common time for K-5 to collaborate
- Implementing several new initiatives (Into Math, Foundations, Lucy Calkins)
- Focused professional development time
- Time spent on testing
- Managing the range of learners
- Lack of schedule flexibility with shared UA staff

#### **Revisions/goals to consider:**

- Goal: All students will demonstrate individual growth in all tested subjects
- Goal: Continued incorporation of the UDL model of instruction
- Mental health / anxiety
- Alignment of curriculum

Jen Gold – Would you be able to give an example of the small changes you have done?

Cheryl Temple – When a teacher is providing a tool to solve a problem, they may offer up one piece instead of giving the student the entire thing. It gives students the ability to feel like they have options and to be able to pick their own path to the answer or result.

Beth Steele – It gives our students a feeling of ownership and that they can work towards the same result but in different ways.

Binal Patel – You mentioned lack of schedule flexibility? Do you see this as a challenge down the road?

Cheryl Temple – I can give you an example. With the new math curriculum, it would make sense that we had it in one block. But our schedule does not always allow that, but it does not mean that the students are not getting accurate instruction in all areas. We might sometimes just need to be a little more creative.

Kelly Clenchy – Most K-5 teaching is mapped out. If we were to add something else in, we would have to take something away. We must ask if it is worth it. There is a lot to think about.

Stacy Desmarais – Balancing academic and mental health? Do we have room to step back from the curriculum and focus more on the mental health of the students? Most of our students are performing above the National average.

Cheryl Temple – We have built in some fun activities during the school year to give the teachers an option for their students such as painting, etc. Classrooms will rotate throughout the year doing these fun activities.

Justin McCarthy – Do we have to do the MAP tests in January?

Beth Steele – Yes, to get the data by the end of the school year we need to do the assessment three times a year.

Kelly Clenchy – It is a challenge, but we make it work.

### **Shaker Lane School Presentation:**

#### **Goals:**

- Implement Lucy Calkins Writing Program
- Engage in professional collaboration to examine and evaluate math curriculum for implementation during the 2022-23 school year
- Administer AIMSWeb Plus Early Literacy & Reading Assessments and Shaywitz Dyslexia Screener
- Lexia programming for all K & T students/targeted usage for Grade 1 & 2
- Implement Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program in Grades K-1
- Review reading and math progress through data meetings to identify students in need of remediation and differentiation
- Diversified Reading Interventions

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Lucy Calkins Writing Program PD (continuation)
- Selection of Into Math Program
- Early Literacy & Dyslexia Screener Administered
- Lexia usage for all K-1 students & targeted for Gr 2 students
- Implemented Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program in Grades K-1
- Review student reading performance to target interventions

#### **Challenges:**

- Common time for PreK-5 to collaborate
- Implementing several new initiatives (Into Math, Lucy Calkins)
- Time spent on assessments
- Managing the range of learners
- Social emotional & behavioral needs of students
- Time...

#### **Revisions/goals to consider:**

- Increase use of Lexia to all students in Grades K-2
- Develop math data meetings with Math Interventionist
- Provide PD for Into Math program & reflect on pilot year
- Continued incorporation of the UDL model of instruction
- Develop additional strategies to support social-emotional needs of students

Binal Patel – How much time are they using technology in the classroom?

Michelle Kane – I would say between 10-20 minutes a day.

Stacy Desmarais – Are you monitoring the technology time at all?

Michelle Kane – The center time is 10-12 minutes.

Stacy Desmarais – Do we have an adjustment counselor in each school?

Kelly Clenchy – I'll let Lyn Snow speak to this

Lyn Snow – At Shaker Lane we have a school psychologist, an adjustment counselor and a BCBA, at Russell Street we have a school counselor, a school psychologist and our second BCBA that covers RSS, Middle and High School. At our Middle School we have a school adjustment counselor and a social worker that covers the entire district as well as we have a school psychologist. At our high school we have school psychologist, an adjustment counselor and two guidance counselors.

Brad Austin – I really appreciate this presentation. I am happy to see you are focusing on both students and the staff wellbeing.

### **INTERESTED CITIZENS**

Margot Bloomstein – As we heard in Mrs. Steele's presentation, in person learning is so important. Covid hit our house and I realized that the school district's guidelines do not align with DESE's guidelines. You are supposed to wear a mask on day 6 and up to 10 days after. But since we are not required to report this to the school some may not follow this. But I realized that the school is not doing contact tracing and it is up to the parent to contact other parents to let them know that their child has been in close contact.

Justin McCarthy – LPS is following DESE's guidance. DESE does not recommend universal masking.

Brad Austin – What Margot is saying makes some sense. If you get exposed, you should mask. I think we should think about this.

Binal Patel – I am not sure if masking is beneficial. I believe you can be exposed to anyone in the schools not just in the classroom. It is hard to know exactly where you were exposed.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **PMBC:** High School roof is still on track. Hopefully it will be finalized in the spring.
2. **Budget Subcommittee:** We had a meeting this afternoon. We have identified several Capital items at this point.
3. **SL MSBA Update:** Superintendent Clenchy presented an Eligibility period – schedule of deliverables from the MSBA Board. An overview of the schedule was included in the packet.
4. **SEPAC:** A meeting last Tuesday. Another parent meeting scheduled for Oct. 11. Oct. 17 is another meeting scheduled at 1PM with staff of LPS.
5. **Policy:** None
6. **School Start time Subcommittee** – We meet with PPI. The report should be ready in a few weeks. They have more than 20 different options. The report will provide three different options and lots of data points. We will start to work on the survey which will go out to the community.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Brad Austin, and seconded Jen Gold by it was voted to adjourn at 9:21PM. Roll Call Vote: Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; Binal Patel, AYE; and Stacy Desmarais, AYE.

### **DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING**

NWEA Growth Assessment

Strategic Goal – Standard 1 – Shaker Lane and Russell Street School overview

MSBA Eligibility period – schedule of deliverables