

Educational Policy Committee

Agenda Minutes

January 2, 2024

6:00 - 7:15 pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all.

Members: Amanda Caruso, Gwen Doak, Will Jones, Kyle Fletcher, Debbie Smith

Other Board Members Present: Libby Kaut, Dee Robinson

Staff: Monique Poulin, Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present: Barb Marshall, Nichole Goodspeed, Joel Smith

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair Doak
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.
2. Previous Committee Minutes [12-5-23](#)
 - a. Questions?
 - i. None
3. Review & Approve [Gulf of Maine Grant](#) - Goodspeed/Marshall
 - a. Grant Info
 - i. The EPA has made funds available to the Gulf of Maine Institute to help promote their goals of learning more about invasive species and citizen science projects within Maine. Students are learning about the science in their own backyard-how climate change is making it possible for these invasive species to come and how students can be part of the solution. With these funds, Mrs. Marshall would like the Maine Local Living School to present to all fifth grade students and would also like to sponsor some parent nights and potential book giveaways along with research work.
 - b. Questions
 - i. There was a question about the budget and sub reimbursement.
 - c. Approval
 - i. Moved to approve by Amanda Caruso, seconded by Gwen Doak and unanimously approved.
4. Updates
 - a. RSU 9 Multilingual Learners FYIs - Poulin
 - i. Program Update
 1. 21-22 12 students

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2. 22-23 18 students
3. 23-24 20 students
4. Multiple languages of students from around the district
- ii. Planning needs
 1. Individual Language Acquisition Plans are created.
 2. 30 minutes to 1 hour of daily support is given to each student.
 3. Added intensive support (Ed Tech to work with this student) for one student and family
- iii. Possible 24-25 staff needs
 1. Given the influx of MLL students, we will work on a proposal for the board to review during the budget process to add some staffing.
- b. Community Schools - Elkington
 - i. Changes
 1. The funding did not come through, but Chris is seeking alternate sources that may fill the gap to expand some of the fundamental aspects to all of our elementary schools.
 2. We believe that CCHS has one more year in the grant.
 3. With regards to FY25 funding, we may need to investigate how to provide before and after school care in Wilton as three dozen Wilton students are now going to school in Farmington etc... This is estimated at less than \$40,000 for the school year. (The thinking is that parents would be required to pay a portion.) Staffing may be an issue since staff would need to be available before and after school to provide the coverage and this will be difficult for some. This is only in discussion at this time and will be further reviewed at the committee level.
 4. Questions:
 - a. Where does transportation drop off if students go to a different school? It varies depending on where buses can meet.
 - b. Are there any advocacy efforts underway to support this model? Contact the Maine Schools Board Association as one avenue.
 - c. Has there been any collaboration from the local government to support day care needs? These funds have been cut in surrounding districts and we have not asked others to help.
 5. Going forward, it appears that we will be further responsible for the education of three and four year old students in our communities. We will need to be planning for this.
 6. 21st Century is providing some after school care at AHS Monday-Thursday (afternoon only). Numbers are limited.

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- c. [Possible Nutrition Grant](#) - Elkington
 - i. We will apply to see if we will be considered for the grant. If so, we will bring it back to the committee for possible approval.
 - ii. This will help with greater separation of foods in support of allergic students and will allow for students to explore new foods.
 - iii. Do we have an idea of how many students are impacted by dietary restrictions? Superintendent's follow up info:
 - 1. We have roughly about 75 - 90 students district-wide with restrictions of some kind. We believe this # is low as many parents do their best to meet specific needs.
 - 2. Director Hutchins will explain in more depth if he wants to pursue it and we make it to the "Submit an application process".
 - d. [Strategic Plan](#) - Elkington
 - i. Dec
 - 1. Format Changes
 - 2. District Outcome Progress
 - a. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the relevant points specific to goals for the 23-24. He also referenced the plan to share proposed action steps for 24-25 for Board input.
 - b. An update will be shared every two months going forward. The next update will be in March.
5. Attendance # Review - Elkington
- a. Updated #s
 - i. [Oct-Dec](#)
 - ii. [Year to Date Comparisons](#)
 - b. Progress
 - i. Superintendent Elkington reviewed the incredible progress towards our strategic plan outcomes from 22-23 to 23-24 (comparing similar timeframes). Our approach has been about how to best support our students who have not been attending; it has not been a punitive approach but trying to get people to work together. We will be looking for a correlation between improved attendance and future academic growth.
 - c. Questions?
6. Policy Work - Elkington
- a. [23-24 Monthly Index - policies assigned by month.docx](#)
 - b. Policy Folders
 - i. Review (or no meaningful changes)
 - 1. [BCB](#) Board Member COI
 - a. Discussion/Questions?

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- b. Next steps?
 - i. Review was approved.
- 2. [IHBG](#) Homeschooling
 - a. Discussion/Questions?
 - b. Next steps?
 - i. Review was approved.
- ii. Basic Updates and Changes
 - 1. [JLDBG](#) Reintegration of Students from Juvenile Correction Facilities
 - a. Discussion/Questions?
 - i. Superintendent Elkington will make a determination on how to move forward with what is written in blue. The committee supported this plan.
 - b. Next steps?
 - i. Policy will go to the board for one reading.
- iii. Discussion
 - 1. Community Non-profit Organizations use of school facilities
 - a. Do we want to charge a fee?
 - b. Do we want costs to be passed on to groups?
 - i. When staff are available?
 - ii. When staff are not available?
 - c. Current Policies
 - i. [KF](#) Community Use of School Facilities
 - ii. [KF-R1](#) Community Use of School Facilities
 - iii. [Facilities Use Brochure](#)
 - d. Input
 - i. MBC is busy from early morning until well after dark. One suggested approach was to access other buildings based on the age level of the students involved.
 - ii. Charging
 - 1. For profit organizations at this time pay nominal fees.
 - iii. Sundays
 - 1. Policy says Sundays are strongly discouraged, and so we have been consistent in denying those requests this year.
 - iv. Insurance forms are part of the process.
 - v. It was suggested that we differentiate between student activities and for profit requests.

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- vi. What about staff who have keys and can access (outside of the protocol) vs. those who do not?
- vii. What about non-profits on Sundays? Can there be flexibility?
- viii. Charging entities-There is an aspect of protecting the investment in our facilities, which is one reason why we charge.
- ix. Who makes the determination on what is approved? Is it consistent amongst schools?
- x. We need to ensure that the public is aware of any adjustments that may be made.
- e. Thoughts?
 - i. Admin will bring back some suggested adjustments to the next meeting.
- f. Questions?

7. Next Mtg. February 6, 2023

8. Adjourned at 7:34

9. Future Agenda Items -

- Volunteer Hour expectations for school boards
- Phonics, Mystery Science, & Math Book implementation/transition
- Curriculum Rotation Plan
- March 5th Review of SEL Playbook & Resources - Joel Smith
- Grant Updates:
 - Transitions & Goals
 - Community Schools
 - ESEA
 - ESSER
 - Special Ed.
 - BARR
 - Other?