

# Educational Policy Committee

## Agenda Minutes

April 2, 2024

7:00 - 8:15 pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

### COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

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

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Members: Gwen Doak, Amanda Caruson, Debbie Smith, Will Jones

Other Board Members Present: Dee Robinson, Libby Kaut

Staff: Monique Poulin, Christian Elkington

Other Staff Present: Jen Ladd, Joel Smith, James Black

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**1. Call Meeting to Order** - Chair Doak

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM.

**2. Previous Committee Minutes [3-5-24](#)** - Doak

- a. Any questions?
  - i. None

**3. Presentations** - Poulin

- a. [\*From Phonics to Reading Curriculum & Maine DOE Literacy Grant Plan\*](#)
  - i. Some grade levels had phonics scope and sequence; the district chose to use a curriculum format that would be consistent for all students.
  - ii. Jen Ladd (Lit Coach) reviewed the document, including an update on the implementation of the phonics program. She shared that the summary document had been crafted collaboratively by the literacy interventionists.
  - iii. Teacher anecdotal data - some K teachers notice that students are decoding more quickly than years past; other teachers report challenges with pacing; overall feedback has been positive regarding improved student learning and acquisition of skills.
  - iv. General survey feedback - barriers to implementation - Need more time, resources, and PD.
    1. A Maine DOE grant was secured to assist with these needs as it can be used to pay for PD, compensate teachers to participate, and materials.
    2. We have hired a consultant to conduct an audit (observe instruction, conversations with teachers, survey for info, data collection, look at testing scores, etc.). Her report will summarize findings and make recommendations.
  - v. Questions
    1. Is there a way to determine whether or not teachers are using the materials?

## Educational Policy Committee

- a. The survey asked the question, but otherwise this would be difficult unless we had a way to increase observations dramatically.
2. What is the background of the consultant?
  - a. The superintendent spoke to her qualifications and how he accessed her expertise previously in his former district where they saw a dramatic improvement in student success and test scores.
- b. [Maine Through Year Assessment Review](#)
  - i. Assistant Superintendent Poulin reviewed:
    1. The shared presentation.
    2. The changes to the Maine Dept of Ed's new assessment system and expectations along with the Maine three-year averages.
    3. Examples of student questions for reading and math, reiterating that to be successful on the assessment there is a need for a student to successfully read a large amount of text and vocabulary.
    4. Our present average scores in Math and Literacy were then reviewed.
    5. How the questions are used and how some are different with the spring assessments as summative questions are added.
    6. Next steps around planning:
      - a. Common Core Standards, long-term investments and individual school scores will be dug into this summer and results will be reviewed in the fall after the 2024 scores are also reviewed.

#### 4. Literacy & Math Leads - Poulin/Elkington

- a. Adjusting responsibilities of an Instructional Specialist in Literacy and in Math
  - i. Given the importance of math and literacy building blocks at the elementary level, our plan is to have lead math and literacy interventionists as "At Will" positions. They will coordinate PD, work on Tier I instructional strategies, assist with MTSS work for RSU 9, and facilitate a district wide approach to Prek-5 programming.
  - ii. The positions would come out of the contract with their time split-50% working with students and 50% leading the literacy and math work. This will mean a reduction in direct instruction with students from these two positions. The adjusted time will help us meet our system-wide goals, leading to improved student results and less time needed for interventions over the next 3-5 years. We need a consistent and unified math and literacy curriculum with research based instructional strategies practiced at all schools. Each Lead will collaborate with principals and interventionists.
  - iii. We are working on the job description and will share it when finalized.

# Educational Policy Committee

## 5. Grants - Poulin

- a. RSU 9 Grant Awards Review
  - i. Review [FY24 Grant Awards.xlsx](#)
  - ii. Questions
    - 1. District Admin felt it was important to put all info together so that clarity of oversight was clear.
    - 2. Board Members appreciated info in one place.
- b. Title 1 Summer Reallocation Application - Poulin
  - i. Review/Discussion
  - ii. Vote
    - 1. All were in favor.
- c. ARP Summer Learning and Enrichment Programming Application - Poulin
  - i. Review/Discussion
  - ii. Vote
    - 1. All were in favor.

## 6. Policy Work - Elkington

- a. [23-24 Monthly Index - policies assigned by month.docx](#)
- b. Policy Folders
  - i. Review (or no meaningful changes)
    - 1. [KF](#) - Public use of School Facilities
    - 2. [KF - E1](#) Bjorn Auditorium/Presentation Forum Application for Use
      - a. Formatting needs to be addressed.
    - 3. [KF-R1](#) Community Use of School Facilities
    - 4. [KFA](#) Use of School Facilities by Unofficial Student Groups
    - 5. [Facility Use Brochure](#)
      - a. James Black and Joel Smith reviewed the information noted in these policies.
        - i. The changes include increased fees for outside agencies, while maintaining the integrity of allowing for community use.
        - ii. This plan allows for better communication among all entities involved.
        - iii. It appears that section C's wording does not fit the expectation.. This will be reviewed and adjusted.
      - b. AHS-Cafeteria should be added.
      - c. Policy related to memorials was asked for.
    - 6. All were in favor of moving forward with "reviewed" status.
  - ii. Brand New (reading after dissolved in 2018)
    - 1. [KDB](#) - Public's Right to Know / Freedom of Access Act
      - a. This was removed and should be included in our policies.
      - b. This will go to the board for two readings.

## 7. No meeting in May

## 8. Next Mtg. June 4, 2024

# Educational Policy Committee

## 9. Adjourned at 8:18PM

## 10. Future Agenda Items -

- Presentations:
  - 24-25
    - Mystery Science
- Volunteer Hour expectations for school boards
- Grant Updates:
  - Transitions & Goals
    - Community Schools
    - ESEA
    - ESSER
    - Special Ed.
    - BARR
    - Other?