

Site Council Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016

In Attendance: Kathy Kaczor, Beth Kitsos, Dennis McCracken, Karen Szarek, Larry Trevette, Shannon Pettis, Suzette DiTonno, Daniel Hickey, and Kevin McLaughlin.

Minutes: No changes - Accepted.

SIP Update: Pre-planning for New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visit in 2018. Update of vision and mission and core values in the works. School Improvement Plan finished to submit to district.

Focus on instruction. District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC) is sending coaches to work with teachers to engage teachers to promote active learning and problem solving amongst students. It is not a bad thing when kids struggle somewhat and helps them learn self reliance.

Every section of a class will use the same syllabus and assessment. Need for consistency. Homework and Participation are important but should not have more weight than mastery for students. Grading practices need to be presented up front to students and parents and be consistent.

Science instruction needs to be better in middle school. New Science supervisor is working with middle/elementary.

School Brains is a good tool for parents. Staff should be keeping assignments up to date as well as grade entry.

Lots of options for students who don't fit/want to be in a comprehensive high school.

Attendance. Non attendance is primarily economically disadvantaged and hispanic students. Transportation is a 2 mile radius as the crow flies. HHS administration is advocating for busing for students who are within radius. Making additional stops along a route wouldn't be a money increase because it would just be a reworking of the routes to include more stops along the way. MVRTA is 50c per student each way and that can be a barrier for economically disadvantaged students.

End of Term Update:

School committee update presentation given as handout. 96% of students passed ELA Mcas. 88% passed Math Mcas. 90% passed Science Mcas.

Dropout rate is heading in the right direction despite the misleading information in the newspaper.

HHS Need for external storage units: Grand United Church is moving out. Return A3 to the art department to offer AP art. Trailer out back for storage - what is currently in this unit and is it watertight? Is it possible to make a section of Carpentry into a Shed building class to minimize cost to district?

Classical Academy changes. Senior Seminar may become a full year instead of a semester or it could begin at the end of Junior year so the project isn't overlapping with applying to college and doing other graduation requirements. Classical Academy teachers are getting more input into the overall program.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2016