

Site Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2016

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

Minutes: no changes – accepted.

MCAS Review:

Handouts: Accountability Reports for 2013, 2014, 2015. 2015 detailed data report. MCAS overview and Participation Rate Comparison overview. Grade 8 – 10 comparisons.

Discussion of handouts showing trending over the past three years. Only 4 students failed the ELA MCAS. Significant gains in ELA with all demographics meeting or above target. Math decreases in high needs and students with disabilities were significant. Science also showed decreases in high needs and students with disabilities. “Extra Credit” is given for percentages of students who score in the advanced category. Graduation rate improved but is still below target. Dropout grant is gone but we have retired teachers who work with at risk kids. Only one category below the 90% participation rate. Overall the high school dropped 4 points. Progress is being made – just not fast enough for the state.

Students are coming into the high school unprepared and students making advanced the percentage doubles by their junior year in High School. Focused on Math and Science and ELA. Bringing in two tutors for students who need basic skills support and invitation only after school math help. Administrators focused on proper instruction. Answer student questions with further questions and make students more independent.

Will get plan to address math and science issues. Looking also to improve community engagement. Web sites to help teach students and parents will be shared – khan academy is one example.

Safety Plan:

Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent attended “Alice” (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) training program over the break. Second district safety committee meeting of the school year next week. Members of the administration attended MEMA meeting and learned a lot to direct the formation of an updated Safety Plan for the district. New concepts require evaluating and evacuating whenever possible instead of simply sheltering in place.

School Improvement Plan: Due January 12. Invite to collaborate. Make comments on SIP in the documents available on google drive.

Student Activity Accounts: Can accounts be moved into individual accounts at the local school branch of the bank? No because this becomes an auditing issue for the school department. Separate accounts outside central location create additional layers of bureaucracy and there is a need to keep one signer on deposits. There is one large account for all of the student activity accounts across the district. Two weeks are needed for every check. Two people need to sign off on every deposit. Any discrepancies in the reporting for individual club portions of the account needs to be brought to Mrs. Kitsos’ attention immediately. Need to figure out a solution to a registration issue for students when an invoice isn’t directly generated by the company requesting payment.

Next Meeting Tuesday February 2, 2016