

Site Council Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2016

In Attendance: Kathy Kaczor, Beth Kitsos, Daniel Hickey, Sue Spreadborough, Dan Faircloth, Larry Trevette, Michele Maginnis, Nancy Koorapaty.

Action Required: Site Council members must return signed form stating receipt of Conflict of Interest Policy.

Action Required: Beth Kitsos would have Sandra check to ensure everyone's CORI is up to date.

Review Minutes from May meeting for November to approve.

Review handouts from folder. Discussed what is Site Council and what are the requirements. Went over district and building goals and discussed the process for this year's school improvement plan.

Beth Kitsos spoke about how the whole school is reading **Working with Students in Poverty** to be followed up with **Engaging Students in Poverty**. The teachers are working in small groups to discuss their reading and to find concrete items they can implement in their classrooms.

Discussion about how the work happening at the High School can't trickle down to the lower grades. Foundation needs to be built from the earliest grades. The middle schools need the most support and improvement. PBIS systems are in place around the district but to be truly effective they should be standardized and done consistently so the student body as a whole understands and respects the system.

Changes in grading practices at Haverhill High School have caused some concern and confusion. The grading now focuses on mastery instead of behavior and participation. Anything that is graded for mastery can be used towards the student's final grade - including homework - but if homework isn't graded then it cannot be counted. This is in response to feedback from colleges about how inflated the grades on our student's transcripts are and because given the old system it was possible to earn straight A's in an AP course yet only score a 1 on the exam.

MCAS results showed improvement over last year. As a district the ELL and SPED subgroups are still the biggest challenge. At HHS a greater percentage of students scored Advanced in Math and Science than previously.

In District news Dr Thacker is the new ELL director. The district also has a SPED Compliance Officer.

PSAT upcoming. Online registration required. \$15 fee. Can be waived for Juniors on the free/reduced lunch program. Sophomores allowed to take test to help be better prepared for their Junior year.

Enrollment is up at HHS over last year by more than 100 students.

Academy night is October 19th.

Ribbon Cutting held for the IT and Health Academies. The Lt Governor, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Workforce, and Secretary of Economic Development were in attendance as well as other state and local representatives. This celebrated the grant the academies received late last year that allowed the school to purchase much needed equipment for the programs.

Next Meeting: November 1, 2016 3-4pm