

TURKEY HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 17, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: Timothy Santry, Dr. Greg Berthiaume, Donna Celuzza, Stephanie Madrigal, and Beth Arsenault, Linda Perenzin

Minutes were read by Beth Arsenault

School Improvement Plan 2011-2012

- Mr. Santry stated that he took the changes suggested at the last meeting and incorporated them into the present second draft.
- To the MCAS data page he added the Median Student Growth Percentile in a two year average beginning with Spring 09/10 scores and the 2010 Composite Performance Index, measuring the extent to which students are progressing toward proficiency.

In Review of GOAL 1: To increase student learning through proven instructional practices that ensure student growth and success.

- In Assessments is listed, "Increase test scores on grades level content are common assessment in 2012." Mr. Santry expressed concern that all the grade level common assessments are not available yet and therefore a baseline is not available. Instead of removing the statement, the council decided to keep it in the SIP, simply stating that the data is not available until they are all written.
- Mrs. Celuzza inquired about whether there is Junior Great Books funding to provide students with the required books, to which Mr. Santry replied that as part of a model school, the materials are provided to us for free.
- Dr. Berthiaume pointed out that, according to the MCAS data page, there appear to be weak spots in Math and Science and expressed concern that there is no focus on these aspects as well as English. Mr. Santry replied that the focus is on critical thinking skills and that the expectation is that this will help scores across the board. Mrs. Arsenault also brought up the fact that one of the monthly faculty meetings is focused on Results where the faculty sits by subject and discusses which questions students did or did not have the most trouble with. We also try to come up with ways to remedy those problems. Mr. Berthiaume reiterated that while the English scores are indeed going up, the Math is down and 59% of Science scores are either Needs Improvement or Warning. Mr. Santry suggested that we add reporting out of goals at Results Meetings. Supporting Activity #4 under Goal 1 will state "To create measurable goals during Results meetings and report out regarding apparent weaknesses and how to improve scores in those areas."

GOAL 2: The social–emotional needs of every student will be supported through direct instruction in smaller group settings utilizing continued proven interventions.

- When going over the Supporting Activities, Mr. Santry reinforced the need for an 8th to 9th grade transitional focus during 8th grade advisory.
- There were no changes made to this goal.

GOAL 3: To build technology capacity and utilize it to support reliable Internet access, a web-based 24/7 grading system (progress reports and report cards), homework site, on-line grade book, and curricular resources and classroom internet access.

- Mr. Santry noted that the number of Parents accessing the parent portal is relatively low at this time.
- He also noted the fact that there is proposal before Superintendent Calmes to make THMS and LHS wireless which would aid in curricular resources and classroom internet access.
- Part of the assessment for this goal is a look at the number of web-based activities utilized in the classroom. Dr. Berthiaume suggested that perhaps the number of web-based activities is not an adequate measure, and should instead reflect a measure of the quality of the programs utilized. Mr. Santry responded that that kind of statistic would be difficult to prove as the use in this building of web-based activities is severely limited and in its infancy. Mrs. Arsenault stated that with the entire curriculum needed to be covered in a year, she doubted that a teacher would waste time on any program that was not useful or worth their while. Dr. Berthiaume wished it to be changed to something along the lines of “how technology is improving education.” Mr. Santry said he would inquire as to whether other districts had such data, so that we would have an idea of how to collect it ourselves. After some discussion, and no solution to the wording or how such data could be collected, it was resolved that Dr. Berthiaume’s point is that the number of web-based programs is a poor collection versus the quality of web-based programs.
- In addition to the resources needed for the implementation of the new Powerschool grading and reporting program, there will be a portion of Open House dedicated to training parents how to access the new parent portal.
- Mrs. Celuzza questioned whether common assessments were discussed and revised to meet the needs of the student population. Mr. Santry responded that on most tests they use 70% as a marker to flag any student that may need for intensive help on a certain subject.

Budgetary Concerns:

- Dr. Berthiaume asked whether there was anything missing that would enable the school to run more efficiently. Mr. Santry replied that reinstating the position of Assistant Principal would be much appreciated.
- Mrs. Celuzza asked about next year’s projections with recent budgetary restrictions. Mr. Santry reported that there would be the loss of an 8th grade teacher, raising the student to teacher ratio to 25:1. He questioned whether 8th grade would be able to retain the middle school teaming model valued by the system or resort to a junior high model. The 7th

grade would remain at 5.6 teachers, as Mr. Adams also fills the position of Dean of Students. The 6th grade would remain at 6 teachers.

- Mrs. Celuzza also asked whether language would be available, to which Mr. Santry replied that 8th grade language would again have shared staff with the High School faculty.
- In regard to upcoming School Committee meetings, the next one being 7pm on June 1st at Town Hall, Dr. Berthiaume suggested that the principals be more verbal about what resources are needed in their buildings to stay on par with goals, strenuously pointing out what they can or cannot accomplish without certain resources. He stated that since principals keep coming up with the cuts that School Committee ask for while still keeping scores up that there is a feeling that they must only be “trimming the fat.” Mr. Santry responded that he prefers to think that we are striving to do our best despite the continued loss of resources.

Upcoming Calendar Events

- The last two MCAS sessions will be held Wednesday 5/18 and Thursday 5/19.
- Book Swap by the Leadership Team 5/18
- Mr. Archambault is taking the school’s band and chorus to the Great East Festival 5/20
- Memorial Day Assembly will take place at 1pm on 5/26
- Vocal Spring Concert at LHS at 7pm 5/26
- 7th Grade Rafting Field Trip 5/27
- 8th Grade Washington D.C. Field Trip 5/31
- End of the Year Celebration from 5pm to 7pm in the THMS gym 6/7
- 6th Grade Boston Field Trip 6/14
- 8th Grade Dinner/Dance 6/17
- Grade Level Awards Assemblies will be during the last three days of school at 8am. 6th and 7th Grade will be held in the cafeteria on 6/20 and 6/21 respectively and 8th Grade on 6/22 in the gymnasium.

Next Meeting is TBD regarding any need for discussion of social/emotional curriculum.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.