

**Groton-Dunstable Regional School District  
School Committee Meeting  
December 21, 2022 - 7:00pm**

**Members Present:**

Rosanna Casavecchia, Yasmeen Cheema, Rafael Glod, Jeff Kubick, Brian LeBlanc, Lacey McCabe

**Members Absent:**

Fay Raynor

**Administration Present:** Dr. Laura Chesson, Superintendent; Kristin DeFranciso, Ass't. Superintendent; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance & Operations

**Others:** Kristyn MacInnis, SEPAC Representative

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

**Question/Comments:** Member of the Racial/Social Justice Group read a letter about a recent incident at the middle school

**Jeff Kubick made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7th meeting.**

**Second - L. McCabe**

Discussion - None

**All in Favor - Approved 6-0**

**Presentations -**

**Program Review Update/Swallow Union**

Ms. DeFrancisco gave an overview of the work done by ACCEPT Collaborative in observation of the Swallow Union special education program, as requested by the district. The process consisted of observations, interviews, surveys, and document reviews by a Senior Educational Consultant, Karen Jewett. The district asked for an evaluation of how the school was doing in implementation of a cohesive multi-tiered system of support for all students as well as how the process is working to identify students in need of additional support. There was also a review on how the data is collected in order to inform the team about a student's special education eligibility and how the process reflects best practices.

This work was done over the winter of '21'22....

Overarching Findings included: fractured relationships, expansion of MTSS across all inclusive practices, enhancement of student support teams, special education referrals and services.

Notable observances were strong relationships between staff and students, professional staff and administrators are committed and passionate about the well-being of all students, and there is a focus on continuous improvement. Recommendations are the expansion of roles and

responsibilities, de-escalation training, reorganization of WIN Bloc, monitoring the use of para's, establishing stronger inclusive practices, and personalized PD.

Since the beginning of this process Swallow has had new leadership with Jill Jarvis becoming principal. At this time there are a number of supports in place for staff and students including administrative student support, contracted special education staff to fill in the gaps, increased staffing of para's, additional training with increased focus on Understanding and Responding to Behavior, weekly meetings, pre k-transition planning. Still left as action items in process are the following: to set up a PD/Learning day addressing understanding and responding to behavior; seasonal offerings of FD/PL promoting understanding instructional strategies across tiers as well as in specialized instruction; leadership level use of core values in the learning environments that promote SEL skill building; communicating expectations within each building; emphasis of relationship building during the first six weeks of school; examination of the SST process and attending PD/PL throughout the spring as a leadership team.

### **Second Step Overview**

This program is designed to give students opportunities to build social emotional skills. PPart of this work is direct bullying prevention instruction. This item was moved to the SC after the CIAA Subcommittee met earlier in the month. Middle School PE and Health Teachers have been trained to implement this program during lessons for PE/Health in grades 5-8, with reflection meetings scheduled to begin in January. Second Step pilot at the elementary level after the break in the early spring. Currently, the administration is looking for grant funding to pilot the program at Boutwell. There is no high school level program at this time.

### **Superintendent**

Good News

"Caring Community" Cartoon work of students in middle school south were highlighted.

100 Positive Communications This Month - started by Florence Roche and adopted by the middle school. Every time a staff member reaches out to a parent with a positive communication the call is noted with the goal being at least 100/month.

Middle School "Days Doughnuts" - donuts and coffee offered to staff for the day as a pre-vacation treat.

Swallow Union - Principal and Team Chair put together a table of self-care gifts for their staff to get through the last few days of school.

Groton-Dunstable DECA (Business Club) awarded the achievement level recognition. Dr. Chesson commended Anna Rosenfeld, chapter advisor.

Hats off to Kristin DeFrancisco for all of her work in PD/PL opportunities offered to staff.

Review of Friday weather - Dee Bus will start bus pickup 5 minutes earlier than normal across the district.

### **Director of Finance & Operations**

FY24 Budget Update - nothing new

Groton will hold their next budget meeting on January 9th, 2023.

APP'd 1.11.23

PFAS - no update

**Chair**

Liaison/Subcommittees

DEI Update - last met 2 weeks ago and will come forward soon with a presentation/recommendation to the School Committee.

**New Business** - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jo Ann Sivazlian, Secretary

Documents shared:

Agenda

Draft Minutes 12.7.22

Program Reviews in the District (PP)

Second Step Overview (PP)