

Superintendent Parent Advisory

November 18, 2015

Minutes

Meeting Host: Dr. Jeff Marsden, Superintendent

In Attendance: Approximately 14 parents representing the schools, various student support groups and members at large.

1. The following changes have been implemented since the last meeting as a result of requests or suggestions made.
 - Minutes from the Superintendent Parent Advisory meeting have been posted with Dr. Marsden's presentation in a new tab under the Superintendents Office on the Medfield.net website.
 - A comprehensive district-wide calendar listing events for all five schools is now available on the Medfield.net website.

2. MCAS 2015 Overview and Results
Please review Dr. Marsden's presentation for specific MCAS background, definition of terms and specific results by grade. The Composite Performance Index (CPI) and Student Growth Percentile (SGP) are key measures to review.

Overall, the Medfield schools maintained the same results in English Language Arts for students in advanced and proficient categories as in prior years. However, there was an improvement in the Math results over the last two years raising the level for advanced and proficient to 79%.

Looking at the individual results by grade, the direction for the CPI should be in the mid-90's. The moderate SGP range is generally between 40 – 60 and anything above that is considered very good. The goal for the percentage reported under needs improvement should be declining and those under warning should be brought to zero.

The improvements seen in math are encouraging. Adding a full time consultant in the elementary schools has had a positive impact. The administration will continue to review the staffing for math support in the upcoming budget for next year.

The results for the Science CPI have not been above 90 and the percentages falling under needs improvement and warning are too high. Much work needs to be done in this area to develop a coordinated science curriculum. Another challenge will be to find time to add further instruction in the school day. It was noted that the Medfield results are similar to those at the state level, but we expect more from our students. There are new Science standards that will be approved early next year and the goal is to incorporate them into the curriculum.

The math results in the middle school years show a decline in the SGP that is being carefully reviewed. A reconfigured curriculum is being developed to align the course work with the test that will be presented to the School Committee for approval in the near future.

Lastly, the results for Grade 10 were excellent. However, the test is based on 8th grade standards, so the expectation is Medfield students should do very well.

3. How is the MCAS data used?

- Item analysis – To the extent details are made available, the data by question or topic is analyzed to make improvements. New this year, teachers will be receiving classroom data on their student’s performance providing key insight for enhancements. Focus placed on what the teachers are doing leading to a positive effect on the students can be shared and developed further. This can be a very valuable learning exercise and not intended to be a punitive judgment.
- Grade Level/Departmental/Leadership Discussions – The goal is to use the MCAS information to provide consistent learning experiences and opportunities to learn for all students. Having common assessments allows for comparisons and discussions for setting grade level and departmental goals.

4. Changes to consider that will support student achievement

- Implementing support teacher collaboration for grades Pre-K – 12 has begun this year. Initial feedback has been positive and it will be evaluated throughout the year for each school.
- Creating large uninterrupted blocks of learning time for grades K – 5 is working better, but more needs to be done in this area.
- Expanding the school day for more quality instructional time and aligning the elementary school day schedule (particularly Wheelock) are in the process of being discussed.
- Providing content coaches for math and science requires further attention and action.
- A new committee has been formed to focus on teacher development. This was incorporated into the teacher contracts last spring.

5. How are we supporting at risk students

- Focusing on the individual learning style is critical to take advantage of accommodations or modification available in their IEP. It could provide support to the student during the testing environment.
- Additional focus on writing in the learning center so students can build writing skills for longer essays that are required for testing.
- Creating a math block for students in the warning or needs improvement range at Blake to provide assistance where needed most.
- Item analysis of results done with a vertical group of teachers is very important to make changes in curriculum for things that may have been missed year to year.

6. MA Board of Education approved MCAS 2.0, a “hybrid” of the PARCC and MCAS tests.

2016 - Medfield will have to decide if the schools will take the PARCC test or traditional MCAS. The leadership team will make a recommendation to the School Committee.

2017 - The goal is for a new assessment to be available.

Current high school students - all grades through graduation 2019 will take MCAS.

Other things mentioned regarding the new assessment was the technology to implement computerized testing needs much improvement by the State. To date, personal IPADS were not permitted for the test unless they were stripped of all files/applications and reloaded with the approved software. This will need to be addressed.

7. Other comments

- The Field Study group is gathering information and preparing to give a full report by December 1.
- A world language study group is being organized by Ellen Toubman (content specialist) and Kim Cave to focus on the language program being offered in the elementary schools over the last 3 – 4 years. Anyone is welcome to join.
- Strategic Plan focus groups have been attended by many and collecting information. A follow up survey will be offered to those unable to attend the focus groups. Overall broad goals will be identified and many of the issues/challenges identified will be aligned under the appropriate goal. Going forward, the School Improvement Plans for each school will be developed and linked back to the district Strategic Plan (currently not done).
- Other miscellaneous items:
The survey conducted in the spring had a response rate over 60%. The data is very dense and takes time to understand. More will be presented on the survey in the near future.

There are 32 new students from The Parc Apartments that will be enrolled into the school system during this school year.

Next year there will be two half-day kindergarten classes. Full day requests are getting larger but keeping classroom size at a reasonable level is a priority.

Fees in the budget process, can we be innovative to generate new revenue. Could a committee be put together to brainstorm some revenue sources for the schools like adult education? Dr. Marsden suggested we also take a look at the current activity and sport fee structure that has not been changed in many years. Rising costs supporting the activities/sports should be incorporated (bus fees, umpires, field maintenance, etc.)

Next Meeting Scheduled for 1/20/16 at 9:30 AM, Blake Middle School Library
Respectfully Submitted: Marianne Phillips, November 18, 2015