



**Accountability and Student Achievement Subcommittee
Framingham High School Library - Closed Classroom
115 A Street Framingham, MA
October 7, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m.
Open Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Chair Beverly Hugo, Noval Alexander, Geoffrey Epstein*, Gloria Pascual

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Bright, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Anne Ludes, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Dr. Tremblay, Superintendent, Assistant Director of Special Education Ildefonso Arrellano, Joanna Hastry, Executive Assistant for the School Committee

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. She noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was being recorded.

*Mr. Epstein joined the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

In order to have key administrators present for certain agenda items, there was a request to change the timing of some topics.

Motion: To approve changing the order of agenda.

Moved: Mr. Epstein **Seconded:** Ms. Pascual **Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)
(Yes: Ms. Hugo, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Epstein, Ms. Pascual)

Review of Policy IKB: Homework

Dr. Tremblay said that the Action Civics Commission is looking to get student voices at the high school level, in order to extend the input to cover all grade levels for the policy. He said that in the draft that came out, there were some concerns with the amount of time, and the school department would like to circulate the policy for public comment from teachers, students and families. It was proposed that this subcommittee would review the policy once ready, after it was reviewed at the Policy Subcommittee, and it would then go for a first reading at the full School Committee meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Anne Ludes said that other districts policies were reviewed while creating the draft, as well as a document from an ACCEPT Collaborative meeting.

Ms. Hugo said that some studies have shown that homework is not valuable until the sixth grade, and some districts have tried to set it up so only certain subjects give tests on certain days of the week. Ms. Ludes said at the younger levels it does not have to be typical homework and would have an emphasis on reading and math fluency. She said that the high school has a seven day schedule, with classes not meeting every day, so it would be hard to put in a test schedule as the one discussed. Discussion on flexibility of timelines with the document, what is expected since not every class meets every day in the high school, and how to monitor that teachers are not overloading students depending on what classes they choose to take in the high school. Discussion about having one application available so families,

teachers, and students can have access to see what homework is assigned every day for each student. Ms. Hugo asked about extra supports and services for students who may need them. Ms. Ludes said there is the Academic Center, the Writing Center, Resiliency for Life, the National Honor Society and Strive for Excellence, as well as The Homework Center at the Framingham Library. Discussion on support for students on IEPs, including that any accommodations, even with homework, are legal and binding, and discussion on making sure information on homework is accessible in many ways and not just online.

Attendance

Ms. Ludes said that she is meeting today with the Department of Health and Wellness and the Director of Media and Communications to see what pieces are already in place for attendance, as attendance is being seen as a problem that needs to be worked on, and we need to think about messaging to go out before students become absent. Members asked about alternative ways for students to get to school if they miss the bus, such as Uber or a recovery bus. Ms. Ludes said that some high school students will take the MWRTA, but we are limited in terms of types of transportation that can be used, and we can not recommend students to get in cars with strangers such as with Uber, and anyone that drives students would have to be CORI checked.

Members asked how the School Committee could help with attendance, and about a possible community wide campaign or positive incentives for students. Dr. Tremblay said that the District's and City's Directors of Media and Communication have been working on this, and he will also add the subject as an agenda item to the Town-Wide PTO Presidents Meeting. Discussion on possibilities to get messaging out such as through Flyer News, the Portuguese radio stations, focusing on parents rather than students, such as how Brockton created their city-wide initiative, increasing engagement between parents and schools, and how teachers also need to lead by example, and in the past year there were 900 more staff absences than the previous year. Discussion on being mindful of languages, of reasons for absences, and cultural aspects. Discussion on how if students are not learning good attendance habits at the elementary level, they will not have them by high school.

MCAS Results

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Amy Bright and Ms. Ludes presented on the MCAS results that were provided with progress towards meeting targets and achievement percentile, which compares the scores to all other schools on the same level throughout the state, compared to the past year for each school. Ms. Ludes said that 2018 was the first year for using these targeted interventions. They spoke about looking at what interventions have worked to increase progress towards meeting goals for schools, and seeing how those can be implemented in other schools or grades. Discussion on how the student cohort could lead to many other competing factors in the scoring other than teaching, and how the mobility rate of students is 20 percent. Ms. Hugo asked what is being done differently this year, as well as if they feel that they have enough resources and supports. Ms. Ludes spoke about having turnaround plans at schools that require them, meeting with the leadership team and identifying areas to develop Smart Goals through I-ready with student achievement, attendance goals, conduct goals, and classroom observations. She said that they feel like they have enough supports, just not enough time. Mr. Epstein asked why achievement at certain schools, such as at Potter and Wilson, went down, and spoke about how targets get raised every year and the state should be looking into the upper quartile of students as well to make sure they are pushing themselves achievement wise. Ms. Ludes said they have to individually look at their results, not look at a single year in isolation, and need more time than just two years to look at

trends. Assistant Director of Special Education Ildefonso Arrellano says that part of their observation is targeting the upper quartile, as well as differentiating students who need support in the top tier. Discussion occurred on the schools getting used to using iReady, and the metrics they use while observing classrooms.

Updates on Data Collection

Ms. Ludes spoke to the changes happening this year including practices within the turnaround schools and classroom visit rounds with senior leaders and administrators of the particular school. She said that every month members of the administration, principals, and vice principals have a meeting that includes going through four pieces of data: achievement, attendance, behavior and one piece that should change, which includes specific action points. Ms. Pascual asked if there is any official data or if it is just being compiled now. Ms. Ludes said that at the first meeting they received the data, but in the future, they will start capturing the data using a template. Ms. Hugo asked to have an update at the November meeting, and Ms. Pascual suggested also discussing this at a future Racial Equity Subcommittee with the Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Diversity, and Community Development.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 25, 2019.

Moved: Ms. Pascual **Seconded:** Mr. Alexander **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)
(Yes: Ms. Hugo, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Epstein, Ms. Pascual)

Next Steps

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on November 18th from 5:00-6:30, followed by a December 9th meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Mr. Alexander **Seconded:** Ms. Pascual **Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)
(Yes: Ms. Hugo, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Epstein, Ms. Pascual)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Meeting Materials:

Agenda
MCAS Results Chart
ACCEPT Document - Homework Guidelines -Fall 2019
Draft Policy IKB-Homework
Draft June 29, 2019 Minutes

These minutes were approved by the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee in Open Session on November 16, 2020.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on November 17, 2020.