



**Teaching and Learning Subcommittee
Remote
June 28, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.
Open Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Jessica Barnhill (Chair), Beverly Hugo, Tiffanie Maskell

ABSENT: Valerie Ottaviani

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant Superintendent for PreK-12 Education Amy Bright, Director of the Office of Multilingual Education Dr. Aradhana Mudambi, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Amy Gerade, Director of Health and Wellness Judy Styer, FHS Athletic Director Paul Spear, Executive Assistant to the School Committee Joanna Hastry

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. She noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was being held remotely, was being broadcast live on Facebook, and was also being recorded. She noted that School Committee member Valerie Ottaviani is unable to be present due to a schedule conflict. She said that the minutes are not ready for approval yet and will be added to the next meeting, asked to take the agenda out of order at administrations' request, and said that she spoke with the Chair about possibly moving the full School Committee vote to a future meeting if more time is needed for the subcommittee's review.

Public Comment

There was no-one in attendance for public comment.

Discussion and Vote on Handbooks

Administrative staff spoke to the handbooks that were included in the packets. FHS Athletic Director Paul Spear said that the Athletic Handbook is essentially the same as last year with no substantive changes as the last two years due to pandemic they have been in a holding pattern. He said that next year they will be working on a fundraising policy with the Gender Equity Committee. Members gave feedback on the Athletic Handbook including adding an antiracist and culturally competent goal, changing pronouns such as he/she to they throughout all of the handbooks, removing the mention of Saturday school as that does not happen, and adding related regulations and laws for reference. Members asked about the athletic eligibility in the handbooks being stricter than the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) standards, what would cause an administrator to deny eligibility besides academics, and shared concerns about transportation for athletics as not all students are provided this, and there is information about parents needing permission to transport students, but nothing regarding students getting in someone else's car. Mr. Spear said that they changed it to stricter eligibility during the pandemic and they need to change it back to pre-pandemic and said that behavioral

issues could also be a reason to deny eligibility. He suggested possibly adding a blanket permission in regards to students being transported in another car to an event and how they try and think of being equitable in making sure there is transportation available, such as with the Flyer vans. He said that he will make updates to the handbook based on the feedback from this meeting and share the updated copy with the committee members.

Assistant Superintendent for PreK-12 Education Amy Bright said that there were very little changes in the BLOCKS Handbook, but they did clarify the free lunch and breakfast language (as well as in all the other handbooks) and updated things from what had been changed due to COVID-19. Members gave feedback on the handbook including having Dr. Tremblay sign the letter in the beginning of all handbooks, asked for additional information and clarification on if the SORI (Sexual Offender Registry Information) could be required along with the CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) for school security, and why the time limit for volunteers is only 20 minutes as it is important to have volunteers in classrooms to help enrich students' lives. Ms. Bright said that she would look into these questions and update the committee with the information.

Ms. Bright said that there was not much that changed in the Elementary Handbook and there is just one handbook for all 9 schools in order to be consistent. Members asked if there was any consideration on adding health education in grades below Grade 5, requested that staff information be updated, and asked if the handbooks will be available electronically. Ms. Bright said they have discussed the expansion of health programs and spoke to other districts to see what they are doing, and there would be a need to look at staffing and schedules in the elementary schools, what the curriculum and frequency of them would be, as well as possibly needing to replace a special in order to have it fit. She said that all handbooks will be sent to families at the beginning of the school year electronically.

Ms. Bright said that for the Middle School Handbook there were minor changes that included updating where Dual Language programs are and making sure the Code of Character, Conduct, and Support is updated and included in all the handbooks. Members asked about students being able to use bathrooms and expressed concerns about students not being allowed to use them when needed. Ms. Bright said that they had a reset for students on PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) and using systems within the schools such as bathrooms, recess, cafeteria, and transitions and they have been using the E-Hall Pass system to be able to know where students are at all times. She said that bathrooms are open to students at all times and they have grade specific ones, as well as only allow three students in the bathroom at one time due to concerns of vandalism and making sure students feel safe. She said that each school has their own protocols and there is no direct policy regarding it.

Ms. Bright said that the Thayer Handbook is now included within the High School handbook since it is a component of the high school. She said that they are working on entrance and exit information for Thayer and that will be added next year. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Amy Gerade said that in order to make stronger connections and make sure all students have a trusted adult they have created Flyers 101 which will be different at each grade level, there will be six houses now each labeled with a different color, a new Student Success Academy tailored for students in work study programs, and a Welcome Academy for newcomers

to the High School to make sure they will be successful. Ms. Bright spoke about new procedures, to be in alignment with the Code of Character, Conduct, and Support, to increase student attendance and accountability in classes and grade restoration that was created with help from the Faculty Senate which was created to leverage other voices within the High School. Members asked if the signature page for parents and students are actually being sent home and signed, if departments typically have consistency with the weight of grades and assigning exams, and suggested updating the MIAA standards as discussed with the Athletic Handbook. Ms. Bright said that they are working with the Technology Department to find the best way to have electronic signatures in place for the Fall and receive the signatures back from students and families. Ms. Gerade said that next year one of the topics for Department Heads is to review the program of studies including final and mid-year exams and grades. She said that it is consistent within each department, but may vary across departments, and she can get more information.

Discussion occurred and agreement on having an additional subcommittee meeting to review updates to the handbooks, based on the conversations at this meeting, before being brought to the full School Committee for a vote.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Ms. Hugo

Seconded: Ms. Maskell

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (4-0-0)

(Yes: Hugo, Maskell, Barnhill)

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Meeting Materials

Agenda

BLOCKS Family and Student Handbook

Elementary Schools Family and Student Handbook

Middle Schools Family and Student Handbook

Framingham High School Family and Student Handbook

Athletics Handbook

These minutes were approved by the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee in Open Session on November 29, 2022.

These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on December 12, 2022.