

Meeting Minutes #5: Curriculum Committee with ECI

January 30th- virtual – 5:00-6:20pm

Attendance:

Crystal Hopkins
Melanie Deysher
Director Vargas
Director Goforth
Dr. Morgan
Ms. Kenny (HS Guidance)

- Start Strong Data Presentation (Assessments administered in the Fall)
 - Start Strong assessments are short 45 - 60 minute assessments that test students in the standards from the prior year.
 - These assessments will provide teachers with immediate feedback.
 - Schools should not compare Start Strong data vs any other state assessments.
 - Students are scored/categorized by the following categories
 - Strong
 - Some Support needed
 - Less Support needed

The following grades 4th - 10th are assessed using Start Strong:

- 4th - 10th Gr Assesses on ELA
- 4th - 8th Gr Assess on Mathematics
- 6th, 9th and 12th graders Assessed on Science
- Unfortunately the results that we are seeing now still have effects of covid as well as the assessments are a result of the impact of covid on academics.
- The main purpose of these assessments is to provide teachers and school leaders with immediate useful data in assisting students with their academic needs and benching marking where they are at the beginning of the year.
- District directs teachers & building administration to look at the standards and not the percentage as it isn't clear on the number of questions wrong that may have a child identify as needing support or not.
- This information is provided to parents in their Genesis portal.

- We believe that this tool is used best to determine how we best can support teachers as they support students.
- The Parent Academy position was hired this support will impact student achievement. This is a stipend position. We have two upcoming workshops in February MNDC: What it does and how it supports families and students and What Reading looks like in Montclair. These will be district wide opportunities to share with families what Montclair Public schools have to offer.
- Health Curriculum Update
 - Posted position for curriculum writing
 - Followed by a need for a consultant to review the curriculum for accuracy.
- Mid year Curricula updates:
 - This occurs due to collaboration of curricula once it is submitted for review it can go back to the curriculum writer for edits which can happen one or two time before final completion of approval and posting.
- Field Trip Request
 - EC&I reviews field trips based on substance and connection to curriculum. Then the business office supports the transportation portion. A live google doc will hold all field trip information with filled in cells.
- ELA Curriculum
 - K-5 Core instructional materials currently piloting with in the district at hillside, edgemont, bradford and Nishuane are Amplify CKLA and greater mind wit and wisdom. We have seen the materials in action and have allowed for collaborative conversations between teachers of their experience with the material.
 - ELA committee will be determining which program will be replacing collaborative classroom.
 - Amplify CKLA has been overall supportive as they have provided support from coaches to provide observations with debriefs and presentation to CO staff.
 - Greater mind wit and wisdom is following thru with the offering.
 - In either March or April we are hoping to present based on what we believe is best for our district with a launch in September with staggered roll outs following starting with K-2.
- Journalism I & II Curriculum
 - In the 21-22 school year it no longer fulfills an English credit but still is a popular course amongst students with interest.
 - Student led and written magazine is supporting through this course
 - Moving this to credits towards 21st Century life skills

- Safe Return to School
 - The plan needs to be posted for view of the community in accordance with agenda for board meetings and allow for community comment at the wednesday Feb 22nd meetings.
- GT presentation to board and community
 - After surveys completed; March 20th potential presentation date.