

Committee Members
Dianna Biancheria, Chairman
Donna Colorio, Vice-chairman
Brian A. O'Connell

AGENDA #2
ASA
5-17-16
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A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Student Achievement met at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Ms. Colorio and Chairman Biancheria

There was absent: Mr. O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Representing Administration: Mrs. Gorham, Dr. Perda and Dr. Friel

Others in attendance: M. Anzelmo, C. Bailey, T. Bombard, C. Chviruk, K. Cox, P. King, C. Moore-Jenkins, J. Murphy, J. Pagan, R. Polozanski, J. Santa, R. Towner and R. Traiger

gb #2-325 - Ms. Novick/Miss Biancheria (November 29, 2012)

To review school accountability plans.

Mr. King made a presentation regarding the Wake-Up Math Program which is one developed by the faculty at Forest Grove Middle School. Each day, during the morning homeroom period, students work on a math problem. The student responses are then collected and submitted to the cluster math teachers who review the problem with students. Math teachers at Forest Grove acknowledge students on a weekly basis, based on their correct responses. The school year starts with review material and the problems get more challenging as the year progresses.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration circulate a description of the Wake-Up Math Program to other schools for possible implementation.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

When Mr. King was asked by a Standing Committee member about needs in the math department, he mentioned textbooks and materials for inclusion and at-risk students.

gb #2-325 (continued)

It was moved and voice voted to discuss the School Accountability Plans for University Park Campus School and Worcester Technical High School at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Student Achievement.

gb #5-84 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (March 11, 2015)

To review the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education report entitled, "Elm Park Community School Level 4/School Redesign Grant (SRG) Monitoring Site Visit" which took place December 4-5, 2014 and to consider the "Strengths" and "Areas for Improvement" detailed in it.

Ms. Santa, Principal, Elm Park Community School, made an excellent presentation regarding the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education report entitled, "Elm Park Community School Level 4/School Redesign Grant (SRG) Monitoring Site Visit" which took place December 4-5, 2014.

Mr. O'Connell made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide, in a Friday Letter, the updated follow-up report from the state in order to publicize the quality of the program.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

FILE.

gb #5-184 - Administration (July 8, 2015)

To consider participation in the USDA Community Eligibility Program which provides free meals to all students within the Worcester Public Schools.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide a report as to whether the change to the USDA Community Eligibility Program has had an impact on the Worcester Public Schools eligibility for grant funding.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

FILE.

gb #5-243 - Mr. O'Connell/Mr. Foley/Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria (September 10, 2015)

To review the scores achieved by Worcester students in the 2015 administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) examinations, at all levels.

Miss Biancheria made the following motion:

Request that the Administration determine whether the results of MCAS or PARCC should continue to be a criteria for use to select students for the Goddard Scholars Program, since they are separate and distinct tests.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration provide evidence that supports the following two statements as contained in the backup in Annex A, page 3, first bullet:

“In contrast to the MCAS (aligned to the “old” Massachusetts Frameworks), the PARCC is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Because of this, the assessment is more rigorous than MCAS.”

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Colorio stated that when the Massachusetts standards were first implemented, they were considered to be the best in the country and that was due to the fact that the English curriculum included good literature and very strong content. To date, there is no evidence that supports the statement that the PARCC assessment or Common Core is more rigorous than the MCAS.

Ms. Colorio made the following motion:

Request that the Administration conduct a survey or add to an existing one an item to determine whether data about MCAS or PARCC is useful to teachers.

On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.