

MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL  
WELL-BEING AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington Street

**Role Call:**

The following attendance was taken:

Mr. Marsh	Present
Ms. Beardsley	Present
Mr. Silverman	Present
Superintendent Grandson	Present
Asst. Superintendent Keenan	Present

Agenda Items:

- Recess Policy - Ms. Beardsley
  - Ms. Beardsley reported that recess is still being taken away from students.. She has heard this from parents. It was also noted that some schools may be citing time constraints as reasons why recess may not have taken place, or may have been shortened. Dr. Grandson and Ms. Keenan noted that this should not happen, with the possible exception of early release days.
  - Dr. Grandson discussed the need to give school personnel more tools to deal with behavior without taking away recess (eg. PBIS, restorative practices, etc
  - Ms. Keenan will address this in the handbook.
  - The subcommittee will get an update on how this is going at its next meeting (3/27/17).
  
- Update on visit to Boston Public Schools - Mr. Marsh and Dr. Grandson
  - Superintendent and Mr. Marsh visited the Harvard/Kent School (K-5)
  - Sat in one of the 4th grade classrooms during Open Circle.
    - A problem was posed, followed by discussion of steps to take to solve the problem.
  - Mr. Marsh and Dr. Grandson were both impressed by the level of student engagement and willingness to speak openly about difficult subjects.
  - The subcommittee agreed that they would like to see this program implemented consistently across the Malden Public Schools (grades K-4).
  
- Open Circle SEL Curriculum Overview - Ms. Keenan
  - Ms. Keenan acknowledged a high upfront cost for the Open Circle Program, but noted that, once we train our staff, we will have in-house trainers for sustainability.
  - Ms. Keenan noted that the DESE now mandates that all districts have a SEL curriculum.
  - Ms. Keenan provided a packet of information and spoke about the basic elements of the program
    - Open Circle is a program, but also an approach.
    - Conflict management, problem solving, etc...

- Flows well into restorative justice (which may be used in the upper grades).
- Common language and common set of strategies.
- All staff would be trained to use the model.
- Two 15-minute sessions per week. Minilessons.
- Role playing, strategizing, selected readings.
- Superintendent stated that he is awaiting specific price quote, but is confident we can cover the upfront cost in current year's budget.
  - At the SC retreat in November, the committee approved the superintendent to spend funds on SEL curriculum.
- Mr. Silverman asked what the timeline will be for obtaining program materials and begin training. Dr. Grandson and Ms. Keenan stated that they would like to have programs in hand before the end of the year, and have ideas for how to begin training right away.