



CITY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Richard Bransfield, Principal
Mr. Michael Drouin, Assistant Principal
Mr. David Hochheiser, Assistant Principal

LINDEN S.T.E.A.M. ACADEMY

29 Wescott Street, Malden, MA 02148
Phone: (781) 397-7329
(781) 397-7218

Email: rbransfield@maldenps.org

Linden STEAM Academy Governing Board Minutes May 9, 2018 at 5:45pm Linden STEAM Academy Library

Call to order 5:50pm

1. Attendance – Kathleen Coye, Callie Walsh, Elaine Rittershaus, Rachana Gray, Sarah Boswell, Deb Gesualdo, Justin Umlah, Johns Froio, John Oteri, Lenny Young, Mike Druin, Jessica Leggett, Christine Shuman-Caudill
 - a. Quorum sufficient to conduct business
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve January minutes by Elaine Rittershaus. Second by Christine Shuman-Caudill
-Motion carries
 - b. Motion to approve April minutes by Elaine Rittershaus. Second by Justin Umlah.
-Motion carries
3. Public Comment
 - a. None
4. New Business
 - a. School calendar/professional development days for SY 18-19
 - i. Consider going back to syncing up Linden PD days with the rest of the district, but open Linden PD to rest of the school district and allow teachers in all buildings—Linden included—to choose the PD that best suits their professional needs.
 - ii. There would be district PD available that Linden teachers could choose to go to a different PD if needed.

- iii. Linden PD taskforce, which is aimed at identifying what PD we at the Linden need. This group would be involved in setting up the Linden PD
 - iv. District wide there is a joint taskforce for PD
 - v. Motion that the board adopt the district calendar and that staff will be able to choose which PD they attend made by Superintendent Oteri. Seconded by Christine Shuman-Caudill.
 - vi. Discussion
 - 1. 3 PD days in discussion
 - 2. Another option is to not go with district calendar and have 2 days upfront (we currently only had 1 shared PD day), which would require a teacher vote
 - 3. 3rd option would be to have 1 extra PD day on district
 - 4. NOTE that the district changed to have an extra PD ahead of the school year – like Linden.
 - 5. Call to Vote
 - a. Motion passes with a vote of 7 yeas
 - b. 2 opposed
 - c. Kathleen Coye & Callie Walsh abstain from the vote
 - d. Motion carries
 - vii. Want clear messaging that we are going to use this year to compare with previous arrangement and due to transitional nature of the administration.
- b. Middle school schedules
- i. 7th and 8th grade teachers feel would be better to have shorter periods and think it is having an adverse effect on the students. (75min)
 - 1. This was initiated to have more center/project based learning in the upper grades.
 - ii. Would we waterfall the schedule?
 - iii. Teachers were asked to go back with the teams
 - 1. WIN block will require 45 min pullout for next year

- a. What is the projected increase in special education?
 - b. Some class sizes will increase because all SPED kids will have a seat in full classrooms in co-taught classrooms.
2. Should give scheduling ideas to those representing us on the principal search
3. We can be the advocate on the schedule for these teachers with the new principal
- c. Data meetings re: middle school grades
 - i. No data meetings were held for 7th and 8th grade this year.
 - ii. Can Susan get information regarding middle school data meetings
- d. Grading policy
 - i. Kids receive grades between 50-100.
 1. Ask Mr. Drouin and Mr. Hochheiser can check if teachers are following through on this.
 - ii. Are we really going to keep with this – YES
 - iii. Could change the system so that X2 couldn't even accept something under a 50.
- e. LSA student handbook
 - i. Table this
- f. Starbase funding
 - i. Something 5th grade has been doing for years. They go 5 times to the air force base.
 - ii. In the past Principal has given funding from somewhere???
 1. \$10,000 for the bussing
 2. Usually classes pay for ½ of the \$5000 and city
 - iii. Now the organizer in the defense department are looking to expand this program to more 5th grades across the district.
 1. Helps share the cost and spreads the work to other districts.
 - iv. Mike Drouin will be the contact person.

5. Principal's Report (Mike Drouin)
 - a. Kids doing great
 - b. MCAS season is underway
6. Personal Privilege
 - a. Teachers are concerned about exhibition night
 - i. Concerned about need for supplies for exhibition night
 - ii. Should have taskforce for exhibition night in the future
 - iii. Won't have a map for this year's exhibition night.
 - iv. Need coordination for exhibition night
 1. Deb will coordinate Auditorium
 2. Christina Rosenthal could help coordinate the library
 - v. Mike can e-mail out and send out something to request teachers report their plan for exhibition night.
 - b. Papers for teacher election never went out to parents.
 - i. Need ballots printed
 - ii. Sarah will help set up the table on exhibition night.
 - iii. Print the school calendar to have as hand out for teachers.
 - c. Little library in the works
 - i. 8th grader and 3rd grader will be working together on the box.
 - ii. Can put it in the foyer on exhibition night.
7. May 17th 5:30pm in Malden High Gallery. Town hall panel event on school funding and how we spend the resources.
 - a. Schools will be paid of this year and next year we want money to come back into school instead of the city general fund.
8. Adjournment 7 pm. Motion to adjourn by Christine Shuman-Caudill. Second by Elaine Rittershaus.
-Motion carries.