

MALDEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AD-HOC SUB COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018 – 6:00PM

ATTENDEES: Tara Beardsley (Chair), Robert McCarthy, Jennifer Spadafora, Superintendent John Oteri, Asst. Superintendent Sandra Donah

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by the subcommittee chair, Ms. Beardsley.

1. Recess Policy Rewrite/Send to Policy & Procedure Sub Committee

The sub-committee discussed current recess times per school and the ways in which teachers cannot take away recess for disciplinary reasons (unless the student puts themselves or others in danger). Superintendent Oteri suggested focus groups be created, including teachers and students, to figure out how each school could add additional time to their recess policy. It was also suggested a questionnaire be established to poll parents/guardians on their thoughts of increasing recess time within the schools.

2. Peer to Peer Mentoring Pilot Program at Beebe

Ms. Spadafora presented the subcommittee with the formal request to create a peer to peer mentoring program at the Beebe school. The program will encourage interaction between mainstream general education students and students within the PACE program. The subcommittee agreed that the pilot program should commence immediately, and data should be collected for review. The subcommittee agreed to reconvene in March to review data.

3. Bullying Policy and Reporting

Ms. Beardsley indicated that parents wanted clearer definitions on bullying. Assistant Superintendent Donah informed the subcommittee that the bullying curriculum is being pushed out as we have a new curriculum that is more content based and helps student better understand what bullying is for our K-8 students. Superintendent Oteri updated the subcommittee of a revised bullying policy that is in draft status as the previous version was from 2011. The District hopes to have revisions completed by December to go before the entire School Committee for approval shortly thereafter. Asst. Superintendent Donah also informed the subcommittee of updated bullying intervention plans for IEP teams as well.

4. Behavior Policy Around Special Education Students

Superintendent Oteri confirmed we are not a District with a “zero tolerance” policy. Every event is handled differently based on the actions presented. The subcommittee agreed with this method and the policy remains status quo.

5. Adjustment Councilor Ratios

Assistant Superintendent Sandra Donah provided the subcommittee with current number of student adjustment councilors (SACs) per school. The subcommittee advised they were unable to obtain current ratios of SACs to students. Superintendent Oteri advised that the National Association of School Councilors may have that information however, DESE does not set a ratio or caseload requirements for student adjustment councilors.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:37p.m.