



February 24

2020

REPORT OF THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Student Achievement Committee (SAC) met on Friday, February 7, at 2:00 PM at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center in the Board Office Conference Room.

ATTENDEES

Student Achievement Committee Members

Chairperson Pamela Bowers, Ryan Messer, Mike Moroski

Administration/Staff

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent; Tianay Amat, Deputy Superintendent; Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Emily Campbell, Director, Curriculum and Instruction; Katie Mater (Linz), School Psychologist, Bond Hill; Paul McDole, Director of Human Resources; Justin Leach, Director of Testing; Shauna Murphy, Assistant Superintendent; Dianna Schweitzer, Teacher, Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies; Kristan Sterling, Teacher, Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies

Cincinnati Federation of Teachers (CFT)

Kendra Phelps, Professional Issues

Community Members/Parents/Students

Alula Asfaw, Marlena Brookfield, Ambriehl Crutchfield, Craig Rozen, Dureka Bonds, Anna Layman, ASCEND Bond of Union

Design Committee Mission Statement

The Committee agreed with their below mission statement being derived from the District's Strategic Plan.

We will ensure students are at the center of all decision making to create equitable educational opportunities and unmatched experiences that deliver results.

(Student Achievement and District Instructional Performance Committee suggestions from Strategic Plan items 1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 1A, 1C, 1D, 1E, 3B)

Committee Workplan

The Committee reviewed and agreed with revisions that were made to the SAC's responsibilities at the January 27, 2020 Board meeting. The Committee's responsibilities are outlined in the Board's Bylaws.

The SAC will review the 2019 workplan to assist in aligning the 2020 workplan.

The Administration will review the 2019 workplan to assist in the preparation of the 2020 workplan, in the effort of providing suggestions to SAC around having a more streamlined intentional work plan, and measures within the Strategic Plan.

- Student-Centered Decision Making
- Health and Safety
- Community Engagement

- Optimized Capabilities
- Growth

The Committee will confirm their workplan after all Board Committees have reviewed their responsibilities and either the four Committee Chairs or the Ad Hoc Committee have met to ensure that the workplans are aligned to the Strategic Plan and to cross reference appropriate items for assignments to each Committee.

ASSIGNMENT: The Committee will discuss a draft of the workplan at their March 6, 2020, Committee meeting, which will then be flushed out and hopefully submitted to Ad Hoc as the final work plan.

Renaming of School – John Gilligan

Superintendent Mitchell reported that she scheduled a phone call with the Gilligan family and that a letter needs to be submitted by the Local School Decision Making Committee supporting renaming a school before a decision can be made to rename a school, as well as letter coming from the community recommending a name change.

Mrs. Mitchell offered the idea of approaching schools that are currently not named after a specific person. This would require school’s willingness/interests on naming it after Mr. Gilligan.

She also presented an idea from one of her staff members about naming a new school after Mr. Gilligan that would complement the District.

Mrs. Mitchell informed the group that there may be one or two possibilities for new schools next year. She would like to wait until those deals are solidified before moving forward in the process of naming a school after Mr. Gilligan.

She will be talking with Mr. Gilligan’s daughter, Ellen Gilligan, about the status of naming a school after him.

ASSIGNMENT: Superintendent Mitchell will update the Gilligan family on the naming of a school once the status of one or two new schools are confirmed and community engagement has taken place. She will also update the Board of the status after her conversation with the Gilligan family and confirmation of the new deal has taken place.

Ascend Program (Bond Hill Academy)

Mr. Alula Asfaw

Committee member Moroski reported that he was impressed with the Ascend Program being offered at Bond Hill Academy and that he wanted to make the Board aware that this program is offered at the school.

Ascend is a learning initiative that is designed to dramatically improve outcomes among low-performing students. What they do:

- Beginning in grades four and five, selected students participate regularly in live, online learning sessions with a highly-trained Learning Coach.
- Each session takes place in an immersive, in-school learning station, equipped with state-of-the-art technology that is intuitive and engaging.

- Students and Learning Coaches work together on curriculum in Mathematics, individualized to student needs, that fosters a growth mindset culture.
- Their on-site Student Success Advocate works closely with teachers, administrators, and Learning Coaches to manage the program's day-to-day operations.
<http://www.bondsofunion.org/initiatives/#ascend>

Mr. Asfaw reported that a social-emotional assessment is not needed for students to qualify for the service.

Mr. Asfaw is currently serving 14 students from school year 2018-2019 and would like to serve approximately 30 to 40 more students, as well as third grade students. The sessions are conducted one-on-one for the first year and he is working towards sessions with groups of up to three students.

A copy of the presentation is available in the Board office.

Teacher Transfer Rounds

Mr. McDole reported that Teacher Transfer Rounds give staff an opportunity to transfer to other schools. The rounds begin February 24, 2020-April 10, 2020. He reported that there were about over 60 transfers last year. He also reported that he reviews transfers by building.

Committee member Messer inquired about training for Montessori teachers. Mr. McDole reported that the District renegotiated its contract with Xavier University for them to train teachers for Montessori teaching.

Mr. Messer recommended partnering with Xavier University about offering an Executive MBA to fast-track Montessori teacher training.

Mr. McDole reported that the District has a modified program through Xavier where teachers can take classes online and that he is happy to pursue other options.

LSDMC Revision for Student Voting

The Board discussed revising the LSDMC Handbook for student voting at is January 6 and January 22, 2020, Board meetings. The Board assigned the Student Achievement Committee to discuss the Board's recommendation of revising language that would provide students with one collective vote.

The Administration will review their Board Assignments log to check on the status.

The SAC reported that the Board has not taken a vote to approve students having one collective vote.

ASSIGNMENT: The SAC will refer Student Voting back to the Board for discussion under Board Matters at the February 24, 2020, Regular Business meeting.

Discussion ..."I E P (Individualized Education Plans) for All"

This topic may be discussed at a future date.

Monitor Walnut and Iowa Testing Issues

Justin Leach, Director of Testing and Assessment, reported that in past years the Terra Nova Assessment was used to conduct the Special College Preparatory Program (SCPP) Examination. The contract ended

at the end of year 2019. The District's assessment tool needed to be upgraded after using Terra Nova for many years.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was done after putting together a committee of Administrators, gifted intervention specialists, teachers, and central office staff connected to the purpose of the test. Terra Nova did apply, but they were unable to provide the norming studies at the time of the RFP.

Iowa Assessments were normed against a nationally represented population in 2017 and found to be reliable, and flexible to do paper and online gifted assessments at grades two and six.

The initial SCPP exam screening using Iowa Assessments was done in the fall for sixth-grade students for entry into Walnut Hills. The first administration of the test revealed a decrease in students passing the more recently normed Iowa assessment as compared to the older normed Terra Nova assessments.

The Administration communicated with families and students that two attempts are permitted per school year. The first attempt is done electronically and the second attempt is done by paper and pencil. Letters were sent to parents in December 2019 reminding them about the availability of the retest attempt for students, in addition to the initial results letter that families received in early November 2019.

The final SCPP administration date for eligibility beginning in the 2020-2021 school year was held at Walnut Hills High School on Saturday, February 15, 2020. Families are expected to receive results via U.S. mail prior to the March 19, 2020 Walnut Hills Registration Night.

ASSIGNMENT: Mr. Leach will provide the Committee with the percentage of students who passed the test and did not attend Walnut Hills.

2020-2021 School Calendar

Paul McDole, Human Resource Director, reported that Learning Teams will be restructured Staff Professional Development Days. He reported that the change will not have a negative impact on the hours that students are in session.

Deputy Superintendent Amat reported that the Leadership Team met with the Calendar Committee about the request.

Committee member Messer advised the Administration to engage the teachers to get their opinion and include them in the announcement of the change.

ASSIGNMENT: The SAC will recommend the calendar to the Board for approval at the February 24, 2020 Regular Business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Student Achievement Committee

Pamela Bowers, Chair
Ryan Messer
Mike Moroski

Staff Liaisons

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent
Tianay Amat, Deputy Superintendent
Shauna Murphy, Assistant Superintendent