

## SCHOOL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

A meeting of the School Policy Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 4:30 pm in the Superintendent's Conference Room. Present were Mrs. Elaine Dwyer, Ms. Barbara Isola, Mrs. Emily Lebo, and Mrs. Jo-Ann Bragg, Chair. Also attending were Superintendent DeCristofaro, Mrs. Colleen Roberts, Mrs. Ann Pegg, Ms. Dorothy Greene, Mr. Steve Sylvia, Mr. Peter Dionne, Mrs. Diane O'Keeffe, and Ms. Laura Owens, Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Mrs. Isola.

After opening remarks, Mrs. Ann Pegg presented the Merrymount Elementary School Improvement Plan and reflected on last year's goals. Neither the Math nor ELA goal was fully met as Open Response results varied across the grades but the percentage correct targets were not achieved. The scores on year-end Assessments for both Math and ELA did meet the 70% target for proficiency. The school's MCAS Student Growth Percentile remained in the moderate range.

For 2011-12, in ELA, Merrymount wants to increase the students' ability to apply the knowledge they acquire in the ELA classroom and become responsive readers, writers, and thinkers. The Keys to Literacy professional development workshop is a key tool for staff and they are using consistent strategies. For Math, Merrymount wants to improve mathematical abilities by enhancing students' skills to solve problems, think critically, and respond effectively.

Goals for 2011-12: (1) Teachers in grades 1-5 will implement various reading initiatives to increase student success in ELA. Initiatives will result in 75% of students in grades 1-5 scoring at proficient or above on year-end *Trophies* assessments. Also, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will increase from the grade-level 2011 MCAS open response average score by 2% in the 2012 MCAS assessment. Additionally, students in grade 5 will increase their open response average score by 2% from the previous year's average. (2) Teachers in grades 1-5 will implement various math initiatives to increase student success in Math. Initiatives will result in seventy-five percent of students in grades 1-5 scoring at proficient or above on year-end Houghton Mifflin Harcourt assessments. Also, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will increase from the grade-level 2011 MCAS open response average score by 2% in the 2012 MCAS assessment. Additionally, students in grade 5 will increase their open response average score by 2% from the previous year's average. (3) Merrymount teachers and support staff in grades K-5 will examine and dissect the Common Core Standards and "aim to align instruction" with the new frameworks.

There was a discussion of facility needs, specifically intercoms that aren't fully functioning in four classrooms. The subcommittee asked questions about PTO fundraising, text and learning purchases, Orton Gillingham teachers (1 SPED teacher is certified), and subgroup populations (total enrollment: 371 students in grades K-5, 31 students on IEPs, 98 students with free or reduced lunch, 41 ELL students)

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mrs. Dwyer moved to approve the Merrymount Elementary School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Ms. Dottie Greene presented the Atherton Hough School Improvement Plan and spoke about the strong tradition of the school; multiple generations from the same families have attended the school and there is a high level of community investment. Last spring's Centennial Celebration was a successful community event, one of the goals from the 2010-2011 SIP. Last year's Math goal was met, but the ELA goal was not fully met.

For 2011-2012, the school's goals are (1) The number of students in grades 4 and 5 scoring in the proficient category on the 2012 Mathematics MCAS will increase by 2% as compared to the 2011 Mathematics MCAS. (2) The raw score for Topic Development, as measured by the Grade 4 Long Composition on the 2012 MCAS will increase by two points as compared to the 2011 Long Composition scores. (3) To improve scores by an average of one point on the Open Response questions on the Literature Strand for the 2012 ELA MCAS.

During the discussion that followed, facilities needs around repointing were reviewed and also, the number of improvements completed in anticipation of the Centennial celebration. The before and after-school programs' efficacy in improving children's problem solving abilities and overall self-confidence was reviewed as well as the subgroup populations (total enrollment: 291 students in grades K-5, 31 students on IEPs in regular education classes, 18 students in LDC Grades 1-5, and 4 students in STARS K-1, 67 students with free or reduced lunch, 8 ELL students).

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mrs. Dwyer moved to approve the Atherton Hough Elementary School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Isola seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. Steve Sylvia then presented the Squantum Elementary School Improvement Plan, highlighting last year's achievements, including being commended by DESE for exiting status in both Math and ELA and the school's High performance ratings. Ten of nineteen classroom

teachers took professional development classes over the summer, cited *Keys to Literacy* and *Skillful Teacher* as good resources.

For 2011-2012, the school's goals are: (1) By June 2012, students will demonstrate enhanced informational text strategies across the curriculum, as assessed by *Trophies* end-of-selection tests, MCAS nonfiction scores, and Reading GRADE tests. Students will meet or exceed the District's percent correct in Nonfiction questions on MCAS and QPS GRADE tests. (2) By June 2012, increase the schools 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS Mathematics Open Response scores to equal or exceed the State's proficient percent. (3) By June 2012, Squantum School staff will support and encourage a school environment of multicultural respect and understanding through various activities outlined in our action steps.

Mr. Sylvia mentioned current curriculum initiatives including *Go Math!* for Grades K-2 and piloting for Grades 3-5, *Study Island*, *Lexia*, and *Cornerstones* ELL curriculum. The staff are utilizing online curriculum and using LCD projectors (some of the school's technology initiatives are supported by the PTO). Other notes for this school year is that there is now a full-time Literacy teacher at Squantum and almost all of the facility issues from last year's SIPs were completed. This year's needs are traffic concerns, completion of the roof repairs, and completing the gym/stage area renovations.

After a review of the subgroup populations (total enrollment: 364 students in grades K-5, 80 students on IEPs in regular education classes and in the SST classes, 102 students with free or reduced lunch, 44 ELL students), Ms. Isola moved to approve the Squantum Elementary School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Dwyer seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

Mr. Peter Dionne then presented the Bernazzani Elementary School Improvement Plan, reviewing some of the highlights from the spring's MCAS results: the CPI scores for both Math and ELA are the highest in school history, growth over last four years has been impressive. Student growth is heading in the right direction, but AYP remains a frustration. Great staff, participated in voluntary summer meeting and also monthly Tuesday afternoon meetings.

For 2011-2012, the goals are (1) During the 2011-2012 school year, the Bernazzani School will increase our percentage of students achieving proficiency in ELA by three percent, through open response practice as well as differentiating instruction. (2) During the 2011-2012 school year, the Bernazzani School will increase the percentage of students achieving proficiency by two percent with special focus on number sense, probability, and geometry. (3) During the 2011-2012 school year, will facilitate better communication throughout the school and school community by implementing and completing the following action steps.

Mr. Dionne noted that *Keys to Literacy* professional development, *Study Island*, and the school's meet the author program were keys for meeting the ELA goal, while the problem of the week, focus on math vocabulary, and other math initiatives were keys for the Math goal. The

school gets a lot of support from their PTO, in terms of technology (MOBIs, clickers, document cameras, LCD projectors).

After a review of the subgroup populations (total enrollment: 344 students in grades K-5, 31 students on IEPs, 65 students with free or reduced lunch, 23 ELL students), Mrs. Lebo moved to approve the Bernazzani Elementary School Improvement Plan. Ms. Isola seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

The final presentation of the evening was Mrs. Diane O’Keeffe, who presented the Beechwood Knoll Elementary School Improvement Plan. Mrs. O’Keeffe reflected on the 2010-2011 goals and how the Literacy/Writing goal is continuing into this school year. Beechwood Knoll was commended by DESE for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row for high growth, even though the school did not make AYP. The school has been successful in Math as well, but there is still room to grow.

Goals for 2011-2012: (1) Through the continued use of the John Collins Writing Program, the Four-Square Writing Graphic Organizer, and the implementation of the 6+1 Traits of Writing Program, at least 60 percent of Beechwood Knoll students will achieve a score of 16 or above on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Long Composition exam. (2) The percentage of students scoring proficient or higher in Grade Four will increase by 3% from their Grade Three Math MCAS Spring 2011 test results. (3) The percentage of students scoring Proficient or higher in Grade Four will increase by 3% from their Grade Three ELA MCAS Spring 2011 test results.

In terms of facilities, the greatest need is for additional classroom space. The school’s outdoor classroom is up and running. After a review of the subgroup populations (total enrollment: 375 students in grades K-5, 32 students on IEPs in regular education classes, 130 students with free or reduced lunch, 50 ELL students), Ms. Isola moved to approved the Beechwood Knoll Elementary School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Dwyer seconded the motion and on a voice vote, the ayes have it.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 pm in the Principal’s Conference Room at Quincy High School. The School Improvement Plans for Lincoln Hancock, Clifford Marshall, Montclair, Parker, Snug Harbor, and Wollaston will be presented by their principals. The School Improvement Plans will be distributed to the School Committee on Friday, October 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.