

Academics Committee Meeting

November 19, 2018

Present: Lynn, Cynthia, Aimee, Jeremy, Martina, Maya, Katie S.

1. Organizational Dashboard

Aimee distributed a 2-page organizational dashboard for our approval. The dashboard succinctly illustrates trends in enrollment, attendance data, discipline referrals, FRLP status, support services received, and YTD expenses. It also provides a list of expeditions, assessment and reporting dates, and a running list of PL topics. A graphic with scores for most recent testing will also be added.

2. Report Cards

Martina shared the newly revised report cards. These are going to go out to families in December.

3. Model classroom

Lynn asked for an update on how teachers are utilizing the model classroom. She is concerned that it might be disruptive to learning for students in that classroom to have daily visitors observing. Jeremy has started his observation cycle and has encouraged some teachers to observe in the model classroom. They used that same model successfully with the Go Math leader. He modeled the lesson for several teachers, and this did not seem to disrupt the flow at all. He believes that it is simply good practice for grade level teams to observe one another and to keep it goals focused. Jeremy has not had an opportunity to discuss Lynn's concerns with Jill Shahan but agrees that is important to monitor whether there is disruption to student learning in the model classroom.

4. Some supporting staff issues.

Finn currently has two guest teachers, and several assistant teachers. Assistant teacher is someone newly certified/pursuing that. One is an aide, and the other three are assistant teachers.

Finn is currently seeking another math interventionist. The current math interventionist is about 75% SPED. Looking for another math interventionist and currently have someone who is already interviewing for the position. Both math interventionist and SPED staff are difficult to find.

5. AY1819

The committee discussed challenges of expanding the size of the school, stretching current staff and resources, and finding high quality new staff to service a full middle school model for next academic year. School leaders are seeking feedback from Jill Shahan, our Charter Renewal Consultant, and Lisa Kirisits, our CFO. Consultation with Carrie Gee at SUNY was recommended. Feedback will be shared at the next board meeting in December.

6. Underpayments from the ECSD

Martina reported that the district hasn't paid for approximately 60 scholars, saying there is something probably wrong with the proofs of residence. She and Kirisits and Associates are following up. The district does not provide detail when they provide their reconciliation, but it is reasonable to assume if they are not paid for it because the proofs of residence is inaccurate. Martina believes that the district

is overwhelmed by the mass of paperwork we are providing: proofs from the applications/lottery, proofs when registering, proofs when enrolling. She is trying to schedule a follow-up to see what our next course of action should be. We cannot sustain that level of underpayment for the rest of the year.