

## Academics Committee Meeting

November 4, 2021

3:30 pm

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Present: Aimee, Lynn, Cynthia, Katie S, Maya, Deb, Karen

- Coaching program update

Deb and Karen provided data on the number of walk-throughs, lesson checks, and coaching meetings that have been accomplished so far this academic year. This work is progressing well. Coachee numbers are expected to increase because there are open positions yet to be filled.

Teachers' greatest concerns for now are coping with the aftermath of the Covid year: scholar stamina, an influx of scholars new to Finn across grade levels, and scholar absences due to illness and quarantining.

Aimee suggested developing a screening program for new scholars, similar to that used for incoming kindergarteners.

- NWEA Fall 19, 20, and 21 comparison data

The instructional team shared NWEA Map Growth data for ELA and Math from the past 3 test administrations for all grade levels so that the committee could observe patterns and trends. The proportion of scholars who met or exceeded grade level norms in Math increased in almost every cohort from 2019 to 2021. The proportion of scholars who met or exceeded grade level norms in ELA also increased in most cohorts from 2019 to 2021; the current cohorts of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade seem to have been most affected by school closure/remote education in terms of their Math progress.

Projected proficiencies on the NY State exams in the spring, based on the most current NWEA scores were also shared with the committee. For ELA, these range from 23% (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) to 44% (4<sup>th</sup> grade) with a school average of 34% projected proficiency. For Math, these range from 16% (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) to 38.5% (4<sup>th</sup> grade) with a school average of 29% projected proficiency. These numbers have not yet been reviewed to include only those students who have been in Finn for the past 3 years, or those scholars who were fully remote last year.

- Universal data spreadsheets

A new universal data spreadsheet is under development as the former spreadsheet was found to be problematic in several ways. The new spreadsheet is meant to be more user friendly and includes information on attendance, behavior, and social/emotional learning. This spreadsheet will help the team better identify deficit and priority areas within grade levels and schoolwide.

- **RTI Program Update**

The instructional team is working to make the RTI process clearer and more consistent for teachers. This includes clear and objective criteria so that teachers can be more concrete in their determinations for referrals and their work with scholars.

Currently 11% of the Finn scholar population is SPED. The team expects 2 or 3 new referrals for now, with more in the near future.

- **SQR Feedback/action items discussion**

- **Action Items**

- The committee would like the team to parse out data to compare scholars who are new to Finn this year from those who have been in the school through the Covid year and longer; and to compare scholars who were remote to those who were able to return to Finn in person last spring.
- The committee is also hoping to compare Finn's data with that from ECSD, Horse Heads and the Elmira Heights districts.
- Aimee suggested the development of a screening process for future intake of new-to-Finn scholars.
- The committee needs to start thinking about what summer session will look like this year. Perhaps a joint academics/governance meeting to discuss?

- **Next meeting**

Dec 9 at 3:30

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30