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Accountability Minutes 11/06/2007

Approved Minutes

*THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 ACCOUNTABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE
 Tuesday, November 06, 2007 @ 8:30 a.m..*

In attendance: Jeff Thielman (Subcommittee Chair), Ron Spangler, Sean Garballey, Nate Levenson (Superintendent), Topher Heigham (parent), Tony Lockhart, Intern.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. The October 15th minutes were approved 2-0 (Motion by Mr. Spangler, Second by Mr. Thielman)
2. The Subcommittee proposes that it be renamed the District Accountability Subcommittee. Approved 2-0 (Motion by Mr. Spangler, Second by Mr. Thielman). The new name will be proposed to the full School Committee at its next meeting.
3. The subcommittee then discussed possible metrics for the 2007-08 draft goals. Below were the metrics suggested by the subcommittee and the Superintendent at today's meeting:

GOAL I: SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ELL: All special education students will achieve their full academic and social potential.

Objective: Implement Special Ed and English Language Learning (ELL) reforms per Coordinated Program Review, internal needs assessment, and the districts special education vision.

Measure/Milestone	Metric
a. Meet the time lines for initial evaluation consent notifications, initial evaluation meetings, initial IEP's, and three year reevaluations. This requires a monthly tracking system. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i>	Will be based on the percentage of time the district meets timelines, between 85% and 95%.
b. Implement standardized procedures for determining counseling services, teaching assistants, speech/language services and occupational therapy for students who may require these services. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007 and from special education vision).</i>	District will look at random files in all 9 schools and report findings to the committee.
c. Implement a thorough, documented, and effective pre-referral procedure (Instructional	Survey of principals to ascertain the effectiveness of the new procedures.

Support Strategies Process also known as TAT-Teacher Assistance Teams) used prior to a special education referral. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007 and from special education vision)</i>	
d. Raise the achievement in mathematics of middle school students with IEPs. <i>(State requirement)</i>	Nate will consult with Kathy Bodie and give us feedback at our next meeting.
e. Create and implement a communication plan, both internal and external, for sharing information concerning changes in special education within the district.	Survey of parents impacted to ascertain the effectiveness of the communication plan.
f. Research best practices to integrate study and organizational skills, A.K.A. executive functioning, into the core curriculum <i>(from the special education vision)</i> .	Produce a document that contains key questions and key findings.
g. Clearly define roles for special education central office, principals, team chairs, liaisons, and curriculum directors. Define the target population, curriculum, entrance/exit criteria and concept for each in house special education program.	Produce a document that contains key questions and key findings.
h. Conduct staff, parent and student self reflection and an independent audit of special education at the middle school <i>(as promised in the spring)</i> .	Produce a document that contains key questions and key findings.

GOAL TWO: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: All students will attain high levels of academic success through the implementation of a data driven, standards based education.

Objective: Continue to implement essential standards and common assessments in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies k-12 which build upon the foundation of our standards-based education with the purpose of putting in place the necessary data to track cohorts over multiple years.

Math a. Conduct math common assessments per schedule K-8. Collate and share data with staff. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i>	To be based on the percentage of students who complete common assessments in math in grades K-8. Committee will award points based on improvement over 2006-07.
Math b. Create methods to provide math common assessment data to staff in a quick and useful format. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i>	Survey of K-8 faculty
ELA c. Conduct writing common assessments per schedule K-8. Collate and share data with staff. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i>	To be based on the percentage of students who complete common assessments in ELA in grades K-8. Committee will award points based on improvement over 2006-07.

<p><u>ELA</u> d. Create 1 page parent friendly curriculum overviews for existing K-8 writing standards. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i></p>	<p>Completed or not completed in a reasonable or professional manner as evidenced by parent input through School Committee members.</p>
<p><u>Reading</u> e. Conduct reading common assessments K-5 per schedule. Collate and share data with staff. <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i></p>	<p>To be based on the percentage of students who complete common assessments in Reading in grades K-5. Committee will award points based on improvement over 2006-07.</p>
<p><u>Reading</u> f. Pilot expanded comprehension components of tier 1 reading in grades 3-5 <i>(Continuation of action from 2006-2007)</i></p>	<p>Produce a document that contains key questions and key findings.</p>
<p><u>Reading</u> g. Develop plan for more formal and systemic reading instruction and support for grades 6-8.</p>	<p>Demonstrate buy-in for the plan from the administrative cabinet based on a presentation to the School Committee</p>
<p><u>Reading</u> h. Implement Foundations phonics instruction in all classrooms K-2.</p>	<p>Survey reading coaches to get a classroom by classroom assessment</p>

4. Sean Garballey distributed some goals and a mission statement from the Newton School Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. Motion by Mr. Spangler, Second by Mr. Thielman

The next meeting will be Monday, November 19th at 4:00 p.m.