

Duxbury Middle School School Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021

Attendance:

Sarah McGuire - DMS Principal
~~Allyson Frazier - Parent~~
Cheryl Gleason- Parent yes
Rachel Ezell- Parent yes
~~Brigid Wall - Parent~~
Nick Stott- Faculty yes
Jackson Taylor- Student
Lalitha Krishnan- Parent
Linda Moriarty- Community Member yes
Jim Donovan- DHS Principal
Logan Adkins- DHS Student
Erin Gilbert- DHS Parent
Martha Dennison- DHS Parent
Ashley Morrison- DHS Teacher
Theresa Rafferty- Math Supervisor
Karen Irvine-Thorne- Science Supervisor
Sue Bradford- Community Member
Jamie Asbedian- DHS Parent

School Update (DMS)

- Concerts- band, orchestra, chorus
- Turkey trot- 8b
- Upcoming team events- Hamilton, Coffee House, Pancake breakfast
- Dean position hiring- hoping to have hire finalized soon
 - Funding from federal relief packages

School Update (DHS)

- Pep rally, Thanksgiving game
- Exams upcoming- week after MLK weekend- 2 exams/ day
 - Co-curriculars and athletics paused
- COVID- 19 Case count is increasing at DHS, but fewer close contacts because of vaccination
- Question about midyears timing- flip flops ahead or behind MLK based on 90 days into school year
- Question around COVID and passing to vaccinated students or staff- state regulations determine exemptions
 - Test and Stay protocols- equity issue with kids who are cc outside of school, why can't district or state cover those students since virtual isn't an option this year
 - Potential for shifting guidance
 - Question around data with break through cases
 - Power of School Council to advocate for access to learning when impacted by COVID

- What would be more accessible for change- adjusting for learning environments, or pursue funding to broaden test and stay to support kids ID'ed outside of school, and vaxxed people
- Staff working hard to support students impacted as we go along

MCAS Data Review

● DMS

- ELA- broadly better than state, and consistent with previous year's data
 - Dip in 7th grade- digging into standards to identify areas of need, adjust curriculum, support specific students
- Math- broadly better than state esp in grade 6
 - Similar dip in 7th and 8th - looking at specific standards to analyze data and target needs
- STE- broadly better than state
 - Asks spiraling- one test for all three years of MS
- Where do we want to be? Being better than state should be minimum standard
- DART isn't currently available- state usually compares us to other like districts they identify as like-districts to give us a sense of comparison, we won't have that data again for a couple of years

● DHS

- Shifting targets for DHS- delayed testing, kept getting pushed back, and values of scholarship and accolades changed so a number of students re-tested because of competency determinations adjusted
- State is not using MCAS for competency expectations for some years
- Legacy to next gen tests- MCAS became more challenging to exceed expectations
 - Goals are to have all kids pass the first time, and to have kids do as well as possible
 - Shortened tests somewhat- 50%
- ELA- broadly did well, high passing rate, high rate of meeting expectations
 - Take aways to highlight students writing constantly and writing well across curriculum
- Math- broadly well
 - Number quality- students who can estimate answers, concept that something "should be right" - students need skill targeted
 - DHS had 1 year of experience with next gen test- notable with the specific questions our students struggled with, the style of question and the expectations with it clearly were challenging for students.
 - Impact also ties into our realignment in curriculum and courses, so we were beyond legacy test, but next gen still a relatively new experience for students and staff
- STE- coming to next gen this year

- Overall did well on legacy tests this year, state didn't provide Bio data yet, or any item analysis
- We should expect next year a redesign of the charts- to the new scale, and state will try to norm it so that it is comparable
- Will tests last year always have an asterisk? How can we look at this data over the years
 - Power standards helped prioritize content coverage and testing
 - Need 2-3 years to get to validity
- MCAS can be most helpful to us in trending for student success, identifying student problems and supporting, or calling into question areas of instruction
- Analytics needs- getting data under one hood is challenging with protecting student data, and having it in real time and effective

Next Meeting: Proposed date of January 13, 2021