

Elan Academy
Academic Committee
December 14, 2021
Regular session virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendance: Dr. Anane Olatunji, Steven Brown, David Hoover, Darren Patin, Dr. Askew Clark, and faculty guests Ms. Burns & Ms. Scoby

Absent: Dr. Afina Lockhart

Meeting called to order by chairman Olatunji at 7:07pm.

Minutes

The committee welcomed our school faculty guests Ms. Burns, who heads up Special Needs and RTI, and Ms. Scoby.

First order of business was to review and approve the minutes from our last meeting of November 9. We had a brief discussion, noting that a few edits had been made at the suggestion of Dr. Olatunji. Also, Steve Brown spoke to the issue of learning how to properly post our committee minutes to BoardonTrack, and that he was actively seeking some coaching with respect to that platform, such that minutes would be posted as intended.

(Board Vice-Chair Roger Watkins has agreed to provide a short tutorial, which will be a scheduled zoom meeting for Monday, Dec. 20.)

The Nov. 9 minutes were then approved.

– Dr. Olatunji spoke to the need for our committee’s goals for the year and asked for recommendations (per earlier assignment). Mr. Brown referenced the previous committee goals document, and said he took language from that effort to start each of the goals he was suggesting, i.e., “to *Improve the Board’s oversight*”. He then offered one goal based on monitoring of SPED students’ achievement per IEP’s; he also offered an oversight goal around schoolwide literacy achievement. Mr. Brown had drafted some specifically measurable goals. After discussion, we agreed that such metrics were more the purview of the Head of School. There was discussion around the purpose of our

committee's goals, being that of oversight and monitoring, rather than setting specific metrics.

- Board Chair Patin suggested that it was OK for our goals to reflect similar goal areas to those in the school improvement plan from our HoS.
- David Hoover recommended that we write one or more goals to reflect the ongoing need to provide our teachers a positive workplace, e.g., oversight of a positive school culture for our faculty. We had discussion recognizing the importance of this goal area, and noted that it had been addressed on the 2020 goals document as well. We have utilized the Teacher Insight instrument.
- Dr. Olatunji then offered two goals with multiple objectives: these goals focused on 1) understanding and oversight of the HoS's goals, and 2) monitoring and oversight of academics by continuing to collect and analyze student achievement data, including those DEI indicators agreed upon by our committee. The committee decided to not yet vote on these or any of the recommended goals yet, as some integration of priorities is necessary.
- Mr. Brown noted the professional development opportunity embedded in the goals Dr. O had shared, i.e., ensuring the full Board was kept up to date and understood the HoS goals, as well as appropriate student achievement data.
- Board Chair Patin offered to assist our committee by taking all the documents and recommendations from this goals discussion, and putting them into a new draft for our committee to consider and possibly approve.

Old Business: Dr. Olatunji revisited the committee's DEI work, with a reminder that we had one more piece, which is the gap analysis chart for special education (SPED) students; he mentioned to HoS that he did not believe we received updated SPED assessment data (e.g., the same standardized assessment data as was used for the other DEI charts). These data were to exclude Gifted & Talented students.

- We then proceeded with the HoS's report, in which she walked through all of her school improvement goals (these goal areas have been consistent since the founding of the school). Dr. Askew Clark then shared with the committee a new data dashboard, which has been an ongoing project done with the assistance of a consultant. This new platform included all indicators of student achievement gap analysis data across all academic disciplines.

- There was brief discussion as to terminology around SPED and special needs students; Dr. O asked Ms. Burns how she describes this population, and she offered the use of "Students with Exceptionalities". The committee understands that for our DEI work, we are looking at comparing assessment data from all exceptionalities but G&T.
- For clarity, and to reach closure on the previous DEI data work pertaining to SPED, Dr. Olatunji said he would send to HoS samples of the charts the committee had presented to the Board over the summer. In this manner, a final chart would be rendered for the committee and the Board that captures gaps between SPED/ learning disabilities, and the student population in general.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43.

Recorder: Steven Brown