



Springfield Prep

Minutes

Academic Achievement Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday March 2, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Location

370 Pine St.

This meeting of the Springfield Prep Charter School Academic Achievement Committee will be held at 370 Pine St. on 3/2/16 at 9 am. Meeting notice was posted on the school's website (www.springfieldprep.org) on 2/18/17 at 8 am.

Committee Members Present

B. Spirer, S. Balogun, W. Soref

Committee Members Absent

K. Molina

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance and Guests****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

B. Spirer called a meeting of the Academic Achievement Committee of Springfield Prep to order on Thursday Mar 2, 2017 at 9:15 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

Quorum was not present so the Achievement Committee will approve these at next month's meeting.

D. ESSA update

Bill provided a brief update on some of the changes Massachusetts will be making to its school accountability systems based on the new Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA). He will provide more details to the board as the state shares more information.

II. Academic Achievement

A. Academic Dashboard Review

Demographics:

- Enrollment is still very steady. We recently enrolled two students to fill two open seats.
- The SY17-18 Lottery is this Friday. We have essentially met our recruitment goals in all grades (2 applicants for every 1 seat in K; 1 applicant for every seat in grades 1-3; we received 50, not 54, 3rd grade applications).
- There was discussion about whether we would provide any type of summer school programming. Wendy shared our belief that the goal of any summer program in an elementary school is primarily to avoid summer slide and that summer programs are not particularly helpful to make up skill gaps. This summer, we are considering having one-on-one tutoring, possibly at a public library, as a way of preventing summer slide on a targeted basis.

Attendance:

- Attendance is holding steady at 95%. We anticipate that it will inch upward as weather improves into the spring.

Discipline:

- Suspension numbers are low but a bit higher than our goal. The context is important - given that we are a small school, an uptick in percentage is driven by just a few students.
- All students who have received out-of-school suspension have displayed physically assaultive behaviors and have complex behavioral needs. We are constantly working with our psychologist, counselor, special education department, families, and outside medical providers to help support these students.

STEP:

- There was a great deal of progress in kindergarten. In first grade, there was a logjam at a specific STEP level. We would be more concerned with that number but our STEP consultant has said that this is common in her other schools.
- It is also important to note that the target will not move in the next round so "percent at target" numbers will increase.

- SPED and ELL data comparison show that our ELL and SPED students are performing slightly lower than the overall population but it is tracking general trends.
- Very important to see how this changes over time: we cannot expect kindergarten ELLs to be on track in reading in K, but we want to make sure the gap between ELL reading performance closes from K-2 (or over time for other ELL students).
- Next month we will add a 2nd grade STEP growth chart.

ANet:

- 2nd grade met both achievement and spread goals in both ELA and math. The school was the top performer in the entire network in both content areas.

B. Academic Achievement Committee Goals

The committee is on track in meeting its goals. School management has some work to do aligning the dashboard even more closely with statewide reporting metrics to ensure that the board sees the exact metrics the state measures in all key areas.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Spirer