To Making Waves Academy Board of Directors

From Vanessa Caigoy, Director of Compliance

Date September 5, 2019

Subject WASC Update

Executive Summary:

Accreditation is a voluntary dual-purpose process that schools (1) must be worthy of the trust placed in them to provide high-quality learning and (2) clearly demonstrate continual self-improvement. MWA is an accredited school focused on its mission and goals for its students that collaboratively assesses the quality of its educational programs on a regular basis; and its plans for the future.

In the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, MWA begun the Self-Study preparation for the upcoming WASC visit in March 2020. The fall was all about ensuring that leadership had the knowledge that needed to begin a robust self-study process in the spring. In the winter, training for leadership continued, in addition to schoolwide training on the WASC and Self-Study process including training for the WASC Focus and Home Group chairs. During the spring, Focus and Home groups were underway, gaining familiarity around the prompts for each of the Focus areas: Organization, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability and School Culture. During the summer months, the Focus Group chairs went through their focus areas of the self-study and began to outline key points for discussion in the fall with the rest of their teams. As we enter into the fall, the Home and Focus groups will be engaged in meaningful discussions around strengths, and opportunities for growth. A draft of the entire self-study will be complete by November 2019, for review and presented to the MWA Board at its December meeting. MWA leadership will continue to prepare for the upcoming visit and Home and Focus groups will still meet until the visit in March.

WASC Work as of August 2019

Fall 2018

* School Site Council received WASC training
* The WASC Site Based Leadership Team accomplished a lot of work towards the identification of Strengths, Major Student Learner Needs, Student Learner Outcomes and the expectations around the WASC Self-Study.

Strengths

The following are a list of strengths that MWA leadership teams have identified through rich discussion, thought and observation of data including the CA School Dashboard and CAASPP data.

* + 1. Safe Environment
    2. Focused on college readiness and graduation as an anchor for vertical alignment
    3. Data informed systems and practices
    4. Responsive to changing needs

Major Student Learner Needs

Based on the 2018 California School Dashboard, the following areas were identified by MWA’s WASC Leadership teams as being areas of challenge based on their color indicator.

1. Mathematics
2. Chronic Absenteeism
3. Suspension Rates
4. Graduation Rates\*

\*MWA leadership recognizes that MWA is a leader within the State in this area, however it is a goal that the graduation rate increase.

Student Learner Outcomes

Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs) are the goals we would like for each student to be able to do upon graduating from Making Waves Academy. The SLOs are also known as the “Three C’s.” Such SLOs are still undergoing stakeholder feedback throughout the Self-Study process Fall and Winter 2019.

1. **College-Ready Rigor**

Wake-Makers think, read, write, speak, and listen like scholars (for example: historians, literary critics, mathematicians, scientists, linguists, artists, and athletes) by:

* + Practicing the practical application of real-world skills while engaging in all current content standards

1. **Critical Consciousness**

Wave-Makers are agents of change who demonstrate the ability to engage with multiple perspectives through learning, questioning, reflecting and participating in meaning-making by:

* + Asking questions to make meaning
  + Giving and receiving feedback
  + Explaining rationale
  + Learning through reflection and problem solving

1. **Collaboration**

Wake-Makers work together to create joint products, cooperatively solve problems, and build an understanding of a topic while practicing key skills to develop proficiency and learn from peers by:

* + Engaging with skills, habits, and content through multiple opportunities for discussion
  + Learning from error
  + Reflecting on data

**Winter 2019**

* Site Based Leadership Team participated in Self-Study training with Dr. Sugiyama a WASC consultant.
* Home and Focus Groups were formed
* Chapter II – Community Profile drafted through the 2017-18 School year.
* Schoolwide WASC Training provided

**Spring 2019**

* Accreditation Leadership team held their retreat
  + During the retreat, the team dove into the Self-Study prompts and participated in a rich discussion around the LEA Self-Assessment tool they all participated in prior to the meeting.
* Home and Focus Groups received training
* Home and Focus Groups began to meet
  + The Spring meetings were focused around really understanding the prompts and what was being asked.
* WASC Executive Review Team reviewed the progress made towards the WASC goals

**Summer 2019**

* Focus Group chairs worked on summer work to assist with the Rich discussions to happen amongst the Focus Groups in the fall.
* New MWA staff received a went through a WASC Orientation to allow for them to be prepared and ready to engage in within their assigned Home and Focus Groups.
* WASC Focus Group Chairs prepared an WASC Kick-Off for all MWA staff and faculty to gear up for the “Year of the Visit.”
* Students from the Student Home group received training and participated in fun ice-breaker activities to build levels of comfort and trust as our staff merge with the students in the Fall to discuss the Self-Study.
* Compliance and the Learning Team begun the work around aligning the WASC goals with the LCAP, SPSA and “Portrait of a Wave Maker” concepts.

**Fall 2020**

* During the fall, Focus and Home groups will be busy engaging in conversation around the WASC Self-Study and writing the Self-Study.
* The Site based Leadership Team will complete their training with Dr. Sugiyama, from WASC, and go over how to prepare for the WASC visit.
* Self-Study Final draft will be presented to the Board in December.

**Winter 2020**

* Accreditation leadership team will begin to prepare the MWA community for the WASC visit.

**Spring 2020**

* WASC visit takes place March 8th – 11th
* Executive Review Team and goal leaders will go over the Progress to goals for year six.