



MCCPS Board of Trustees

Minutes

Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 8, 2020 at 7:30 AM

Location

17 Lime Street- Treehouse

Committee Members Present

Ellen Lodgen, Jessica Xiarhos, Kimberly Sullivan, Matt Cronin, Michael Condon, Peter Cohen, William Sullivan

Committee Members Absent

Emily Westhoven

Guests Present

Meg Upton

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

Jessica Xiarhos called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee Committee of MCCPS Board of Trustees to order on Wednesday Jan 8, 2020 at 7:35 AM.

C. Approve Minutes from 12/11/19

Kimberly Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/11/19 Academic Excellence Committee Meeting on 12-11-19.

Matt Cronin seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence Committee

A. Summary and Key Takeaways from visit to Francis Parker Essential Charter School

Overview of Parker

- grade 7-12, 400 students, reformed military base
- one of the first Charter schools, Essential school
- on location Teacher Prep program partnered with Fitchburg State
- "the Parker Way" - Common Principles of Essential Schools
- combination of classroom visits, Parker 101, meeting with students to discuss portfolios, met with Dean of Academics
- 3 Divisions, start and end day in Advisory, 4 blocks - Arts and Humanities; Math, Science and Technology; Spanish; and Wellness
- Wednesday early dismissal, end the day with extended Advisory, then teacher meetings: faculty meetings, Division meetings, Critical Friends Group
- Gateway (promotion) to the next division. If students show mastery in a domain, they can advance early, if they need more time, they can stay up to an extra year

Consider:

No grades - "report card narratives"

Common Practices (of Essential Charter Schools)

Criteria for Excellence

Habits of Learning

Divisions (4+5, 6+7, 8)

Not for Us:

Limited Art/Music

Lenient rules on gum/eating/hats/phones in class

Student use of teachers' first names

B. Dissemination of Academic Excellence to Staff

C. Parent Recruitment to Committee

D. Update on December's Action Items

III. Closing Items

A.

Action Items

Next Meeting- January 15th @7:30

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Xiarhos