



## MCCPS Board of Trustees

### Minutes

#### Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

---

**Date and Time**

Wednesday May 6, 2020 at 9:30 AM

---

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82913159414?pwd=OXcyUpleVQxKzd3cGF2dTNhTXpodz09>

---

**Committee Members Present**

Ellen Lodgen (remote), Jessica Xiarhos (remote), Matt Cronin (remote), Peter Cohen (remote)

**Committee Members Absent**

Emily Westhoven, Kimberly Sullivan, Michael Condon

**Guests Present**

Meg Upton (remote), Sarah Plymate Ragozin (remote)

---

**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 May 6, 2020 at 9:33 AM.

**C. Accept Remote Participation**

Jessica Xiarhos made a motion to accept remote participation in light of the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, Governor Baker issued an emergency Order on March 12, 2020, allowing public bodies greater flexibility in utilizing technology in the conduct of meetings under the Open Meeting Law. This committee makes a motion to accept this Executive Order for this meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee, on May 6th, 2020.

Ellen Lodgen seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

Meg Upton	Aye
Ellen Lodgen	Aye
Jessica Xiarhos	Aye
Michael Condon	Absent
Sarah Plymate Ragozin	Aye
Emily Westhoven	Absent
Kimberly Sullivan	Absent
Matt Cronin	Aye
Peter Cohen	Aye

#### **D. Approve Minutes from 4/1/20**

Ellen Lodgen made a motion to approve the minutes from April 1, 2020 Academic Excellence Committee Meeting on 04-01-20.

Matt Cronin seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

Emily Westhoven	Absent
Peter Cohen	Aye
Meg Upton	Aye
Kimberly Sullivan	Absent
Ellen Lodgen	Aye
Michael Condon	Absent
Matt Cronin	Aye
Sarah Plymate Ragozin	Aye
Jessica Xiarhos	Aye

## **II. Academic Excellence Committee**

### **A. Review of Draft Math Department "Criteria for Excellence"**

Modeled after Francis Parker Essential School to incorporate the NCTM Process Standards

- stated criteria - teachers can apply in different areas

PD Day for teachers on how to use the Criteria?

- teachers can tease out further the document to apply to grade levels and connections to PBL
- consider opportunity for vertical alignment and more grade level specific sub-criteria

## **Communication**

How does this connect to remote learning?

How can we share out the Criteria for Excellence and apply this ideals to distance education?

How does the Charter way of learning integrate with remote learning?

Looking to other schools ...

- having this as a guide allows our parents to understand the way we teach - project based - and how this might look different compared with other schools' version of remote learning
- A principal at a school in Weston is doing a daily morning message

Confusion about distance learning ...

- loss of teacher-student-school communication/connection
- some view current model as not enough "face to face" teaching
- making use of teacher created videos as opposed to online sources such as Khan Academy or BrainPop
- grade levels need to be specific in how they are implementing distance education

Aim to keep connection to Charter alive -

- Music morning meetings? Ms. Smith has hosted virtual "concerts"
- Mindfulness Mondays
  - share out video activities
  - small groups could engage over the course of the week
- Kids are not connecting with each other

Things to Consider...

- Facebook should not be the primary mode of communication
  - Some families are not on Facebook, how do we reach as many families as possible?
- Create more opportunities for students to "see" their teachers
- Share out Community Meeting videos via students' Google Classrooms
  - gives sense of "start of day"/independence of learning

- Upper School vs. Lower School dichotomy - Upper School academics the priority, Lower School - social-emotional concerns
- 

Looking to the Fall

- Incoming 4th Graders - how do we keep them engaged/excited?
  - All incoming families are currently receiving Charter emails, invites to Coffee with the HoS
- How to cultivate Charter experience?
- Connections to peers and teachers if still remote?
- Some parents may transition to online school

Something is needed to let parents know their students are still part of the Charter community. We need to work to engage community engagement.

## **B. Next Steps**

## **C. Project Based Learning**

# **III. Closing Items**

## **A. Action Items**

## **B. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Xiarhos

---

## **Documents used during the meeting**

- 2020\_04\_01\_academic\_excellence\_committee\_committee\_meeting\_minutes.pdf
- Math Criteria Draft - April 9, 2020-2.pdf