

APPROVED



## MCCPS Board of Trustees

### Minutes

#### Academic Excellence Committee - Monthly Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Wednesday November 19, 2025 at 12:15 PM

**Location**

In person - MCCPS Conference Room

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Please note that the in-person meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the remote connection.

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**Committee Members Present**

Chris Doyon, Jessica Xiarhos, KD MacDonald, Kimberly Sullivan, Stephanie Brant

**Committee Members Absent**

Elizabeth Burns, Ellen Lodgen, Molly Wright

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

Chris Doyon called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee Committee of MCCPS Board of Trustees to order on Wednesday Nov 19, 2025 at 12:17 PM.

**C. Approve Minutes**

KD MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from October 22, 2025 Academic Excellence Committee October Meeting on 10-22-25.

Jessica Xiarhos seconded the motion.

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

## II. Academic Excellence Committee

### A. Benchmark Data: i-Ready, IXL

#### Math

- Students struggling in domains tied to **Unit 1** → aligns with benchmark and diagnostic data.
- Each grade begins the year with **new concepts**, contributing to lower early-year scores.
- **Consistent strength** (similar to prior years) in **measurement and data** domains.
- **Areas needing improvement** across most grades: **number sense** and **algebraic thinking**.
- **Grade 6**: most significant struggles; cohort has historically underperformed.
- **Intervention**: Jessica Xiarhos is coaching and co-teaching.
- **Grade 5**: showing progress toward proficiency.
- **Grade 4**: strong benchmark performance in both math and ELA; very small % of students scoring below or substantially below grade level.
- **Grade 7**: currently underperforming, but **significant growth** over the past few years.
- **Grade 8**: some similar domain-specific challenges, but overall performance remains strong.
- When presenting data, always include **cohort history** for context.
- **i-Ready guidance**: 40–60% Student Growth Percentile (SGP) = “good” growth.

#### ELA

- IXL provides **more detailed insight** than i-Ready, which lacked writing and mechanics data.
- Schoolwide trends show weakness in **grammar, mechanics, and writing**—consistent with national patterns.
- **Amplify (grades 6–8)** includes explicit lessons in grammar, mechanics, and essay/narrative writing.
- Amplify is being **explored for grades 4–5**.
- **PALS ELA** focus has shifted from literature to **writing** to address these gaps.

## III. Other Business

### A. Schedule next meeting

Next meeting: February 11, 2026 11:20 to 12:00.

#### **IV. 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 12:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Doyon