

**Curriculum and Instruction Committee**  
**May 23, 2018**

**Attendance:**

Tracy Baron	BOE Member
Shannon Johnson	BOE Member
Lisa Brady	Superintendent
Doug Berry	Asst. Superintendent
Erin Vredenburg	Director, Special Education

**Dobbs Ferry Innovative Classroom Initiative**

- Doug will be launching a new initiative to support risk taking and innovation by teachers.
- The goal of the Innovative Classroom Initiative is to support the continued development of student centered classrooms that address the needs of the whole child through an exploration of the following:
  - the role mindfulness can play in enhancing instruction
  - how classroom environments and physical space impact learning
  - The inquiry mindset and PBL
  - Meaningful use of technology
  - Authentic learning experiences that support globally engaged learners
- Ideal participants would be those who consistently demonstrate a desire to learn and grow as teachers, are willing to take risks, share and collaborate with colleagues, possess basic or better technology skills, are comfortable opening up their classroom and presenting their work to others, and bring a positive optimistic attitude to their work.
- Throughout the school year participants will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge and push their thinking, encourage reflection, and support their growth as educators. Activities may include the following but ultimately will reflect the needs of the group. Activities may include:
  - Book Studies of anchor texts
  - Participating in the workshop process
  - Inter-class visitation
  - Small group work
  - Collaborative planning
  - Research
  - Guest Speakers
  - School Visits

- Participants will be expected to apply what they are learning within their classrooms and to share their growing knowledge and experience with colleagues by welcoming others into their classroom, through small group meetings and by facilitating turn-key professional development.

### **New Support Class in the HS in 2018-19 - Strategies for Mindful Learning (DBT)**

- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy - adapted for school use
- Piloted on a small scale
- Students are selected to be in this course (17 next year)
- Criteria - school avoidant, anxiety, emotional outbursts
- Some IEP, Some 504, Some outside support
- School psychologist, school social worker and special education teachers teach it
- Course includes group counseling, individual counseling, coaching throughout the school day and class time to work on a variety of skills
- Staff meets bi-weekly with a consultant to support the students in the class
- Foundations of the course are rooted in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
  - DBT is effective for students who have difficulty controlling their emotions and behaviors
  - It aims to replace problem behaviors with skillful behavior
- Skills taught in the class include
  - Mindfulness
  - Distress Tolerance
  - Emotion Regulation
  - Interpersonal Effectiveness
  - Walking the Middle Path (avoiding extremes in any given situation)
- Schedule being developed that allows for options for the student to take electives