

Curriculum and Instruction Committee
September 23, 2020
Agenda

In Attendance:

Rita Kennedy, Board of Education
Shannon Stringer, Board of Education
Tracy Baron, Board of Education
Lisa Brady, Superintendent
Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent

Discussion Items:

- School Reopening
 - In-Person/On Campus
 - In person learning at both Springhurst and the Middle School is going well
 - Learning started happening day one
 - Tremendous enthusiasm
 - Students are eager to learn and teachers are taking advantage of that
 - At the HS in-person experiences are well received and students are taking advantage of them - today 286 students have signed up to be on campus for learning experiences
 - We are exploring multiple options for students to at the HS to be on campus on a more regular basis
 - Remote Experiences
 - Remote Learning is off to a good start at all three buildings - feedback from parents has by and large been good
 - Teachers are demonstrating significantly improved ability to effectively use the technology and quality instruction is taking place
 - We are continuing to support teachers through ongoing professional development
- Challenges Related to Opening
 - Curriculum Pacing
 - The hybrid models with students experiencing in person instruction on a limited basis does present challenges with regard to our ability to “cover” curriculum
 - Being purposeful about how we make use of on campus vs. off campus time will support us staying on track
 - As we are growing within the hybrid structure we are getting a better sense of how pacing will be impacted - it is possible that the smaller class sizes will allow us to individualize instruction more and address content quicker but that is yet to be determined.

- Ongoing discussions are taking place with teachers regarding their pacing calendars and adjustments will be made with the goal being to cover the majority of course content
 - This challenge is not unique to us
 - Instructional Strategies
 - Teachers are making expanded use of google classroom functions and having to plan both synchronous and asynchronous learning activities simultaneously
 - Opportunities for small groups (Flex wednesdays) are allowing teachers to think about specific students and their specific needs and group them together
- Adjustments to APPR plan
 - We are beginning to enter into conversations with both the DFAA and the DFUT about adjustments to our APPR plan
 - Our current plan was approved by NYSED in 2016
 - Opportunity now to reflect on what is working best and how our APPR plan can best support the goal of improving classroom performance and providing teachers with feedback to support growth
 - Are the elements of our current plan making the best use of our time?
 - Student Performance
 - Exploring possibility of moving to a unified district wide measure
 - Classroom Observation
 - What is the right mix of announced and unannounced observations?
 - In Dobbs Ferry APPR provides one small opportunity to provide feedback but is not the only way in which Admins provide feedback
 - Feedback provided outside of the structure often has the greatest impact since teachers are more receptive