Foundation Academic Committee Meeting

February 20, 2018

Minutes

Attendees:

Julia LeDoyen, Chair

Fran Bartel

Tim Ryan

Damarcus Henley

Jennifer Schiff

Scott Heptinstall

Meeting called to order at 7:30 a.m.

There was a motion by Mr. Henley to amend the minutes from January so that items 4- 9 on page 2 be formatted as lettered bullet points to be consistent with rest of minutes.  Mr. Ryan seconded, and motion unanimously passed.

Virtual Learning; Led by Mr. Heptinstall

1. In the grade book, there is a Virtual Learning tab, which should be complete with lessons and assignments.  Assignments are weighted at 25%.  PCMS is encouraging teachers to post both virtual learning assignments at the same time.
2. The school is preparing now for virtual learning assignments in 2018-19 for ready accessibility during unanticipated school cancellations.
3. Julia LeDoyen voiced concern that PCMS provide instruction and not only assignments through Verge.
4. Mrs. Schiff suggested that USA Test Prep is an excellent resource for providing instruction as a complement to virtual learning assignments.
5. Mrs. Schiff made observation that teachers are not universally able to navigate Verge.  Discussed the definite need for significant training for teachers to effectively use the Verge system ongoing in addition to the Virtual Learning make-up days.  Mr. Henley offered to be of assistance, and Mr. Heptinstall indicated training would be provided through grade-level meetings by Laura Crate and/or knowledgeable faculty members.
6. Mr. Ryan voiced concern that his dedicated time with staff for collaboration on STEM assignments is not being protected.  Mr. Heptinstall said some interruptions are unavoidable, and cited absenteeism as one reason teachers are unavailable to meet with Mr. Ryan (because they are covering for an absent teacher). Teacher attendance concerns - Running ~6%; high, but not particularly uncommon;  Mr. Heptinstall reports an improved substitutie fill rate, although was unable to compare PCMS absenteeism rate to other schools.  Mr. Heptinstall will work on protecting the STEM time with Mr. Ryan.
7. MAP testing:
8. Having less success in school norms projected growth rates success in 7th grade compared to 6th and 8th grades
9. MAP results are becoming used more for teacher (TKES) evaluation
10. Safety nets results used to evaluate Tools teachers and to used as input to school SIP plan.
11. Discussed comparing our results to other high-performing schools since we have a lot of resources at PCMS
12. Discussed how the MAP data is used by Mr. Heptinstall and the assistant principals
13. Mr. Heptinstall will get information about how the “diamond” targets are set and why 7th and 8th grade targets are lower than 7th grade - descending 6-8.

(Mr. Heptinstall had to step out at 8:15 and was unable to return)

1. Discussed how World Languages progress is evaluated since there is no MAP test.
2. Mr. Ryan suggested finding ways to include ESOL students in the STEM academy, even if not for high school credit.  This may improve individual growth as well as positively improve CCRPI scores.
3. Summer Work: This committee had recommended to the Foundation Board that summer work be made available by May 15.  Dr. Conner has confirmed she is working with department chairs to ensure this deadline is met.  Mr. Henley confirmed the language arts department is currently working on it.
4. Academics committee participation: Ms. LeDoyen sent an e-mail to Connections department teachers last Thursday inviting them to attend committee meetings.
5. We will remain a 4-voting member committee and not replace Mr. Jay for the remainder of this year.
6. School Improvement Plan: Discussed the Academic committee and Governance committee participating in the next SIP.  Mr. Heptinstall is planning to present at the next Academic meeting to finish discussion on the MAP results and CCRPI.

Adjournment: Motion at 8:50 a.m. by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Henley