

Virtual Special Education & Student Supports Sub-Committee
Monday, December 6th, 2021
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of introducing the new leadership and goals of the Office of Student Services, hearing updates from the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), and learning about Special Education services within after-school programs.

Members Present: Member Wilson, Chair; Member Rachel; Member Weinstein

Others Present: Dr. Barbara Mullen; Dr. Greer; Dr. Carolyn Turk; Robin Harris; Dr. Michelle Madera;

Chair Wilson started the meeting at 6:03 pm. Chair Wilson turned the meeting over to the administration for a presentation. Dr. Mullen presented: OSS Updates-Office of Student Support Services.

Chair Wilson opened the meeting to SEPAC for an update.

- Ms. Zuleka Queen-Postell shared that they are working on providing a sensory movie showing and partnering with "The Home" to facilitate support groups every Friday morning, and hope to expand evening programs

Ms. Nicole Horton-Stimpson from the City's Department of Human Services provided the Sub-Committee with an overview of programs and the criteria such as the inclusion initiative, youth groups, community school programs, child care programs, King Open extended day school.

- Ms. Michelle Farnum provided an update on the enrollment in the programs. She shared that the process for this year did change, they hope to know what the process will be for the following year by February/March of 2022. She discussed how waitlists times vary.
- Ms. Horton-Stimpson shared the difficulties of hiring staff for these programs.

Chair Wilson opened the meeting for questions from caregivers.

Ms. Valenzuela asked for clarification on the participation/success rates of i-Ready

- Dr. Madera provided background and shared they would follow up. Chair Wilson asked for the data to be presented to the Committee in the Superintendent's weekly.
- Ms. Tina Lieu shared further difficulties of i-Ready and advocated for more data share with parents.
- Dr. Madera discussed how there will be an overview of i-Ready and shared that i-Ready parent link.
- Chair Wilson provided background on the roll out of i-Ready.
- Dr. Turk shared that the administration is rolling out other assessments as well.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on after school equity work occurring.

Chair Wilson opened the meeting to other Sub-Committee members for questions.

Member Rachel asked Dr. Mullen for clarification on data list coaching cycles/practice goals and if that is data we have on the aggregate level to find out what educators are focused on.

- Dr. Mullen provided that currently they do not have that data but are working on it to ensure that the district is supporting educators.

Member Rachel asked for clarification about the lottery system in DHSP and if IEP could be given any sort of preference.

- Ms. Michelle Farnum discussed how to address inequity the lottery system used income as the only criteria and it is their intention to expand the criteria. She also discussed a caregiver advisory council.

Member Weinstein asked for further clarification on assessments and advocated for more connectivity between school and after school programs.

Chair Wilson extended the meeting for ten minutes. Chair Wilson asked for clarification on what behavioral supports there are for students struggling.

- Dr. Mullen shared that it depends on how exactly the students are struggling.

Chair Wilson summarized the meeting. Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.