

Virtual Special Education & Student Supports Sub-Committee
Monday, June 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of discussing methodologies of teaching reading and best practices, Advanced Learner Supports Division for the fall, and prioritizing policies to be updated.

Sub-Committee Members Present: Member Wilson, Chair; Member Weinstein; Member Rojas

Others Present: Dr. Barbara Mullen

Chair Wilson started the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The call of the meeting was read, and Chair Wilson outlined the meeting.

Chair Wilson opened the meeting to members of the public for introductions and what they hoped to get out of the meeting. Chair Wilson opened the meeting for public comment.

- Ms. Dobak discussed her concerns over the referral process and the current support process for students with disabilities to become proficient readers.
- Ms. Downing advocated for a better reading curriculum.
- Mr. Schulz shared his experience and concerns over referrals and the reading curriculum.

Chair Wilson turned the meeting over to Dr. Mullen for a presentation. Dr. Mullen presented [“End of Year special Education Update.”](#) Dr. Mullen provided the following updates: OSS is a general ed office, and there needs to be a more concerted effort to coordinate services.

Chair Wilson opened the meeting for questions:

- Member Weinstein asked for clarification about the DESE assessment and how the assessment is shared with parents.
- Member Wilson asked for clarification around the iReady data regarding the third-grade reading level and the drop-off happening in sixth/seventh and eighth and looking at the why.
- Ms. Valenzuela asked how students will be tracked after 9th grade (currently iReady is only administered up until 8th grade) and clarification on what is being shared with families.

Chair Wilson turned the meeting back over to Dr. Mullen who then shared the Cambridge Public Schools Priority ELA/Literacy Practices. Dr. Mullen also shared that they are sending eighty educators to LETRES training.

Chair Wilson thanked SEPAC for their advocacy and Dr. Mullen for her work. Chair Wilson opened the meeting to other Sub-Committee members for their comments and questions:

- Member Weinstein advocated for sharing this data with families.

Chair Wilson opened the floor back to the public for any additional comments

- Ms. Valenzuela asked for further clarification on the cohorts. Dr. Mullen shared that there is an opt-in course and a waiting list.
- Ms. Dobak advocated for breaking down the data; the different categories of IEP would be helpful to know.

Chair Wilson discussed next steps for the Special Education and Student Supports Sub-Committee, centering around the out-of-school time policy with disabilities and hopes to collaborate with the Department of Human Services on updating it.

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.