

## King Open School Committee Meeting

Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

School Committee Members: Discussion was had as to who would serve on School Council for the year on behalf of families and community members

Present: Principal Williams, VP May Petrov, Ada Riggins,

Meeting started with Circle to provide an opportunity to check-in on the emotional status of the group and offer a chance for attendees to become more familiar with each other. An excerpt of a sermon by Reverend Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill was read – And How Are The Children

- Principal Williams shared that emotional learning is the foundation for building intellectual capacity as we also build our social emotional skills.

Principal Williams then discussed the purpose of the School Council and goals for School Council

- Members, staff and parents. We are expecting them to be at every meeting and these are your representatives, which is why we put their emails in the communication that we sent out. Feel free to reach out to these folks. It doesn't matter what your concern is. We want to hear from you and then we'll figure out whether or not we need to have that larger discussion as a school council or if. We need to do something else. So don't we? We encourage honesty for sure, because if we do not know the obstacles, then we cannot figure out what to do. Alright, so why don't we start with?
- Attendees then introduced themselves and identified their relationship to the school.

The Council then discussed MCAS results:

- Principal Williams began with a big picture look at how KO interprets the scores specific to MCAS and that's really important because it can show you how close a student could be in terms of moving from not meeting expectations to partially meeting expectations to meeting expectations and then exceeding expectations.
- The data is telling us that African American and our special Ed population are the groups that we need to pay more attention to. And to be a little bit more deliberate and intentional about what that looks like. Also acknowledged that the pandemic had a long term impact on these particular demographic groups than other groups, and that's because the gap was already wide. At the time of the pandemic and. But only wide and during the pandemic and now.
- Discussed Boston Globe article. This article does not give the full story. I want to say that no data point gives the full story of every single student or any student. But it does depict something that is actually accurate, that our students of color, our lowest performing groups in general, are not making the same progress of our more affluent students.
- Principal Williams took questions regarding the data.
- Principal Williams indicated that approach to math education has been fruitful with demonstrated improvement in math. Need to try to replicate with ELA

- Some methods for doing this include making sure that all students are doing the heavy lift, cognitive lifting, and we're not swooping in to save them because we feel sorry or because we understand something about their lives. This social political context, which is all important, at the end of the day, we still have to make sure that they are learning and, more importantly, they learn how to learn. That's basically a whole school wide focus on being reflective about our own practice.
- The Council then discussed the SIP Budget
  - SIP Budget is discretionary funds that have been allocated and this is based on what the data based on historical things that we've done and based on social emotional learning.
    - Big picture, we get about \$83,000 discretionary funds that we can use.
      - social emotional learning, we're spending about \$17,923. This helps us get counseling interns from Simmons. There's two counseling interns. And this is a partnership that we've created. We've connected and created or honed ourselves. We also have a music therapy intern. We have a licensed music therapy intern who is also a professor at Leslie.
        - Then we have a partnership with Suffolk University in which teachers are receiving training in restorative justice and that's really around the circles.
      - Next category of funds is about \$52,000, because now we're talking about allocating time for teachers to plan, come together, plan, think through curriculum, think through the data, the assessment data and to figure out what we do about instruction to meet the needs of our lowest performing. Discussed how funding is broken down across positions and number of employed (interventionists etc) funded through this).
      - So obviously Ola we have. This money, the \$4,525, was really about the purchasing of additional resources to support teachers so that we could support the acquisition of the Portuguese materials. It also represents funding for teachers who do some translation outside of the classroom, and so we wanted to make sure that we allocate money for them as well.
      - Funds allocated for this year's Science Day, and so last year we spent about \$1100. And so we wanted to make sure that we allocated that funding in the budget so that last year FOKO took care of this. This year, the school is going to take care of this cost.
      - Discussion was had as to how to involve families in sharing this information and how to promote goals for the year and how funds will be used to reach those goals.
      - Additional discussion was had to assist attendees with understanding different vocabulary involved with educating students such as different tiers of learners.