

# KING OPEN SCHOOL COUNCIL

(Official Minutes)

## School Council Meeting

Called for 6:00-7:00 PM at the King Open School, 850 Cambridge St, Cambridge MA 02141

**School Council Members Present:** Principal Williams (Chair), VP May Petrov, Kate McGovern (Co-Chair), Izzy Pereira, Liz Randall, Ada Riggins, Ruth Jones, Bucky O'Hare, Neusa DaCosta, Amber Villa, Jackie Gantzer, Jose Jimenez, Aram Harrow, Shalini Ayre (Minutes).

**School Council Members Absent:** Alison Munroe

A quorum of the King Open School Council being present, the Vice Principal, May Petrov, called the meeting to order at 6.08pm, Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and read the call of the meeting.

### Agenda:

- Student Performance Data
  - Additional 30min allocation for next school year
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- Discussed student performance in third grade math.
- Highlighted areas of improvement for English learners and special education students.
- Student growth and movement in different academic buckets.
- Question whether assessment data shows individual students' growth, not just movement between buckets.
  - assessment data to group students for extra support, close gaps, and move forward.
- Suggestion of using a higher-level goal for students to track progress, rather than focusing solely on MCAS cycle.
- Discussed the importance of understanding individual students' needs and using data to inform teaching strategies.
- Assessing students' progress towards meeting grade-level standards, with a focus on improving reading and math skills discussed.
- Considered the possibility of using a diagnostic test to measure students' abilities at different points in the school year.
- Progress made in monitoring and interventions for students in grade levels 3-5, with a focus on closing the gap for low-performing students.
- Discussed correlation between the topics covered in the class and the ones tested in the assessments, Principal Williams explained that it should be predictive of performance on MCAS.

- The importance of teaching vocabulary to English language speakers in math curriculum and analyzing student growth percentiles to identify groups making progress or falling behind.
- Stressed the growth of African American students, but notes that other demographics (while making progress) need support also.
- Concerns about the special ed population persist, despite growth in other areas.
- There is progress in reading and math, with some concerns about ELA curriculum change.
- Hope for improved student outcomes with the new curriculum, despite challenges of adopting and implementing a new curriculum.
- Teachers and staff appreciated/recognized for their hard work, and another appreciation event is planned.
- Will continue to be a school-wide focus on economically disadvantaged and special education students, emphasizing student agency and independence.
- Plans for summer support and resources for these students are being deliberately and intentionally implemented, informed by data.
- **Additional 30mins added to school day discussed.**
- Elementary school schedules include literacy, math, social studies, science, and specials.
- Plans to add extra minutes to academic blocks to reduce stressful transitions.
- Schools struggle to fit in science and social studies due to limited time in the schedule.
- Teachers discuss adding extra minutes to the school day for various activities.
- **School council election and planning for next year:**
- Teachers prioritize science education and social-emotional learning in curriculum design.
- Currently only one nomination has been received for the school council, encouraged attendees to nominate themselves or someone else.
- The nomination form will be translated and sent out again with links to translations, ideally by Monday 20th. In-person voting to take place via form or in person at the King Open Spring Open event.
- The council plans to survey families to gather feedback on interests and concerns for next school year.

#### **Action Items:**

- Extend the nomination period for school council elections through the end of May and distribute nomination form translations.
- Create paper ballots for in-person voting at spring open house on June 7th.
- Develop and distribute a parent survey to gather feedback on priorities for the next school year.
- Schedule planning meeting over the summer to review survey results and begin planning for the following school year.