

Baldwin School Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Agenda: MCAS and School Council Membership

MCAS is administered to students starting in grade 3. Important takeaway is that MCAS does have some stakes for accountability, but we try to make it so it is a non-pressure event for the students. It is one of many measures of student achievement. The state likes it because they know they are getting an 'even' picture of schools across the state.

Families in grades 3 - 5 received information and resources about MCAS from Ms. Heidi in an email. The district also sent information.

Parents have a wide range of their own personal experiences; some are very serious about this test whereas others will opt out.

Meeting attendee Vatsady stated that this high stakes test affects a certain population. It is important to note that our district takes a more holistic approach and uses various measures, not just MCAS, to see how the student is doing.

School Council

We reviewed the district guidelines about school councils.

School Council Responsibilities

- Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards.
- Identify the educational needs of students attending the school in relation to the goals.
- Collaborate with school community and district instructional staff to form an annual School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- A mechanism for working toward racial equity in schools. The School Council will catalyze and/or participate in racial equity initiatives, and evaluate their progress and efficacy in collaboration with the general school community.

Membership

- School Council membership must be representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the entire school community that it serves, pursuant to the Education Code, as well as district priorities.
- A “representative” school council is inclusive and as diverse in all the ways that Cambridge is diverse: with individuals who reflect each school community’s diversity in racial and ethnic identities, language, learning differences, academic need, ability, and culture.

Election Process

If more people than seats express interest in serving as a school council representative, an election will be held.

Terms

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Representatives commit to serving staggered two-year terms,

We are looking for representatives to serve the remainder of this school year and through next school year. We need a set group that gets together monthly. Meetings are always open to all.