

Evaluation/AIP Subcommittee

Monday, March 16, 2015

5:30 PM

Matthew J. Kuss Middle School

52 Globe Mills Avenue

Fall River, MA 02724

AGENDA

- Review of the stakeholder survey

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM. A roll call for attendance showed that Mr. Andrade, Mr. Hart, and Mr. Maynard were present.

Mr. Andrade read the Open Meeting Law.

Also present were Superintendent Mayo-Brown, Mr. Mike Goodman, and a member of the press.

Mr. Andrade explained that the meeting had one agenda item which was the School Committee survey done by Mike Goodman from UMass Dartmouth.

Mr. Andrade handed the floor over to Mr. Goodman.

1. Review of stakeholder survey

Mr. Goodman said when they met in December in public session they discussed the need the School Committee had for their support for a self-evaluation survey. They were pleased to be able to offer that support on a pro bono basis. At that time the subcommittee shared with him three goals that the full School Committee had approved that are listed in the memorandum that he prepared for their review (handout). In essence, they took a look at the three goals and identified key words or concepts that were embedded in those goals and tried to define them in a behavioral way.

The memo handed out provided a description of the thought process they went through. He reviewed the three goals listed with the subcommittee and noted that they boiled down to the four broad questions that were listed. Mr. Goodman went over those questions. From those broad questions they developed operational or behavioral definitions which he reviewed as well.

Mr. Goodman continued that they designed the survey to capture those dimensions. The draft was included in the handout for their review. The survey is brief because they do not want to waste the time of the teachers, administrators, and support staff in the district but they do want to make sure that they accurately capture the opinions of those stakeholders to have an effective self-evaluation.

There are several major questions and they designed the survey to be completed in no more than ten minutes. From the Policy Center's experience that is how long people are willing to invest in an exercise like this. Mr. Goodman explained that they begin the survey with an opening statement that lets them know who they are, what they are doing and why. It assures them that their responses will be anonymous and only reported as a group and they will not be sharing any individual response or identity of survey respondents with anyone outside of their core team which are all university employees. It also reminds them that while their participation is voluntary they are encouraged to participate so that their voice can be heard.

Mr. Goodman went over the questions listed on the survey. He noted that they may adjust the formatting a little bit but in their professional opinion, they believe the questions accurately capture what they think are measureable dimensions of the goals that they described.

The survey concluded with a series of demographic questions which are standard.

Mr. Goodman said with their approval and support they would ask that the Superintendent be re-authorized to share a contact list containing the e-mail addresses of all eligible staff. They are prepared to send the survey out to those stakeholders at the earliest practical opportunity.

Mr. Goodman welcomed any questions.

Mr. Hart said he would be willing to make a motion.

Mr. Maynard asked Mr. Goodman if he said they contact teachers and how many total have they contacted.

Mr. Goodman said yes and explained that they have not contacted anyone yet. They wanted to make sure that the School Committee had the opportunity to weigh in before they moved forward. However, many teachers who are employed and have active email addresses will receive the opportunity.

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To refer to the full Committee that they authorize the email list to be sent to UMass Dartmouth.

No discussion

All were in favor

None were opposed

Motion passed

Mr. Goodman said his instinct is to reach out to the educators association to give them a heads up that this is something that they are going to do and explain to them why it is being done so that they can raise any concerns. He does not want anyone to misperceive the intention of any of the information and that they maximize participation.

Mr. Goodman asked about the process and if they were able to move forward with the subcommittee's action or if the Committee as a whole needed to weigh in.

Superintendent Mayo-Brown said it should go to the full body.

Mr. Andrade said they would not have a vote on it that evening but would present it for the April meeting.

Mr. Goodman said they could prepare everything in anticipation of approval and just send once it is approved.

Mr. Hart commended Mr. Goodman and said he was very impressed with the survey. It was right to the point and well-organized.

Mr. Goodman thanked him and recognized the Public Policy Center at UMass Dartmouth. He also highlighted that the one group of stakeholders they are not able to get at are parents and the broader public. If at some point that makes sense then that would require resources because they would have to do the outreach via telephone and that would involve them incurring substantial expenses. He was not advocating for it but if it was something that their colleagues think is valuable then he wanted them to be aware that it is something that will require an investment.

Mr. Andrade asked if there was anything further.

Mr. Maynard said he liked the survey and it looked like it was going to work out real well. He thought the Committee should accept it.

Mr. Andrade said to make it unanimous he thought it was a very nice job.

There were no further questions or comments

MOTION: Mr. Hart – Mr. Maynard: To adjourn.

All were in favor

None were opposed

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Administrative Assistant for
School Committee Services