

Review of last meeting's minutes:

- Equity audit
- NEASC school improvement meeting:
 - Finish curriculum document in world language
 - Finalize curriculum in elective Tech and engineering & fine and performing arts
 - Finish Portrait of a graduate
 - Develop a district plan to secure Lindquist with a buzzer system similar to the HS and MS.
 - Train for lockdowns with students present
 - Work on Growth mindset
- 5 day return
 - Rotating schedule
 - Flex block at beginning of Wednesday
- Fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks indoor/outdoor, but a mask mandate for public schools stands.
 - What does this mean for athletics, do students have to be masked outside, what will end of the year events like graduation look like, and will social distancing pods change?
- Student Handbook:
 - Added DS equity statements,
 - clarified plagiarism statement to be less punitive with progressive steps

DS AIDE Equity Audit

- Show strengths and shortcomings that need to be worked on
- DS wants to maintain class size and quality.
- Estimated 4-5 months. Must review data- feedback in February range.
- Recommendations will be sent to the superintendent and other committees
- The term "Candidates of Color" could be reclassified as a broader definition to include more underrepresented communities.
- DS joined several organizations that offer names of people from underrepresented communities and give access to job fairs.
- Most educational institutions use School Spring
- Issue: Has to be a need for additional sections to manage class size or add new classes. Space is another issue for hiring additional teachers
- Also looking to find diversity in student teachers.
 - Student teacher for music
 - Partnership with UMass Boston
 - Hopefully encourage more student teachers

Student Feedback meeting

- An usually in person town meeting was replaced by a survey. Ideas on consolidated into common themes among grades
- Students like and want to continue using GC and WLPs, which help organization, structure and give access to documents.

- A goal is to create clear structure that eliminates redundancy,
- Wednesdays were a big positive for students this year. Next year, there will be a number of early release days and the option for additional de-stress days.
- Students would like test days to be spread out so there aren't multiple tests in a day.
- Semesterizing will offer more flexibility
- Although there aren't extra help wednesdays, teachers should be open for extra help in Wednesday classes, during flex block and after school (Teacher contract)
- There have been troubles with Wifi, so students will be asked for specific examples of Wifi trouble so they can be addressed.
- Purchasing outdoor seating, restricting use of some picnic tables bc of density
- Had to close water fountains because of Covid-19.
- Students cannot use some websites that are blocked, so teachers could find out if some of these blacklisted websites are necessary.

Grade comparison from last 3 years

- Teachers have been giving out more A's, which is seen as the percent of students earning an A has increased across most classes.
 - Teachers have had to trim more challenging curriculum to fit the requirements
- Asking for "silver linings" from this past year and collecting data from teachers, parents and students
- Want to create a healthy balance of learning from struggles and being able to make up work
- Conclusions: teachers were very flexible with assessments, additional support, and students had more time to prepare.
- Flipped classroom:
 - Some students both like the flipped classroom and have problems.
 - There will be another survey, to find how to address shortcomings.
 - A positive is that videos made by teachers themselves focus better on what is taught at DS.
 - Look at shortening videos and using EdPuzzle or other programs.
 - Break math classes by academic and grade level
 - Teach kids how to properly engage in a flipped classroom
 - Math teachers engaging in a flipped classroom will take a course in the summer

Potential Therapy Dog for HS and MS

- Grant through Gofe(?) for a possible, well trained, therapy dog in HS and MS
- Will work with an organization with Golden Retrievers, Golden Opportunities
- In past experiences, therapy dogs have been beneficial for staff and students
- We must remain cautious around people with allergies to dogs.