

Abbot Elementary SAC Meeting Notes For
Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Members: Peter Myerson, Melissa Richard, Laura Anderson, Lauren Allen, TJ Elder, Jessica Evangelista, Jillian Trest, Anne Pumphrey, Julie Murell, Karen Wiczynski, Juzer Shakir

spirit day - sports by 3rd grade

paint night - 75 participants

School Play -82 participants

Student Council - 5th grade members only this year

Mrs. Evangelista had her baby on maternity leave through the end of the year, Devin McElhiney has moved from ESP to long term substitute

Budget

- SC oked the budget for next year - \$3.5mil over what was allocated which would require an override
- total override for the whole time is roughly \$8mil
- Hearing a lot of the cutting in the schools, haven't heard much about what is being cut elsewhere
- vote won't happen until May, so we won't know until then
- with override, lose 1 section class size 3-18, 4-20, 5-20
- without override, additional 4, three at Abbot 3- 22, 4th- 24, 5-24
- How would they all fit in the small classrooms? - loss of carpet areas, flexible seating
- There are a lot of strong opinions about even getting it on the ballot
- Losing all Math and reading interventionists - replaced with 1 Academic Coach - don't know what that will look like? Will still have one literacy specialist
- High school will lose 11 teachers
- curriculum coordinators would become K-5 (from K-2, 3-5)
- Lose head Director of Equity and Inclusion
- 70.2 FTE employees would lose their job
- Will work on letting people know who would be cut
- Need to get the right and accurate information out for all departments

Feasibility - New School

- State accepted Westford to consider for a new school - need to show the state what the proposal would be
- Abbot and Robinson would not be schools in order to create a 700 student school
- Town will put together a plan
- looking to be 5-6 years down the road

EL Education

- New ELA program - good but hard, teachers working diligently
- 4 modules throughout the year. Starting module 2
- focus on close reading, reading the same text 3-4 times
- a lot of writing involved in module 2 (Grade 4), seen really great improvements
- a lot of modifications are needed, teachers working to make those changes
- Personalizing educational slideshows
- Site Visit - visited Dorchester Up Academy - Charter Company receivership
- Very long school day, only do literacy and Math, Science and Social Studies are embedded
- Use every single part of every single lesson
- All Block is being utilized, will be rolled out in Westford next year

- Great to see EL in action in addition to the different teaching styles
- They admit, the first year was really hard, had to go through the same trials we are, hard to give up tried and true
- Focus on using backward design (UDL)
- met with Curriculum Coordinator - has been there throughout the implementation (4 years)
- 3rd grade - about to start Module 2, the amount of writing they are doing is tremendous. Just finished a 4 paragraph essay
- will be easy as we move forward and have the students who experienced it in prior years
- a lot of rereading text, take something different from it
- only going to finish 2.5 modules this year - same across all 3 schools

Next meeting Feb 27th