



Committee Report

Committee Name: Instruction & Program

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	11/14/2023	5:00 PM
Board Members		
A'Dorian Murray-Thomas	Crystal Williams	
Vereliz Santana		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Dr. Mary Ann Reilly	Roger Leon	
Havier Nazario	Kenneth Montalbano	
Other District Staff		
Dr. Maria Ortiz	Anzella Nelms	
Kathleen Tierney	Paula Perrone	
Jennifer Killeen	Matthew Brewster	
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Chair Murray Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.</p> <p>Director Tierney began her presentation on the District Plan to Improve Science Achievement at 5:03 PM.</p> <p>Director Tierney introduced the Mission Statement of the Science office, highlighting the importance of three dimensional learning in Science education.</p> <p>Director Tierney presented her agenda, which comprised of three main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current status of science? 2. What is the plan to improve Science achievement? 3. How will we monitor and adjust throughout the year? <p>Director Tierney began discussing the current status of Science by reviewing the NJSLA and NJGPA 2023 results by grade and level.</p> <p>She noted that science is only tested three times during students' elementary and high school. They are tested for the first time in 5th grade, again in 8th grade, and finally in 11th grade.</p> <p>She discussed how the 5th grade state test covers standards from 3rd-5th grades, the 8th grade test covers standards from 6th-8th grades, and the 11th grade test covers all high school state standards. Science is tested three times during PK-12 - in 5th grade, 8th grade, and 11th grade.</p> <p>The highest pass rate was in 11th grade, and the lowest passing rate was in 8th grade. She emphasized that this is below the state average, but it mimics current state data trends.</p>		

Director Tierney then presented how the NJSLA state results compared to the overall NBOE results, and then broke those scores down by SLT for each grade tested.

At 5:07 PM, she highlighted the highest performing schools by grade level, and noted that there were certain trends with these schools. They all have high quality staff, run efficient PLCS and leverage their Department Chairs as content experts. One significant trend noticed is that the majority of these high performing schools in Science were also the high performing schools in English Language Arts.

At 5:10 PM, Director Tierney addressed three problems and solutions. She then proceeded to discuss the second point on the agenda- the Plan to Improve Science Achievement. She stressed the importance of teaching 3-Dimensionally in science and norming what excellence looks like for all across the District. She discussed what curricular resources are being used by students and the information provided to teachers to assist with the lessons. She also showed a sample benchmark assessment Science question, which was complex and required much before even getting to the question. These were purposely designed to help build student stamina for exams such as NJSLA.

Director Tierney reviewed the last point on the agenda, Monitor and Adjust. The Office of Science has led Newark teachers in the creation of benchmark assessments from grades 2-11, which is inclusive of biology, chemistry, and physics. The data gathered from Benchmark Assessments will be used to inform educators at each level- classroom, grade level, SLT, and District.

She concluded her presentation at 5:23 PM.

Chair Murray Thomas inquired about Implementation and where we are currently in that process.

Director Tierney said her office has already begun meeting with the Assistant Superintendents to review data in their SLTs, schools that have improved and declined, and identified target schools that will get personalized visits from her team.

Board Member Williams expressed her concern on why there is not more significant changes in scores from 2022 to 2023. Director Tierney discussed how work done in previous years centered on work done on curricular documents, and how this year that work has shifted to spending more time in schools and with teachers to make more significant gains.

Board member Williams noted that low ELA and Math scores will impact science since the questions are so complex. She also inquired if the Science scores were cross-referenced with Math scores as done with ELA, but they have not yet been.

At 5:30 PM the Superintendent remarked how training key teachers in this area will help to greatly improve Science scores.

Dr. Reilly explained that there are no consistent state data results for the same group of students in science since they test every three years. She expressed how the district's new benchmarks assessments will offer an opportunity four times a year to see how students are performing in core academic subjects. This work will allow us to fill in data for science that MAP and state assessments do not provide. These assessments will inform the work that happens moving forward.

At 5:40 PM, Mr. Brewster began his presentation on Updates on Summer Planning.

Mr. Brewster briefly reviewed the agenda, and discussed the September 1st summer planning meeting for Summer 2024. The Superintendent expressed that the end of summer was the perfect time to begin planning for next summer. Mr. Brewster conveyed the thoughts other department collaborators shared on Summer 2023 and spoke about how summer programs will be expanding this year.

He reviewed the key dates below, and shared a draft of what the Summer School calendar will look like.

- Programs and sites set by December 15, 2023
- Summer program descriptions and job announcements submitted by January 31, 2024
- Summer Principals identified by February 1, 2024
- Parents, families and schools notified of mandatory registration on February 15, 2024
- Summer job announcements posted by March 1, 2024 & hiring begins
- Program Brochure and application launch posted by March 28, 2024
- Summer Program Campaign begins April 2024
- Program registration end on May 24, 2024
- Student notification by June 1, 2024
- Summer Programs begin June 26, 2024 (tentative)

Mr. Brewster concluded his presentation at 5:50 PM.

Board member Williams was interested in what are the deciding factors when choosing the summer sites, in which Mr. Brewster commented that the newer schools are utilized first, unless a facilities project prevents that. If the new schools that do not have air conditioning are available, then schools are chosen based on which have air conditioning in large common areas so students can circle through those areas throughout the day.

A proposed school day schedule was presented, with 8:30 AM- 12 PM being the instructional period, and a possible 1PM-5PM enrichment program being open to all students.

Board member Williams also inquired on what the day looks like for High School students. She expressed concern for High School students who have younger siblings they have to take to school first, and then have to go to their summer sites.

At 5:54 PM, Vice President Santana inquired about the highlights of the Bilingual Office missing from the slideshow, and asked what their thoughts were. She also inquired about a throughline for targeting students who will be identified as being mandated for summer school and asked if there were issues with staffing this past year.

Mr. Brewster explained that the last meeting did not allow for time for all departments to share, but that team will be present for the next summer planning meeting. Board members were provided with the Office of Bilingual's reflections by email from Dr. Reilly.

Mr. Brewster spoke about different ways to encourage staff to be part of the summer work, by providing a break between the end of the school year and summer school, and flexible with teachers who might only be able to do a portion of the summer by having someone else fill in where they cannot.

At 6:02 PM Chair Murray Thomas questioned what the summer program looks like for high school students in terms of CTE and apprenticeships.

The Superintendent spoke on how each comprehensive high school focused on their CTE programs in the summer and because of this, summer enrollment at the high school level is the highest its ever been. He also spoke on the youth apprenticeships offered by the City of Newark and how students in this program were paid for the work they did.

At 6:11 PM Board Member Williams asked about the plan for expanding high interest programs in the summer.

Mr. Brewster said his team is definitely looking to do that, as there are certain programs such as STEM, which have garnered a high level of interest from students.

At 6:17 PM Dr. Reilly began to review the resolutions for this month.

19.2 Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Collaboration and Partnership with Dream Chasers Community Services, LLC., Federally/ State Qualified Pre-ETS Provider and the Newark Board of Education

19.3 Approval of Grades 11-12 Social Studies Elective Curriculum: Crimes Against Humanity by the Newark Board of Education

19.4 Approval of a Research and Data Sharing Agreement between the Newark Board of Education and Harvard Extension School - Harvard University

19.5 Approval of Professional Practice and Portfolio, Units 3 and 4 Curriculum by the Newark Board of Education

19.6 Approval of 10th Grade AP Social Studies Curriculum by the Newark Board of Education

19.7 Authorization of District Field Trips

At 6:25 PM, Chair Murray-Thomas motioned to move resolutions to the full board. This was supported by the Board members.

Chair Murray-Thomas adjourned the meeting at 6:31 PM.