**Curriculum Committee Meeting**

March 22, 2016

4:00 PM

Attendance

Lisa Klein (Committee Chair, Board Member)

Amy Savoie (Committee Member - Teacher)

Jenny Hitzeman (Parent)

Bill Spinelli (Board of Trustees Chair)

Jill Cane (Committee Member, Curriculum Coordinator)

Sarah Hall (Parent)

Dani Preston (Parent)

Heather Tyler (Parent)

HIlary Henderson (Parent)

Amanda Tanguay (Committee Member - Teacher)

Astrid Alvarado

Lisa Duffy (Teacher)

Kim Rivers (Committee Member, Parent, Board Member)

Karin Cevasco (Committee Member, School Director)

1.. Welcome & Introductions

2. Multi-age classrooms - BOT input, next steps

* Lisa reviewed the single age classroom discussion from the previous Board of Trustees meeting
* Mentioned that financial impact of this change was biggest concern

3. Parent Input Meeting

* Lisa mentioned that a parent meeting was asked for where parents and teachers could have an open discussion
* Hilary Henderson mentioned that conferences might be a good time for parents to discuss the single grade classrooms with the teacher
* Sarah Hall mentioned that the parent meeting does not necessarily need to happen before the decision is made, but certainly before August (Parent information Session)
* Jill mentioned that impact on specific child should be a one-to-one parent teacher conversation while generalized discussion could be a whole group
* Dani Preston likened the idea of a discussion group with parents and teachers to an information session that was held before the school was open
* Hilary Henderson mentioned that hearing directly from the teachers makes the difference (hear their passion, commitment)
* Jenny Hitzeman mentioned that knowing the teachers want the single age classroom change convinced her that this is the right direction to go. She trusts the teachers and supports their needs.
* Lisa Klein asked Karin and Jill to schedule a discussion group between teachers and parents
* Karin asked when might be a good time to host a discussion group. Discussion pursued. A morning and an afternoon option were suggested. A representative teacher from primary, intermediate, and middle should be present at each meeting. Looking to hear that the teachers support this change and are unified in their support. Many parents want to know what the curriculum will look like next year for the “even” grades who are currently using “even” year curriculum and will need to use “odd” year texts and topics next year.

4. Timeline: Tasks

* Contact DOE for approval of change in classroom structure
* Look at curriculum Wheatley, Science, Social Studies
* Odd/Even grade curriculum
* Assign teacher to grade
* Materials need to be redistributed
* Scheduling (integrated arts, community building, multiage opportunities)
* Team Teacher and Individual Teacher Planning Time
* Quarters or Trimesters
* 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 (what will curriculum look like?) (task: Curriculum Committee, Admin, Teachers)
* Lisa discussed adding partition walls to make the 5-6-7-8 classrooms physically larger
* Maintain Room for Community Meeting, Movement, Theater Arts
* Plan for telling students about the change
* Social Curriculum (what will it look like?)

Financial impact:

* Wait List (numbers, procedure)
* Active Promotion of GCCSA - get new applicants
* Market the rigor and excellence, and the fit with the arts integrated mission statement, behind the Wheatley ELA curriculum, Eureka Math, FOSS Science, etc
* Jenny Hitzeman discussed negative PR from parents who have left the school this year and have told other parents that their children were “behind” in their academic skills (highlights need for marketing of facts about our curriculum)
* Staffing Needs
* Retention of Students
* Curriculum/Materials Needs
* Flexible Enrollment (Class Size), within the authorized maximum enrollment (22 could be acceptable max per class)
* Physical classroom space is a challenge with more than 20 students (square footage of classroom, furniture, materials)
* Lisa discussed possibility of purchasing additional partition walls to expand the physical size of the 5-6-7-8 classrooms

**Policy Needs:**

Class Size - Maximum number of students per class

**Timeline:**

1. Analyze financial aspects of single grade change to present to the BOT (Karin & Jill)
2. State Board of Education - Write letter, get on agenda for approval (Karin, Liza, Bill)
3. Scheduling (Admin, Teachers)
4. Curriculum (Admin, Teachers)
5. Teacher Grade Assignments (Admin, Teachers)
6. What Community Building will look like (Teachers)
7. Define the Parent Meeting Objectives (Lisa, Admin, Teachers, Parents)
8. Schedule and facilitate the Parent Meeting (Admin, Teachers)