

MSA Academics Committee Meeting - Notes
Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 7:45am, Room 10

In attendance:

Romelle Pornschloegl, John Gawarecki, Steve Pullar (Science), Hannah Kostichka (SPED), Cathy Moos (SPED), Maria Sustic (Spanish), Maggie Burggraaff (English), Molly Molitor (PE/Health), Jen Heydt-Nelson (Art), Bronwen Williams (Math), Jerry Shelton (Music), Marci Patchett (Parent), Noelle Haland (Chair)

Discussion: WORLD'S BEST WORKFORCE

Noelle shared documentation of 2014/15 WBWF reports to the BOD

- At the BOD meeting on 2/23/15 - Jenn Reichl presented that a public WBWF meeting had been held on 2/11/15.
- At the BOD meeting on 6/15/15, Dan Keller & Jenn Reichl shared minutes from the 4/15/15 WBWF Advisory Committee meeting. They shared the 3 WBWF goals (see discussion below) as well as additional ideas on continued academic improvement that were created in the public meeting and the advisory committee.

Teacher survey discussion

- John shared the survey he has developed, which has 15 questions with room for teachers to elaborate on their multiple choice responses.
- After some discussion about specific questions regarding technology and technical support for teachers, it was agreed that this survey should be broad rather than too specific. The survey can point out areas of further specific investigation, but to be truly effective, the survey must not get bogged down in too many specific details.

Review of 2014/15 WBWF goals

- Graduation:
 - 100% of students who begin their senior year at Math and Science Academy will meet the minimum requirements to graduate on time.
- Achievement Gap:
 - Increase the combined percentage of "high growth" and "medium growth" from 73.3% for 2014 to 78% in Math as calculated in the MMR data.
 - Increase the combined percentage of "high growth" and "medium growth" from 80.7% for 2014 to 83% in Reading as calculated in the MMR data.
- College and Career Readiness:
 - The average ACT score of graduating seniors will meet or exceed a composite score of 28.

Further discussion of 2014/15 goals

- College and Career Readiness (under requirement 2d of the MDE rubric)
 - MSA exceeded this goal - our average last year increased to 28.8.
 - We will leave this goal as meeting or exceeding a composite of 28 for this 2015/16.
- Graduation "on time" (under requirement 2d of the MDE rubric)
 - MDE gives us a date (Oct. 1st, per MARS reporting) to define a "senior."
 - If a senior transfers to another high school then does not graduate on time (from any high school), that counts against MSA's "grad on time" rate, ie. detracts from MSA's 100% goal.
 - Graduating "on time" means graduating before the beginning of the next school year (eg. even if a student finishes requirements during the summer).

- MSA will not know our official “grad on time” rate until the MDE report using MMR data is released in July.
- Currently, state MMR data (from MDE) says we have a 100% graduation rate, which meets last year’s goal.
- We will maintain the same goal of 100% graduation rate for 2015/16.
- Achievement Gap
 - John will look up MMR data for the WBWF report.
 - MMR = Multiple Measures Rating

Discussion about technology as part of “Career & College Readiness” goal

- The question was raised as to whether we want to add in the 1-to-1 laptop program as one of our “strategies” to meet our Career and College Readiness goal. Many present said we should not add this explicitly as part of our WBWF goal.
- We discussed the relative importance of keyboarding skills as part of “career readiness,” especially for those students who may not go on to college. Many present agreed that students attain sufficient keyboarding proficiency in the course of the current curricular use of technology without having specific keyboarding training.

Section 4a of rubric -- our 2014/15 processes

- Monthly staff meetings, including “Child Find” process
- Jenn Reichl conducted one-on-one meetings with all students who came up in “Child Find” process, sometimes with multiple meetings.
- Jenn Reichl held meetings with every student in grades 11 and 12.
- Math placement test for incoming students
- Disaggregation of data by grade

Section 4b of rubric -- our 2014/15 processes

- All teachers complete a “Director Evaluation,” which is compiled by the BOD Chair who shares with with the BOD.
- Last year, we did not do this evaluation for Bob Kreischer because we knew he was stepping down/retiring at the end of the year.
- The group discussed the relative merits of having this process but choosing not to use it last year. We agreed that going forward, we will use this tool yearly, even if the Director has given his or her notice.
- See above discussion regarding teacher evaluations.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. NOELLE will talk to Rachael Ryan about the possibility of adding specific training on programs like Google Docs, Powerpoint, and Prezzi early in the 6th grade Study Skills curriculum.
2. MARIA will send the blank form of the “Director Evaluation” that teachers used to John, Romelle and Noelle.
3. JOHN look up MMR data for the WBWF report.
4. JOHN will bring a draft of the WBWF report for MDE to our next committee meeting for our review.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Wednesday, 11/18/15, 7:45am (room 10) - wrapping up WBWF & laying out issues for rest of the year

Wednesday, 12/2/15, 7:45am (room 10)

*** Standing meeting will be the first Wednesday at 7:45am. ***