



Bentley Academy Innovation Planning Committee Meeting

Bentley Academy Charter School
25 Memorial Drive, Salem, MA

Minutes of the IPC Meeting Tuesday, 11/12/2019, 5:00 pm. In the School Library

Members in Attendance: Jenna Cripps (Lead Applicant), Sean McCarthy (Principal), Kelly Alvarez (Parent), Laura Towey (Teacher), Jennifer Lima (Teacher), Elizabeth Ryan (Para), Susan Low (Parent), and Alyce Davis (Community Member).

Members Absent: Rebecca Westlake (Superintendent's Designee), Sean McCarthy (Principal), Alyce Davis (Community Member), Amanda Campbell (School Committee representative), and Kelly Feurt (Teacher),

Others Present: Jill Conrad (Superintendent's designated facilitator)

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 5:44 pm. At the beginning of the meeting, parents shared the outcomes of a survey they had done to seek feedback from other parents. The feedback showed that the vast majority of parents wanted to keep the longer school day among many other elements the school had as a charter school. The group discussed this feedback in light of the draft innovation plan elements.

Ellen Wingard, the Director of Student Supports for the district provided an overview of the district's efforts to support social and emotional learning of students as well as the structures and supports that are working in other schools across the district. She provided some insights on what Bentley might do as it thinks about planning for the future, under the framework of an innovation plan. She cautioned against trying to "solve" student behavior problems by hiring more and more staff to whom problem students can be sent out of classrooms. Instead, she encouraged the group to think more deeply about how all teachers and adults in the building can work to build strong relationships with the students and thereby reduce behavioral concerns in the future. The group agreed that they would take her recommendations into consideration and that they wanted to focus on developing a solid plan for the school.

Ms. Cripps shared the "time scenarios" that she and other members of the Instructional Leadership Team had developed during their meeting earlier in the day. After looking at a 7 hour per day scenario, they all agreed that not only would students lose too much valuable instruction and enrichment time, but teachers would lose more of their common planning time than they would like. In the end, they all agreed that a 7.5 hour day would be more desirable. The IPC members discussed this and all agreed to focus on having a 7.5 hour day.

At the end of the meeting, Jill shared a document sent by Rebecca Westlake which attempted to answer

the questions raised about the dual language program by the group. Ms. Westlake was not able to attend on this night, but plans to attend at the next meeting to review the document and discuss any outstanding questions on this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.