



Bentley Academy Innovation Planning Committee Meeting

Bentley Academy Charter School
25 Memorial Drive, Salem, MA

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

Members in Attendance: Jenna Cripps (Lead Applicant), Sean McCarthy (Principal), Rebecca Westlake (Superintendent's designee), Amanda Campbell (School Committee representative), Kelly Alvarez (Parent), Kelly Feurt (Teacher), Laura Towey (Teacher), Jennifer Lima (Teacher), Elizabeth Ryan (Para), Susan Low (Parent), and Alyce Davis (Community Member).

Members Absent: Alyce Davis (Community Member)

Others Present: Jill Conrad (Superintendent's designated facilitator), Nicholas DiPardo (AFT representative)

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm. The members continued discussing aspects of the draft innovation plan. Teachers shared a document outlining their feedback on the "starter" draft. One of the parents shared her written edits and suggested revisions. The group discussed and came to agreement on the language for "Home Visits" and also on the general focus for the professional development section. The group also discussed the notion of proposing to eliminate the extended year component of the school and focus instead on maintaining an extended day, although possibly a shorter one than the Bentley currently has. The teachers shared many of their concerns regarding the school's difficulty in recruiting and retaining high quality teachers with the 8-hour day. They also felt that the longer day and challenges with fully engaging students in learning during all of that time has been contributing to student behavior concerns.

Teachers submitted an outline of proposals following the sections of the draft innovation plan. They also submitted a summary of responses providing answers to questions that the parent members of the group had raised. No agreement was reached, but participants were able to share their concerns and discuss them in order to reach a level of understanding regarding the issues. Members agreed to think about these concerns as they review the draft document more closely over the next week. They also would consider feedback gathered from the rest of the Bentley staff during the discussions held earlier in the day. They would send their proposed suggestions and edits to that language to be discussed at the following meeting.

The members also agreed to invite Ellen Wingard, Director of Student Supports to their next meeting in order to hear more about how the district is approaching social emotional learning as well as behavior management, in general.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.