

Avon Grove School Board - Committee of the Whole Meeting Update April 14, 2016

The Avon Grove School District Board of School Directors met on April 14, 2016 and continued to focus on four initiatives outlined in its Strategic Plan; the district's proposed move to full day kindergarten, a change in the high school bell schedule, communications and community engagement, and facilities.

Full Day Kindergarten

Penn London Elementary School Principal Dr. Cynthia Holland presented a video that captured what a day in a half-day kindergarten class looks like. She then provided the board with the current half-day schedule and shared a proposed full day kindergarten schedule.

Dr. Marchese presented updated information regarding the financial projection for full day kindergarten. He described changes that resulted to the projected 5 year costs in conjunction with the recently reconciled charter school tuition rates. Full day kindergarten is operationally cost neutral in the second year of implementation. Dr. Marchese also presented a class size analysis to demonstrate the availability for seat capacity at Penn London Elementary School.

High School Bell Schedule

Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning Dr. Mike Snopkowski provided an update on the change to the high school bell schedule for the 2016-2017 school year.

- Student course requests for next year have been entered in PowerSchool and the guidance department is working on reviewing and adjusting the requests as needed.
- The "Mock Block" days held in March provided an opportunity for AGHS faculty and students to experience the new schedule. The team has analyzed professional development needs and is planning more opportunities for students and staff to test out the new schedule.
- Mr. DeShong has conducted student presentations about the new schedule and the team is continuing to gather feedback.

Communications and Community Engagement

Director of Educational Support Services Mr. Tom Alexander provided an update on the Communications and Community Engagement initiative.

- The second meeting of the Communications & Community Engagement Team was held April 5. The meeting focused on the top four recommendations the committee identified as priorities from the Communications Audit. The group reviewed the recommendations and began to identify specific actions necessary to accomplish each one. In May, the team will continue the development of the recommendation action plans.
- The new Avon Grove School District website was launched on March 28. Feedback was gathered from stakeholders and adjustments were made accordingly. The website continues to be a work in progress and will continue to evolve over the coming months.

- The number of community members receiving AGSD News directly to their email through Constant Contact has been steadily increasing. At this time, over 300 people have registered to receive these updates.

Facilities

Business Manager Dan Carsley provided an update on the Facilities strategic initiative. Applications from community members interested in serving on the Facilities Input Group (FIG) have been received and reviewed. Invitations to stakeholders identified to participate in FIG will be sent out on April 15. The first FIG meeting will be held on May 3rd from 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. in the AGIS Audion.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held in the AGIS Audion on May 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Dr. Margaret Sharp, Assistant Superintendent at sharp@avongrove.org or Mr. Tom Alexander, Director of Educational Support Services at talexander@avongrove.org .