

## **School Committee Curriculum Subcommittee**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

3:00 PM-4:50 PM

Remote via WebEx Event

Curriculum Subcommittee Members Present: Barbara Scotto (Chair), Helen Charlupski, Susan Wolf Ditkoff, and Jennifer Monopoli.

Other School Committee Members Present: Julie Schreiner-Oldham, Suzanne Federspiel, Sharon Abramowitz, and David Pearlman.

Staff Present: Ben Lummis, Nicole Gittens, Casey Ngo-Miller, Mary Brown, Meg Maccini, and Robin Coyne. Others Present: Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Co-Chairs Linda Monach and Faith Dantowitz.

### **1) Update and Discussion of Remote Learning**

SEPAC Co-Chairs Linda Monach and Faith Dantowitz shared their perspectives as parents. They discussed the need for services tailored to individual students, the importance of maintaining social connections, and potential use of paraprofessionals. Ms. Ngo-Miller provided an update on Special Education during the school closure, including 1) the development of schedules, support plans, and a consistent service model; 2) planning for the summer; and 3) the type and frequency of communications.

School Committee Comments/Questions:

- Need to make sure that each student has contact with their service providers.
- Important to communicate with parents/guardians so that they know what to expect.
- Asked whether it is possible to reallocate resources to help fill in gaps.
- District should work with the Brookline Educators Union (BEU) to develop a child-centered approach that focuses on what students and families need.
- In some districts, staff members are calling families on a regular basis.
- Have heard that educators are being pressured to do less in the name of equity.

The Subcommittee discussed the structure and objectives of the Remote Learning Task Force established by the School Committee on April 6, 2020. Members noted the importance of building upon district work that has already been done to define clear learning expectations for students during the closure. Members agreed on the need for input from stakeholders including parents/guardians, teachers, the BEU, administrators, SEPAC, Steps to Success, METCO, and English Learners. Members suggested that each school assign a parent leader to serve as a liaison to the Task Force.

There was general agreement on the following: The Task Force, led by Ms. Ditkoff and Dr. Abramowitz, will help to set clear educational goals for the district during the closure, help identify barriers to implementation, get input from a broader group of parents/guardians and community members, and improve communication, clarity, and understanding about the work the district is doing to support students. The Task Force will have wide representation from parents/guardians and stakeholders across schools in order to get input and feedback on how remote learning is happening.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.