

Eastford Elementary School
Curriculum Committee
Thursday, September 8, 2022
5:00 PM
Minutes

I. Call to Order: 5:05 PM

In attendance: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica, Adam Minor, Carole McCombe, Megan Dill, James Salsich, Charles Kernan, Donna Leake

II. Update on revised Strategic School Improvement Plan for 2022-2025

Carole provided a review of the updated Strategic School Improvement Plan for the members.

Focus Area 1: Support Students in becoming leaders of their own learning

- This is our overarching goal - to move from top-down teaching and managing behavior to more student engagement and ownership of their own behavior and learning. This is not to say that we are letting students choose to do whatever they want - but more student voice and self-regulation is needed for them to be self-sufficient and independent as they move toward high school.
- Some action steps are listed and broken down with a timeline for implementation (go through these).

Focus Area 2: Nurturing and caring - safe- environment for students and staff

- Learning walks - we are our own best resources - how can we tap into it better?
- Using learning targets and explicit instruction to integrate SEL routines and expectations into curriculum and academic time.

Focus Area 3: Supportive and engaging relationships with families and community partners that enhance student learning.

- Continue to work to get the word out about the Strategic Plan and the POL - teacher communications, principal newsletters, student goals/portfolios/conferences, etc.
- Work to continue trying to engage ALL families - not just those that are already involved.
- Family engagement (parent university) and grandparent's "club". Internet Safety, Understanding Diversity (Amistad), other monthly topics evolving.

III. Request for new novels for middle school ELA

Board members received two requests from Mr. Salsich to approve novels to be used with middle school students. Board members were given copies of the novels to preview prior to the meeting. Mr. Salsich explained his rationale for wanting to use these novels with students. A discussion ensued pointing out the

benefits and concerns about the novel, Freak the Mighty, in particular. The committee voted unanimously to approve both novels, feeling that it is appropriate to provide a safe place to hold a guided conversation on difficult topics with students of this age.

IV. Adjournment: 6:00 PM