

PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL PRESENTATION



APRIL 29, 2020

SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Fish, Principal

Dana Jessup, Parent

Michael Cleary, Grade 7 Teacher

Fred McFadden, Parent

Kerri Devin, Grade 6 Teacher

Beverly Ross-Denny, Parent

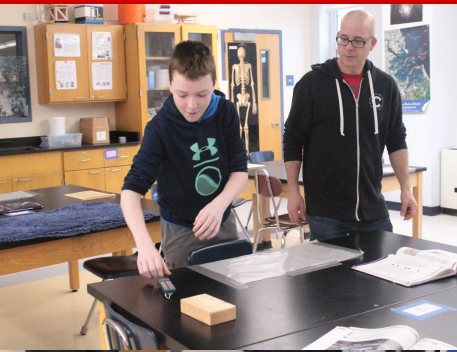
Kristen Fraine, Grade 8 Teacher

Jackie Slavik, Parent

Sarah Pullia, Grade 8 Teacher

Celine Toomey, Parent

Regine Jean-Charles, Parent



Pierce Middle School Profile

- 2019-2020 Enrollment: 979 students
 - Grade 6: 351, Grade 7: 324, Grade 8: 304
- 2020-2021 Projected Enrollment: 1,043
 - Grade 6: 368, Grade 7: 351, Grade 8: 324
- 2021-2022 Projected Enrollment: 1,082
 - Grade 6: 363, Grade 7: 368, Grade 8: 351
- 2022-2023 Projected Enrollment: 1,129
 - Grade 6: 398, Grade 7: 363, Grade 8: 368

Enrollments: Pierce vs. Milton HS

	Pierce	Milton HS	Difference
2019-2020	979	1051	72
2020-2021	1043	1122	79
2021-2022	1082	1174	92
2022-2023	1129	1248	119

2019 MCAS DATA HIGHLIGHTS: SUCCESSES

- The percentage of grade 6 students meeting/exceeding expectations in ELA increased from 66% in 2018 to 77% in 2019
- The percentage of grade 7 students meeting/exceeding expectations in ELA increased from 48% in 2018 to 67% in 2019
- The percentage of grade 8 students meeting/exceeding expectations in math has steadily increased from 60% in 2017 to 64% in 2018 to 67% in 2019
- The percentage of grade 8 students exceeding expectations was at a recent high (13%) compared to 9% in 2018 and 5% in 2017

2019 MCAS DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

OPPORTUNITIES

- Focus on continuous improvement
- Patterns and trends: On average, about two-thirds of students are exceeding or meeting expectations
 - How do we continue to grow?
 - What about the one-third of students who are not meeting expectations?
 - High needs sub-groups
- Strategies
 - ELA curriculum review, adoption and implementation
 - Math curriculum

2019-2020 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

Four Focus Areas:

1:1 Computing

Master Schedule

Supporting Transitions to Grade 6

ELA Curriculum Review

FOCUS AREA #1: 1:1 COMPUTING

Making the case for 1:1

- Elementary Schools: Chromebook carts in all classrooms
- Milton HS: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- Pierce: Limited access to technology; 12 Chromebook carts (about 300 devices for nearly 1,000 students)

FOCUS AREA #1: 1:1 COMPUTING

Benefits of 1:1

- Improved student achievement through personalized learning experiences
- Student-centered learning
- Instructional practices: project-based learning, providing students with multiple modes for demonstrating learning, on-the-spot formative assessment data
- [Video](#)

FOCUS AREA #1: 1:1 COMPUTING

Professional Development for Teachers

- February and March early release days
- Google Docs/Drive, Google Classroom, OTUS 101
- Identifying teachers' needs (ongoing)

FOCUS AREA #2: MASTER SCHEDULE

Challenges of Current Master Schedule

- Overcrowding in cafeteria
- Stagnant periods/meeting times
- Length of periods
- Absence of downtime for students or an advisory program

FOCUS AREA #2: MASTER SCHEDULE

Core Components of a New Schedule

- Four lunches
- Rotating schedule
- Extended instructional periods
- Flex time

FOCUS AREA #2: MASTER SCHEDULE

Flex Time

- The purpose of flex time is to give our students some time during the day to reflect, regenerate and refocus in order to be ready to learn in a classroom setting
- Student choice for flex time: homework, relax/rest quietly, makeup work, organize the materials, quiet activities on the chromebook, draw, read, listen to music
- Flex time as the eventual structure for an advisory program

FOCUS AREA #3: SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS

Current Structures

- 5th Grade Information Night (spring)
- 5th Grade Visits to Pierce/Step Up Day (spring)
- Welcome to Middle School Camp (summer)
- 6th Grade Families Night (Before opening of school)

FOCUS AREA #3: SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS

Leveraging Opportunities to Support the Transition: Teachers

- Current work of 6th grade teachers
- 6th grade teachers observing 5th grade classes

FOCUS AREA #3: SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS

Leveraging Opportunities to Support the Transition: Students

- Welcome to Middle School camp
- Providing student schedules, locker assignment, etc. in the summer
- Rethinking the first few weeks of school
- Explicitly teaching executive functioning and organizational strategies

FOCUS AREA #3: SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS

Leveraging Opportunities to Support the Transition: Parents/Guardians

- Replicating “Parent University” for 6th grade parents/guardians
- Focus areas
 - Plus Portals and Google Classroom
 - Executive functioning and organization
 - Subject-specific information
 - Understanding MCAS performance
- Rethinking Open House

FOCUS AREA #4: ELA CURRICULUM REVIEW

Overview of the Curriculum Review Process

- Partnership with Dr. Nonie Lesaux
- Interdisciplinary team, grade 4-8
- September to December
 - Data analysis - MCAS & Lexia
 - Analysis of existing curriculum
 - Classroom observations and data collection

FOCUS AREA #4: ELA CURRICULUM REVIEW

Where We Are

Working largely with narrative text and limited amount of text, overall

Writing class and ELA instruction largely independent of one another

Strong ability to connect discussion to themes of diversity

Majority of tasks have students stating facts, engaging in recall, summarizing information; making connections to other facts and concepts

Engagement and other key features of the learning environment show room for growth and increases

Where We Need to Go

Units of study with varied text sets to analyze topics from multiple angles and with multiple genres and modalities, capitalizing on connecting discussion to themes of diversity

Strong connections across reading and academic language work—written and oral

Higher cognitive press – putting new ideas and information together, etc.

Students engage in collaborative, conceptual cycles of learning; higher levels of engagement, time on task, and processes, routines for active learning

Vertical alignment through protocols and routines, and practices

FOCUS AREA #4: ELA CURRICULUM REVIEW

Curriculum Selection

My Perspectives

Amplify

Wit & Wisdom

Expeditionary Learning

FOCUS AREA #4: ELA CURRICULUM REVIEW

Implementation Timeline

- Curriculum selection: Spring 2020
- Onboarding for ELA teachers: Spring 2020 & Summer 2020
- Implementation: Fall 2020
- Ongoing professional development for ELA teachers

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE SIP GOALS

Future School Improvement Plan Goals:

- Negotiating enrollments
- Professional development strategy around 1:1 computing
- Review & evaluation of new master schedule
- Implementation and refinement of transition strategies
- ELA curriculum implementation
- Diversity committee goals (e.g., closing participation gap)