



Pierce Middle
School Site
Council
Presentation

School Committee Meeting
January 29, 2014

Introductions

- **Dr. Spaulding**, *Principal/School Representative*
- **Mr. Moonan**, *Teacher/School Representative*
- **Mr. Stoodt**, *Teacher/School Representative*
- **Mrs. Pullia**, *Teacher/School Representative*
- **Mr. Check**, *Parent Representative*
- **Mrs. Flanagan**, *Parent Representative*
- **Mrs. Najarian**, *Parent Representative*
- **Mrs. Viola**, *Parent Representative*
- **Mrs. Murphy**, *Community Representative*

Agenda

- Starting at the End- *Schooling by Design*
- Review of Pierce Middle School 2013 data observations (see November 6, 2014 MPS School Committee Presentation for detailed handling of data)
- Pierce Middle School Improvement Plan





Schooling by Design: *Mission, Action, and Achievement*

(Wiggins & McTighe, 2007)

- *It's incredibly easy to get caught up in the activity trap, in the busy-ness of life...It is possible to be busy, very busy, without being effective...How different our lives are when we really know what is deeply important to us, and, keeping that picture in mind, we manage ourselves each day to be and to do what really matters most. If the ladder is not leaning against the right wall, every step we take just gets us to the wrong place faster. We may be busy, we may be very efficient, but we will also be truly effective only when we begin with the end in mind.*

(Covey, 1989, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, p. 98)

The key to lasting change: *intrinsic incentives*

- A powerful vision in relation to mission-worthy, rich, valued, specific images of our aim
- Credible, timely, and useful information about how we are doing against our goals-constant feedback
- Owning the gap- acting on the (inevitable) discrepancy between vision and reality

(Wiggins & McTighe, 2007)

The purpose of the Pierce Middle School is to develop in students the creativity, independent thought, problem solving skills, resiliency, appreciation for diversity, and collaborative nature necessary to be positive contributors to society. We are committed to fostering a genuine sense of curiosity and joy in learning that will persist well beyond their middle school years and strength of character and integrity that will guide them to make positive and healthy decisions for themselves and for others.



If This Is Our Mission....What Logically Follows For:

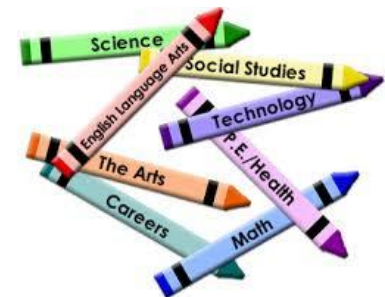
- Curriculum and assessment
- Instructional programs and practices
- Personnel, hiring, and professional development
- Policies, structures, governance, and resource allocation



Ten Curriculum Components

(Wiggins & McTighe, 2007)

- Mission-Related Accomplishments and Curriculum Philosophy
- Understandings and Essential Questions derived from Mission and Content Standards
- K-12 Curriculum Mapping
- Cornerstone Assessments and Collections of Evidence
- Analytic and Longitudinal Rubrics
- Anchors
- Suggested Learning Activities, Teaching Strategies, and Resources
- Diagnostic and Formative Assessments
- Suggestions for Differentiation
- Troubling Shooting Guide



Pierce Middle School

MCAS 2013 Data Observations Review

- 85% of ALL students were Proficient or Advanced in *ELA*.
- The median SGP was 62 for the aggregate and for the low income and African American/Black subgroups in 8th Grade *Math*.
- In *ELA* the 6th Grade performed better than 86% of 6th Grades in Massachusetts.
- In *Math* 6th Grade performed better than 89% of 6th Grades in Massachusetts.
- In *Math* 8th Grade performed better than 78% of 8th Grades in Massachusetts.

Pierce Middle School

MCAS 2013 Data Observations Review (cont'd.)

- Achievement in *English Language Arts (ELA)* and *Math* in grades 6-8 is consistently above the state, yet remains “flat” for the last three years.
- Achievement in *Science and Technology/Engineering (STE)* remains below performance levels of *ELA* and *Math*.
- Median Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) are in the “typical” range for all grades in *ELA* and for grades 6 & 7 in *Math*, yet above the middle in grade 8 *Math*.
- Cohort data reveal improvement from Grades 6 to 7 in *ELA* and a “dip and recovery” in Grades 6, 7, 8 for *Math*.



“All good-to-great organizations began the process of finding the path to greatness by confronting the brutal facts of their current reality” (Collins, 2001, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...And Others Don't*).

Pierce Middle School MCAS 2013 Data Observations Review (cont'd.)



- There exists an achievement gap for the low income, African American/Black, and students with disabilities subgroups.
- Both the subgroup and counterpart have gained over time in *ELA & Math* (low income), *Math* (African American/Black), and *ELA & Math* (students with disabilities).
- The achievement gap for low income and students with disabilities has narrowed slightly for *ELA*; the gap has not narrowed for any subgroup in *Math*; gap “lacks a pattern” in *STE*.
- The achievement gap is greater for *Math* than for *ELA* for all subgroups and gap is greater for students with disabilities subgroup.

High Academic Achievement for All Students



- Schooling by Design as a Structure for School Improvement
- Implementation of, and professional development in, new science curriculum units
- MA DESE Professional Practice Innovation Grant - \$29,040
 - Align curriculum with the Common Core/MA Frameworks
 - Develop assessments
 - Support the implementation of the new Educators' Evaluation Tool and development of District Determined Measures (DDMs)
 - Pilot MA DESE Model Curriculum Units
- Provide varied targeted support and assess the impact
 - Reading Support; Math Investigations; Pierce Academy; Math Lab; MCAS After School Support; The Calculus Project
- Provide varied opportunities for student recognition
 - Student of the Month; Spelling Bee; Geography Bee; Future Problem Solving; Team Sports; Music Competitions; Art Competitions; Math Olympiad



Excellence in the Classroom

- Teacher leader Schooling by Design Professional Book Group
- Teacher leader grant planning and facilitation group
- Dedicated curriculum meeting time to supporting all students, particularly those with special needs
- Technology integration - MFE funded Chromebooks and IPADs; Planbook.edu



Collaborative Relationships and Communication

- Family Communication
 - Pierce Pages Newsletter
 - Edmodo pilot
- Community Partnerships
 - Curry College Eye to Eye Program
 - Title II B Grant Proposal
 - Video Production in Partnership with Milton Local Cable Access
- Expand Opportunities for Parent/Guardian Involvement
 - Parent/guardian communication embedded in Pierce Academy structure
 - BOKS- Build Our Kids Success \$1,000 Activation Grant- Parent/Guardian Volunteers
 - Development of common curriculum documents/outreach materials for families
 - Khan Academy Pilot



Respect for Human Differences

- Revise anti-bullying curriculum and begin shift toward integrating lessons into existing curriculum
- Provide professional development for teachers in curriculum and online incident tracking software
- Expanded opportunities for family engagement through Diversity Committee
- Themed school wide initiatives- i.e. Courage of Character Display



Risk Taking and Innovation for Education

- Expanded ISSTEM offering (Intensive Studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) from **1** course to **3** courses (Advanced Explorations in Light, Pre-AP Math, and Advanced Computer Programming)
- Blended learning pilot in Grade 8 Math
 - Use of MFE funded Chromebooks
 - Modified Flipped Classroom
 - Targeted support/enrichment based on data
- MA DESE Professional Practice Innovation Grant
 - Publish best practices
 - Present tools, protocols, and lessons learned



Student Mentoring

- Integral component of Pierce Academy Extended Day experience
- Eye to Eye Program
- Student leadership opportunities



Living Our Mission

- Pierce Players- *The Secret Garden (Bravo!)*
- Pierce Athletics; PASS Classes; After School Clubs
- Chorus Concerts- **March 4 and 5 7:00 PM**
- Pierce Middle School Science Fair
 - **March 27, 2014 6:30 PM**
- Pierce Global Celebration
 - **May 1, 2014 6:00 PM**
- Pierce Caring Initiatives-
 - Jeans for Teens, Toys for Needy Children, Families Helping Families Faculty/Student Flag Football Fundraiser; Food Drive for Milton Food Pantry; Supporting our Sister School in West Africa; Typhoon Haiyan Fundraiser

