Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy (LSA)

2/5/2013 Governing Board Meeting notes

Attendees: Linda Bell, Richard Bransfield, Diana Buonopane, Nicholas Catoggio, Kathleen Cutting, Laura Degelmann, David Deruosi, Deborah Gesualdo, Rachana Gray, Leba Heigham, Jocelyn Ken, Melissa Lightbody, Linda Patrie, Ann Schiro, Franklin Shearer, Susan Terban, Lenny Young

* Debrief of “A Day of Learning” with Malden District Capacity Project
  + A quick summary was given of the day of learning.
  + Nicholas Catoggio spoke about the need to refine and clarify the Vision and Mission for LSA
  + David Derousi said we need to continue to work the Malden District Capacity Team going forward
  + Everyone agreed that Student Achievement through innovation needs to be our top priority. Any changes we make need to be lasting ones. Unlike the changes of the past that ended when either the funding or the leader of the change left.
* Reflection of Core Values
  + David Derousi said he would get Mr. Mel to come to a future meeting to help us come up with our Core Values.
  + Several Board members strongly felt that we could not move forward until we defined our Core Values.
  + We agreed to hold a longer meeting so that we could work through the defining them.
  + The meeting will be on February 25th from 6-8pm
* Communication/Web Site
  + Rachana Gray met with Denise Perry and discovered that the school website in its current state is extremely limited in how it can be used. It set using a predefined template that does allow for much change.
  + She also asked Denise Perry if a school email address could be given to the board. After speaking with Richard Bransfield, it was determined that we could not use the Malden Public school extension because blanket emails are sent out to the staff based on the extension.
  + She explained that an email address is needed for many things. It is a requirement for creating most on-line presences such as Facebook, Custom Websites etc. Plus people need a method of contacting the board that does not use the boards’ personal information.
  + She created [LSA-GB@Live.com](mailto:LSA-GB@Live.com) to be used by the Board. She will pass on the log on information to the next elected Secretary so that it can continue to be used.
  + After speaking with Denise Perry, Rachana Gray discovered that the LSA is creating a new school website using Weebly. Denise suggested that we use the same tool to create ours and then it could be easily linked into the new or old website.Rachana Gray created a shell website <http://www.lsa-gb.weebly.com/>  
    for the board to look at and get ideas. It will not be made public until the board agrees on it.
  + It was decided to hold off on the website and deciding on the use of the email address until after the Board decided on its Core Values.
* Time Considerations
  + It was generally agreed that given our short meeting times, we need to have clear times allocated for comments and public speaking.
* Uniform Update/Survey
  + Laura Degelmann said she spoke to some stores and discovered that they sell out of uniforms very quickly. It is her understanding that we would need to make a decision by April or it will be too difficult for parents to purchase the uniforms.
  + Melissa Lightbody said she posted the prices she found for uniforms on Edmodo.
  + It was decided to table the uniform discussions until after the Core Values were decided upon.
* Miscellaneous items
  + Kathleen Cutting brought up the use of a progress board. Where we could post all the items that we want to work on and then could assign them to either people or committees.
    - Most members thought this was a good idea.
    - Linda Patrie wanted us to consider Citizenship and if we could incorporate that into our plan for the school.
    - It was decided that we couldn’t put items on the board until we knew that our Core values are and if the items fall in line with those.
    - Richard Bransfield passed out a chart that listed out what the decision making process is for the LSA. He reminded us that the innovation plan was already written and that the Governing Board’s job is to ensure that the plan is being carried out.
      * Some members were confused. If the process was already mapped out, why do we need our Core values to decide what to do. We should just look at the chart to decide if it is in our jurisdiction or not.
      * David Derousi said that the chart could be changed based on what we decide our Core values are.
      * Some members were concerned that the plan was copied from another schools plan and really needs to be updated to reflect the LSA’s needs.
      * Again it was brought up that we need to table this discussion until after our Core values were determined.
* Action items:
  + Richard Bransfield will resend out the school’s innovation plan
  + We will all come to the February 25th meeting with what we think the Core values should be.