**Linden STEAM Academy**

Governing Board Meeting

November 13, 2013 5:30 PM Linden Library

**Attendees:** Linda Bell, Richard Bransfield, Nicholas Catoggio, Laura Degelmann, David DeRuosi, John Froio, Rachana Gray, Jocelyn Ken, Alisha King, Melissa Lightbody, Ann Schiro, Susan Terban, Franklin Shearer, Leonard Young

**Agenda**

I Connections/Public Comment

* Leonard Young – related an article on leadership that he read. It stated leaders view problems thru the lens of opportunity.
* Sarah Boswell– a parent of three kindergarteners spoke about the relationship between recess and discipline. The only free time for discipline is during recess. When being disciplined, the kids write apologies to their friends of sit off to the side in a form of time out. Boys need to run. Five and Six year olds need recess. In eight hours (with the after school program) they only get 15 minutes of free play. She said that logical consequences at the time of the misbehavior is better than losing recess at a later time. If the behavior is at recess then taking away recess is appropriate. Children in the afterschool program don’t have free time until 4:15pm. She is speaking with Eric to see if the free time can be rescheduled to be earlier in the day.
* Sarah Boswell– Also mentioned that she has a friend who sits on the board at Boston scientific. She can ask about any applications we submitted and find out what we can do to improve our chances of getting them accepted. Franklin Shearer suggested that this is something more for Richard Bransfield to work with rather than the governing board.

**II** Acceptance of Minutes 10/17/13

* Linda Patrie accepted and Ann Schiro seconded. It passes.

III Cairn Hill Presentation from Cheryl Dressler

* They are named after a place in the Malden Fells.
* They have worked with K-2 grade ESL students
* They use stories and puppet plays to teach vocabulary along with music and poetry. They connected it with art activities.
* They are refining the program in another district where they are adjusting the program to include movement and play for kids afterschool.
* A typical day includes 1-1 homework support, indoor and outdoor free play, enhanced the playground time with items they bring such as: jump ropes, ball etc.
* Indoors play stations include things such as clay modeling and tactile activities.
* They are discussing the possibility for the spring session.
* A question was asked if they had the same 18 children for the whole year in their program. The answer was yes for the most part.
* A question was asked about their ability to handle special ed. Kids. They have experience and do not restrict to ELL or SPED. Anyone who has an IEP and needs an aid, will still need that aid for the program.
* They have some funding available as well.

**IV** Principal’s Report

* BSRI was in the building, last week and they brought people from Kip Academy ( a charter school) they also brought some generous donors. Two people said we were the best public school they have seen. They see schools across the country. The hard work the staff does gets noticed. Carol Donavan from Cummings Park donated 100K to be used in the Malden district. A lot of it was because of what they saw in this building.
* An ANET data handout was passed out. It compares us to the schools in the ANET district. ELA has 35 districts. Math has 5 districts. (Revere, Chelsea Everett, Winthrop and Malden)
* We need to develop out PD based on where we are.
* Tests are based on the PARC exam. They assess the grade 6-8 kids 4 times a year. BSRI tests k-5 for literacy only… soon to add math since there is demand.
* They offer coaching and instructional information on how to get the kids to hit the target. We go back to earlier grades to see why kids are struggling.
* Richard Bransfield talked with them about the lower grades. They want to do both math and ELA but we don’t want to lose BSRI since they bring grant money. We want to see if BSRI will do the math. Then we can split them between the grades. BSRI sent us a math guru. She did PD with the staff. Ms. Coye said she was wonderful.
* David DeRuosi brought BSRI and ANEt to Forestdale. He believes in outside help. He is committed to keeping them. We need partners so we can learn. He wants plans so that If the partners leave, we still have an expert in the building to take over.
* Gillett stadium - Richard Bransfield and David DeRousi attended the state wide STEM summit. Science for scientist and iRobot (oil spills and bomb retrieval) were also there.
  + iRobot wants to come and talk to the kids about engineering and technology. David DeRousi wants to get them to come afterschool, so we can extend the school day and student engagement.
  + Tech net group – A group of technology companies that want to invest in education. David DeRousi wants to know what they can do other than write checks. When he talks with businesses they all want to work with Boston or Cambridge since they are closer to their offices, but they like that we have a parking lot!
  + 70% of our population is from a low socioecomonic background. But literacy is our focus. Wellesley and Arlington don’t have issues with economic mobility. He feels Google and Microsoft should come to Malden. We have more kids who know more languages which is ultimately what they need in their future employees. We need to get them to fund our mobile technology. They are currently funding the METCO programs. Instead of their money supporting a handful of kids, their money could support an entire district. Our job is to convince them $1 million spent in Malden will do more good than if it is spent in Wellesley or Boston. These companies feel like they know how to fix us and want to tell us what to do. We don’t need that, we need help in doing what we know we need to do.
  + Sarah Boswell said that academics live in their own little bubble so they don’t get it. They might listen if we could get more than 10 parents to come along and argue the case.
* Richard Bransfield is trying to get PCSM to look at what we are doing in this building and help us with improving our enrichment ideas.
* David DeRousi met with Salem State. He is trying to get a satellite campus here. They are interested in coming to see us to get 7-8 graders interested in college.
* Starbase is back. We sent letters with other districts and Sen. Clark helped make sure they got funded.

**V** Old Business

* Know Atom visit
  + SusanTerban and 5 other teachers saw a 4th grade class, they met with teachers afterwards. They watched a 1.5 hour lesson. They split into 2 groups.
  + Laura Degelmann saw a lot of good stuff but also some red flags.
    - The vocab was extremely rich.
    - They did experiments on sediments with test tubes etc.
    - The kids were engaged.
    - They learned scientific method and were recording each step
    - They were given all the materials. They send teachers a box every month so no storage of a year’s worth of materials. The units are just 2 weeks long and just 2 lessons.
    - This worries her. She wants to go deeper into topics. The kids can’t master anything. The teachers were supplementing the curriculum, since the kids didn’t get the bigger concepts about why they are doing what they are doing . No accommodations for kids with sped.
  + Linda bell
    - liked the student engagement.
    - There were stations set up. The kids knew what they had to do, They were self-sufficient. Each kids had their own test tube. They had digital scales. Her room had a sped teacher helping.
  + Susan Terban felt this might not be for us. Doesn’t go deep enough. They have to pre-teach before the lesson. They had nothing before so this is better than what they have. On paper it takes 1 hour. She said it took 2.5 hour. She called reading the passage as part of the literacy block.
  + Richard Bransfield said he talked to people in other districts…no rave reviews. Very expensive. Swampscott wanted to sell us their kits. The achievement is good, although they had nothing to compare from since they had no science before.
  + Carolina biologicals. – Linda Patrie liked them. We need funding to provide kits for each classroom. 2 kits per grade isn’t enough. She was concerned that we latch on to things because there are people who want to pay for it. It must make sense for us regardless of whether we have the funding or not.
  + Science Common core standards will be ready in a year or two.
* District Capacity Project Update
  + What is our core theory of success? Improve communication and respect. And bring it back to our schools. To keep the process going.
  + Working on defining a vision etc.
  + Build a culture of dialog in the school system with the end in sight of improving the academic achievement of students
  + Nichola Catoggio feels we can use some of the techniques with this board.
  + David DeRousi feels as a district - we don’t talk to each other. Each school and administrator doesn’t have time to speak with each other to learn from each other.
  + We need to learn to not come to a meeting with an answer or quick fix. A culture of dialog lets us come up with innovative solutions.
  + There was a 6 hour meeting for collective bargaining. This will help the district outpace other districts because we will all work for a common goal. There are 25 people in the group.
  + Richard Bransfield and School Directors (for each subject) need to meet. Otherwise the directors will tell the teachers what to do and linden can’t move independently because the teachers will be stuck trying to figure out who to listen to.
  + A Culture of Dialog is more than talking nicely to each other. 5 years from now it will be routed in this district.
  + Nicholas Catoggio is hopeful it will extend to city councilor and mayor’s office

**VI** New Business

Next steps for Proposals

* Franklin Shearer felt we should come up with a Time line for a science curriculum.
  + Richard Bransfield will be meeting with stem director. He will bring it up
  + Linda Patrie state that we don’t know what the common core standards are yet so how can we pick a curriculum?
  + Frankin Shearer suggested we should concentrate on math this year
  + Everyone felt we should get stuff done but not the wrong stuff
  + Richard Bransfield said we need to meet vertically. So science is taught progressively not repeated. He is meeting with the director on Monday.
* David DeRousi said there are 3 companies who have come up with a math curriculum, all 3 publishers will be in the district. We want to see if they are really aligned with the common core and PARC exams.
  + He want the teachers to decide. Instead of the admin deciding.
* A question was asked if the LSA had to use the same curriculum and books as the rest of the district.
  + David DeRousi will present his findings to the LAS and if Richard Bransfield says yes then we buy in for everyone if not then Richard Bransfield and David Derousi will talk.

**VII** Board Members’ Comments

* Melissa Lightbody asked if there were any updates on ipads. David DeRousi has serious concerns about the ipad movement. We don’t have the infrastructure to support it yet. Not all locations in all schools have wireless access.
* The Director of tech is retiring in December
* He needs an IT manager.
* If we do get them, ee would start with the younger kids, since they would learn to use them the fasters and would be using them the longest.
* Laura Degelmann said the teachers need PD to teach with them. She was unsure how to use them effectively in her curriculum.
* Franklin Shearer said it is not about the device as much as it should be about the integration of the device as a learning tool.
* Revere has them in 9th grade then went to the whole building. Their teachers aren’t using them as instructional tools because they don’t know how.

**VIII** Adjournment

* Next meeting will be decided via email, since we are out of time.