**Linden STEAM Academy**

Governing Board Meeting

March 13, 2014 5:45 PM Linden Library

**Agenda**

**I Connections/Public Comment**

No public comment

**II Acceptance of Minutes 1/09/14**

Kathy Cutting requested a review of the minutes

No concerns raised

Motion by Linda to accept minutes from January, Second by Nick, Accepted by vote of the full board.

**III Principal’s Report**

* STEAM Update
  + Working with Dana Brown at Malden High School (MHS); together, have been in discussion with Tufts University to continue and expand our partnership with Tufts, allowing students from their Graduate School for Education STEM teaching program to work at the Linden (LSA)
    - LSA and MHS teachers participate in PD
    - STEM learning in elementary grades
    - Tufts has grant funds, has sought out Malden as a partner district – funding likely to begin SY15-16, more details to follow.
  + New STEM teacher at LSA, previous background in science and engineering
  + STEM training coming up at WPI this summer
  + STEM training/PD at Museum of Science this summer as well
* **Innovation Plan & Governing Board authority/role**
* Rich and Susan had conversation with Dan French, Center for Collaborative Education
* Rich seeks to have the teachers play a more active role in governing and leading the school.
* The Governing Board acts as the school committee for the school, with significant authority over the governance decisions of the school.
* The Mission Statement and Vision Statement are important for all staff to understand
* Review of District Policies and Procedures, Section E. of the Innovation Plan states:

“The new council [Governing Board] will set school policy as agreed to by the Superintendent and Malden School Committee through the approval of the innovative school proposal. “

* Project-Based Learning is a required part of the plan
* Art is also part of the plan
* The Governing Board should be keeping track of how the school is keeping its commitment to these parts of the plan
* Linda – Teachers are concerned with the quality of the curriculum
* Laura – Teachers are talking about how to deviate from the curriculum
* Math Curriculum is a good example of where we have autonomy but have been going along with the MPS agreement to be in the Five District Partnership. Should we remain part of the Five District Partnership? We have the autonomy to choose our own course and curriculum for Math.
* Franklin – questions about Math curriculum came up in the fall, we could have had decided then not to do the 5 District Partnership; the board needs to exercise greater authority, take votes and decide on new policies.
* Rich – we are struggling to understand how to utilize autonomy
* Presentation by Judy (teacher not on the board, need last name) – PBL ambassadors team is working to help teachers understand whether their project meet the standards of 21st Century learning; school is doing a lot of great project-based units and increasingly teachers are being creative and designing their own units.
  + Overview of some of the projects underway in the school
* Review of Proposal for Lobby design changes
* Murals are popping up around the school, more will be done inside and outside the school in the coming months
* Budget issues will likely be discussed at the next meeting
* Rich may suggest Foreign languages be cut
* Common Planning time and use of time throughout the day is another critical issue that the Governing Board should be addressing

**IV** Old Business

* Progress of Kindergarten Certification: Not discussed; push to April agenda
* Progress of Sub-committee on PCSM: Sub-committee did not meet
* Progress of Sub-committee on Scheduling Options: Sub-committee met but did not have any clear next steps or recommendations. Committee members – Susan Terban, Alisha King, and Franklin Shearer – met with Rich Bransfield. Due to uncertainty about schedule changes for SY14-15 and pending discussion with the MEA, any ideas or plans pertaining to the school-day schedule are on hold.

**V New Business**

* DCP/Day of Learning debrief: Nick C. shared the recent DCP gathering was positive and progress continues, no details at this time.
* 501 c3 Application: Rich Bransfield said the application for 501c3 designation is complete and ready to submit. He will be submitting to the IRS in the coming days.
* Nominations and Voting Process for new board members (parent reps)
  + Letter drafted by Rachana and edited by Franklin revised and approved by vote of the board.
  + Kathy to make small adjustments and work with staff to get out to parents next week, by 3/21.
  + Parents will be asked to return by 4/15.
  + Vote to take place on June 5th at student exhibition night, and June 6th between 7:30am -8:30am and 2:30pm - 3:30pm.
  + Teachers will meet in the coming days to coordinate the election for teachers/staff.

**VI** Next meeting date/April 10th at 5:45 PM

**VII** Board Members’ Comments - None

Adjournment