

Henderson Inclusion School  
Governance Board Meeting  
May 24, 2023

The Meeting was called to order by Eva Clarke at 6:12 PM

**Attendance:**

Administrators: Stephanie Sibley (Head of School), Sheneal Parker (DOI Lower Campus)

Parents: Jess Butler (K0-1st), Michelle Carmell (6-8), Courtney Feely Karp (2-5), Danielle Tierney (6-8)

Community Partners: Nicole Daley, Eva Clarke

Teachers: Brett Nadan-Buresh (9-12), Mary O'Brien (2-5), Elisha McField (6-8), Kathleen Powers (K0-1 alternate), Allison Mulkerins (K0-1)

Students: Jordan Nguyen (12), Bamari Davis (11)

Guest Presenters: Maryfran McAuliff (Lead Administrator - Inclusion Planning Team) and Alexis Sacco (Member - Inclusion Planning Team)

Absent: *Vilma Silva (community member)*

**Welcome & Introductions**

Eva Clarke (new co-chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting each person to introduce themselves, their role, and favorite Tina Turner song. Governance Board members and guest presenters introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes from last meeting**

Principal Sibley motioned to approve and Mary O. seconded.

All Governance Board members approved except Jess Butler who abstained. No members opposed.

**SPC Report**

Michelle C. gave the report for the School Parent Council.

- The council officially elected 3 new members to the board - Danielle Tierney, Courtney Feeley Karp, and Jess Butler.
- SPC has been having discussions around bullying. There is a goal to work with the school to have a posted policy around bullying in the school.
- Fundraising updates:
  - pizza kits have been a success and will be doing that in the future
  - Chill on Park fundraiser 5/26

- Cookie fundraiser in the future
- SPC recently learned that 1% of title 1 funds should be used for family engagement. They have questions about when to use the Title 1 funds or Parent Council funds for events.
- They want to revive the “Class Parent” program that fell apart after Covid closure.
- They have also scheduled playdates in the park for (K0-K2, 1-3, and 4-6).

## **Student Report**

Jordan N. gave updates on senior events. Bamari D. gave updates on the sports program. Girls’ softball remains undefeated and will be going to the city championship.

## **Community Partner Report**

Eva C. gave an update on the school book club and teacher appreciation week.

## **Inclusion Planning Team ([slides 2-4](#))**

MaryFran M. and Alexis S. gave a report from the Inclusion Planning Team. The inclusion Planning team is part of a district initiative and the Henderson School is doing a HS rollout this year. The goal is to work with administration and the school community to create and support robust inclusive programming. See slides for further details.

The district coach that is supporting the Henderson School is Latrice Beasley. Recently the team added two high school parents. There is currently no student representative, but this could be added. There is a goal to connect this group with the Innovation Planning Team in the near future.

Phase 1 of the work is gathering data and making recommendations. Phase 2 would happen in early to mid- Fall in which recommendations will be made to the Governance Board in time for that body to make decisions around budgeting for the following year. Phase 3 involves our instructional leadership team (ILT).

Some questions asked by the governing board around the team:

- *What about non-high school data and recommendations?* The team is only a high school group but our school is K-12. There will be follow-up with the district coach.
- *Is BPS money available for recommendations that the IPT makes?* The team is under the impression that, yes, it is since this is a district initiative.
- *What is MTSS?* “Multi-tiered systems of support” that give targeted assessment to determine need and targeted interventions. These interventions are open to all students, not just students with IEPs. MTSS also involves progress monitoring.

## **Head of School Report ([slides 6-18](#))**

### *Lower Campus Report - Sheneal P.*

The 3-year NAEYC process has been completed and the Lower Campus got their accreditation for early childhood education! There have been a number of events and upcoming celebrations at the school (Scholastic book fair, fitness day, field day 6/14, end of year awards 6/16). Currently working with Boston to do after school at the Lower Campus. Once the school gets a license for after school work with 3-4 year old students, the campus can begin after school. The goal is to bring it to the Upper Campus for next year. There is a job posting for the after school director starting in September.

Recently, the Lower Campus was approached to open another room for K0/K1 students. Administration and BPS is doing an audit to see if that would be possible. There are some issues with the 5 inclusion seats being difficult to keep to because students may be identified midway through the year as having more significant needs than previously thought, changing the student ratios. There are many compensatory students in the district that need a place to go. There was some concern about having a K0/K1 room when all others are either K0 or K1. Since this is a very new opportunity, Sheneal doesn't have many answers yet. Allison M. previously taught in a K0/K1 room at a different school and offered her opinion that it's pretty easy to have both ages in one room.

### *Program of Studies - Brett N. and Principal Sibley*

Brett N. updated the board on the state of the Program of Studies. It is still in draft form pending approval from administration. The administration wants the Governance Board to make a decision about promotion requirements that would be in addition to the BPS high school promotion requirements. The language of the promotion requirements is found in [slide 9. BPS promotion requirements](#) essentially say that all retention decisions are left to the Principal at the HS level and retained high school students will not retake a course they have already passed.

Members of the Governance Board were uncomfortable with adding additional promotion requirements during this meeting, especially for next year's graduating class (2024). The consensus was they are OK with 2025 and beyond to be approved the following meeting as long as the following are addressed:

- 1) Amend the POS to include only 2025 and 2026+ promotion requirements
- 2) What is the number of students who would be impacted by the new requirements?
- 3) What is the current 4-year and 5-year graduation rate at the school?
- 4) What do teachers think about the new promotion requirements?

Because the group was not at a point of consensus yet, we will table the decision until the next Governance Board meeting.

Note: there was a request for the approved Program of Studies to be translated upon publication. There was a suggestion that UMass Boston could be a place for dual enrollment in the future.

### Head of Schools Report - Principal Sibley

Principal Sibley gave brief updates for the Upper and Lower Campus due to time constraints. We are partnering with OnTheSamePage Boston and Catie's Closet. Multicultural night will take place 5:30-7:30 on June 1.

To address the role of Governance Board (slides 13-16), she recommended the next steps:

1. Have a Governance Board orientation and development session prior to the first governing board meeting of 2023-2024 school year.
2. Align our by-laws with SSC manuals
3. Convene an extra Governance Board meeting on June 14, 2023 to discuss these things

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

We populated the Ad Hoc committees. The leads will coordinate a meeting with the team before the June 14th meeting. Teams can include participants that are not on the governance board.

### School-Based Rules Committee

- Elisha McField (lead)
- Bamari Davis
- Danielle Tierney
- Michelle Carmell
- Sheneal Parker
- Kathleen Powers
- Allison Mulkerrins

### Fundraising and Partnerships Committee

- Mary O'Brien (lead)
- Nicole Daley
- Eva Clarke
- Jess Butler

### Strategic Plan for Strengthening and Stabilizing Enrollment

- Stephanie Sibley (lead)
- Sheneal Parker

### **Action Items for Next Meeting**

- Changes to bylaws
  - Innovation planning team
  - Program of Studies and report on data requested this meeting (final draft of pieces needed to be approved by Governance Board)
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- Passenger Van vendor (may be talked about off line)