

ELT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 28, 2007

ATTENDING: Hal Martin, Kathy McSweeney, Todd Gazda, David Hopson, Ginny Maxwell, Jeanene Iglesias, Janice Doppler

MEETING NOTES:

- 1) Dave explained how the survey results were compiled. We are still getting responses; as of a week ago we were at 28% return and have 60 or so surveys since then. Roughly speaking 62% in favor of continuing to move forward.

Major points from most recent survey:

- Parents want less of an emphasis on MCAS;
 - Parents only want the expanded day as long as the state provides the additional funding, but do not want the added costs put onto property taxes;
 - Longest comments came from those who were adamantly opposed to ELT;
 - Highest percentage in favor at Elementary, followed by Middle followed by High School;
 - Each level ranked priorities differently;
- 2) Dave shared the draft of our Implementation Plan, due Friday to DOE. There will still be work to do after the plan goes in. Committees will still need to meet and work with DOE on refining the plan for final approval if we ultimately move forward.
 - We will be spending the bulk of money on salaries to cover the extra time; and have budgeted for 60% of teachers, 100% of paras to participate.
 - We would add 6 student days to the calendar, requiring \$35k additional for bussing but allows students to get home a bit earlier;
 - We are left with about \$190k to look at partner stipends, distance learning, dual enrollment, and other costs;
 - 3) Team members feel that it has been helpful to have so much publicity—not only Gateway-based but other Massachusetts schools. People are growing more accustomed to the idea over time and are gradually becoming more positive.
 - 4) Information to be gathered before next meeting: continue to refine the schedules; straw poll the teachers to see how many would be interested;

Next meeting date: Wednesday, October 3 at 7 p.m.