

Virtual Special Education & Student Supports Sub-Committee
Monday, March 7, 2022
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of reviewing policies under the Office of Student Services. This meeting is expected to end by or before 7:30 pm.

Sub-Committee Members Present: Member Wilson, Chair; Member Weinstein; Member Rojas

Others Present: Vice Chair Rachel, Dr. Barbara Mullen

Chair Wilson started the meeting at 6:03 pm and read the call of the meeting. Chair Wilson opened the meeting for public comment.

- Karen Dobak, shared her perspective on how parents in the district feel there is an overall lack of transparency
- Mercedes Soto, discussed the difficulties for parents in regards to finding out-of-district programs
- Lisa Downing, advocated for more transition planning for students to better help students post-high school

Chair Wilson ended public comment. Chair Wilson turned the meeting over to Dr. Barbara Mullen for a presentation.

Dr. Barbara Mullen provided an update on the recent work the OSS Office has been involved in which include: looking at the current data, and gathering feedback from the community meetings to inform budget choices. Dr. Mullen then presented: [Office of Student Services Policy Update](#).

Member Wilson discussed how many of the policies need to be updated especially around programming with students with disabilities and the importance of coming to a consensus around a starting point.

Dr. Mullen shared the current policy on [programs for students with disabilities](#). She advocated for making policies flexible and not overly perspective.

Discussion then turned to the ["Policy plan for inclusion of Individuals with Disabilities in Out-of-School Time Programs."](#)

Chair Wilson turned the meeting over to other Sub-Committee members for questions/comments.

Member Weinstein asked Dr. Mullen to clarify which policy update/changes she wants prioritized.

- Dr. Mullen advocated for changes to "Advanced learning gifted and talented" policy and the multi-tier systems of support policy.

Member Rojas discussed how many of the policies are templates from MASC and advocated for the Committee to double check if MASC has more updated policies.

The discussion turned into overall recommendations to review policies that are over twenty years old, look at the policies that are missing and what current policies could be expanded.

After the discussion, Chair Wilson opened the meeting again for public comment.

- Maya Gonzalez, spoke to request confirmation that SEPAC be included in these discussions
- Karen Dobak, discussed the gap between the out-of-school time policy and what is currently happening

Dr. Mullen provided clarification on how policies are implemented and the role of the Sub-Committee.

- Member Wilson provided background on the number of motions brought forward by the Committee and the issues with implementation.
- Member Weinstein discussed how budgeting is connected to policy implementation.

Chair Wilson turned the meeting over to the following educators/other public participants for comments:

- Robyn Towner, asked for clarification on what the advanced person does and advocated for changes for the workload formula.
- Mercedes Soto, asked about the relation between policy orders and the strategic goals for the district and how the district is measuring the success of policy orders.
- Liza Gosselin, discussed the importance of inclusion during policy discussions
- Jennifer Schnabel, advocated for curriculum change in regard to how we are teaching things such as reading

Chair Wilson summarized the meeting. She shared that the Special Education & Student Supports Sub-Committee will be convening the first Monday of every month. Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.