

Discussion Items

- a. Governance Model:
 - i. Organizational Chart discussion; review of form
 - ii. Discussion of clarity around the structure of leadership
- b. Discipline Policy:
 - i. New in December, with an addition of input from Dean Myers.
 - ii. Can be found on the Merit website
 - iii. 6 P's and Attending Skills
 - iv. Feedback:
 - 1. Students feel like things have been improving with the new discipline policy and the intervention policies.
 - 2. Teachers like the policies, the concrete system, the 4 levels, and the Google document for documenting classroom behaviors.
- c. WPSD - Charter vs Contract
 - i. Transfer process (estimated 175 page document application and appendices)
 - ii. District has CSI (Charter School Institute) liaison working on the review;
 - iii. Application will go through on Monday with an expedited review; CSI will create a report to share with the district
 - iv. After the application, Merit will need to do a presentation to the WPSD board.
 - v. How autonomous would Merit be under the charter with the district?
 - 1. We would still be our own entity.
 - 2. The district would have oversight for state regulations, but ultimately Merit would be independent, very similar to current contract school situation
 - vi. Question posed: What is the purpose of going through the charter?
 - 1. There is a cost with PERA.
 - 2. However, there are incredibly more opportunities for grant funding as a charter school.
 - 3. Can be eligible for educator waivers (experts without certification, but still being eligible for the position)
 - 4. Funding for Merit
 - 5. Other possible benefits
- d. Next Year: Middle/High School Schedule
 - i. 6 period day + Fridays, more streamlined/simplified
 - ii. 6th-9th next year, 6th-12th eventually
 - iii. Poll 8th graders in March to discuss fall schedule options
 - iv. Schedule for high school based on standards, not specific classes
 - v. Aerospace options
 - vi. Quite a few unique classes that give certifications and advanced options
 - vii. Will still require classical courses, as we are a classical academy
 - viii. High school will be tracked: College, Military or Vocational (construction science; CTE courses; military track; agriculture track; engineering track; Outdoor Ed; CyberSecurity; etc)
 - ix. Monday-Thursday focused academics; Fridays focused on vocational and career education

- x. High standards, but experiential
- xi. Start with a few things and do those extremely well; make sure we have the resources and supports to do what we are offering
- e. High School/Middle School CHSAA (athletics/activities)
 - i. Boys/Girls swim teams
 - ii. Cross Country for the fall
 - iii. Co-op or start your own team
 - iv. Students have requested rugby, so this will start in the spring as a club.
 - v. Ski club - no sponsors, so this fell through; if Fridays are opened up, Lizzie said she would lead this.
 - vi. Possible clubs or potential CHSA - tennis, softball, basketball, golf (need sponsors/coaches)
- f. CAP = flights + high school 4 year flight/pilot program
 - i. Current students are getting ready to fly this spring
- g. BOCES site meeting - January 25th
 - i. 2 students - 1 SOG and 1 SOL (Kaitlyn)
 - ii. 2 parents - Todd and maybe Shelby
- h. Charter Presentation with WPSD Board
 - i. Gwynne will keep us posted with what this will look like.
 - ii. Merit needs as much parent and staff support as possible at the meetings.
- i. Bear Bucks
 - i. Used inappropriately - getting punches for expected behavior, not exceptional behavior
 - ii. This will be addressed, and how we are doing Bear Bucks will be changing in the future/
- j. Students (SOL) needing physical release
 - i. Maybe a 15-minute brain break in the morning or afternoon? Ms. Meyer mentioned the significance of the schedule change and loss of content this would cause.
 - ii. Mr. Myers suggested Miss Lauren coming in to do a 5-minute brain break integrated within the classroom.
 - iii. Students are saying the needed time is between 2nd and 3rd periods.
 - iv. Getting equipment to use outside
- k. Advanced Math
 - i. Concerns about the consistency with the schedule of the course.
 - ii. Students feeling like the course is not challenging enough
 - iii. Students are also concerned that STEM is not meeting their expectations.
- l. Suggestion Box
 - i. Could we set up a suggestion box?
 - ii. Suggestion Google Form on the Merit website
- m. Enrollments
 - i. Wait Lists - The list is weighted. The students with siblings currently in the building have a higher weight. Staff and founders are the only ones who would have a higher weight.

- ii. Are we looking at filling in spots for the students that have left?
 - 1. SPED and Reading Intervention is full, and we cannot ask if they need these supports until after they register.
 - 2. Challenging to open it at semester when the special services are full.
- n. New School of Grammar Schedule
 - i. Proposing to move from two enhancements per day down to one enhancement per day.
 - ii. Fridays would have an increased number of enhancements, with a level of choice built in for the students.
- o. Schedule with School of Logic
 - i. Ms. Meyer is proposing more history courses, since we are a classical academy.