

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Work Session Minutes
April 26, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Recording

Members Present (members all present remotely through Zoom)

Michelle Doucette Cunningham - Chair
Herb Arico- Secretary
Ann Grosjean- Vice-Chair
Tracey Anderson
Donna Cook
Briana Ross
Laura Rodriguez

Also Present

Superintendent of Schools, Phil Stevens; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Erin Conley; CES principal, Lisa Cushing; HMS principal, Mary Kay Tshonas; Pupil Services Director, Marcia McGinley; and members of the public

1. Call to order

Chairman Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Welcome, introductions and meeting process

Chairman Cunningham shared the meeting process that would be utilized and how members of the community and the Board could ask questions.

3. Willington Public Schools Data Outcomes and Action Steps

a. Comprehensive student success data sources

Superintendent Stevens and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Erin Conley, shared information regarding the types of assessments and examples of assessments utilized by the school district.

b. District reference groups

Superintendent Stevens shared information on the District Reference Groups and told the Board he did not complete a comparison to other school districts as part of this data review. He shared that community members can go to edsight.ct.gov to see Willington data and information for other districts.

c. Smarter Balanced Assessment results

Superintendent Stevens shared the cohort analysis for the Smarter Balanced Assessment for grades 3-8. He shared cohort data for math and language arts and noted that Willington and state data show that COVID had a significant impact on SBAC outcomes. Proficiency rates of students revealed that achievement in 2020-21 was substantially lower than in 2018-19, especially in math, and especially for those who learned in hybrid or remote models. The dip in scores was not as significant in reading.

d. Smarter Balanced Assessment Growth Model and Accountability Index

An example was provided for the Connecticut Growth Model along with how the state creates a student growth target. Superintendent Stevens shared the district's accountability index and how the state creates a score for a school and district, noting that a large part of the score is calculated using SBAC scores. A discussion was held on the growth targets identified by the state and how they weigh growth higher than the overall score. The superintendent noted that COVID impacted the state's ability to create each district's accountability score and that the last one was for 18-19.

e. Next Generation Science Standards Assessment results

Superintendent Stevens shared the overall science scores for the 5th and 8th-grade students, noting they do not have cohort data yet. He shared the percentage of students at goal and the content strands by areas of strength and weakness by each grade. Director Conley noted the significant difference in this assessment as students are measured by their knowledge of science processes.

f. i-Ready math assessment results

The i-Ready math cohort data was presented. Superintendent Stevens provided overall information on the i-Ready assessment. The overall scores for each grade level cohort were shared, and then the annual typical and stretch growth was provided. Superintendent Stevens noted that the growth data was good with many students on track to meet their annual growth targets.

g. i-Ready reading assessment results

The i-Ready reading cohort data was presented followed by the growth data. Superintendent Stevens again noted the significant growth and highlighted several grade levels already showing that they've met and exceeded end-of-year growth expectations.

h. Climate survey

A quick recap of the climate survey from the spring of 2021 was shared.

i. Action steps

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the action steps the administration was taking to impact student outcomes. Board of education members and community members asked some final questions.

4. Adjournment

Laura Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ann Grosjean seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

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