



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION



Elementary Standing Committee Meeting January 11, 2023 Minutes

Attendees: Bobbie French, Yolanda Burnett, Wendy Weidenfeller, Stephen Wiltshire, Bill Knittle, Marty Goegheagan, Christen Hutchinson, Beth Witcoff, Melissa Wallace, Brenda Mauro, Jill Flanders (Vickie Ellison), Rob Rouleau, Alice Shull

(unable to attend: Kim Taylor, Larry Wolpe, Timothy Plante, Dave Keim, Liz Garden)

1. Call to Order - 4:05

2. Approval of Minutes ([November 10, 2022](#))

Motion: Bill Knittle Second: Melissa Wallace unanimous

3. Problem of Practice/Support - Bill Knittle shared about the Rainbow Club he has started at his school

[Rainbow Club Flyer](#)

Teachers had asked about starting the Rainbow Club and shared information and examples with Bill

They wanted to raise awareness that there may be underserved and underrepresentative students at their school. They wanted adults and students to understand what LGBTQ+ students may be going through. They came up with books to read together and a lot of them were available to watch on Youtube and then they can explore it at home. They started this in October. Kids enjoy attending.

Only 2 parents raised an objection- what is the purpose- what are you trying to teach them? Bill shared some of the resources they are using and they were satisfied.

Focus around kindness and respect

Bill got the superintendent and school committee onboard before rolling it out

Bobbie shared a recommendation for the book "My Sister" by Selinis Leyva & Marizol Leyva

A great book about the journey of a trans woman of color

Sharing of updates since returning from winter break

Bringing back some of the things we've done pre-covid- after school clubs, Holiday Concerts (lots came to attend) lots of participation at PTO events

Lots of absences / illness

Getting back into a routine. Students have been great.

open/vulnerable conversations at staff meeting

4. EdCamp MA Leads at MSAA Office – Saturday, January 28, 2023 (7:30 am-12:30 pm)

On the official EdCamp website

24 registrations so far

Need to continue sharing out- share with your teachers / staff

5. PreK-8 Spring Conference – Thursday & Friday, March 16-17, 2023 (Devens Common Center)

Brave and Courageous Leadership through an Anti-Racist Lens: Engaging in Critical Conversations that Include All Students

Update:

- 14 registrants
- 12 proposals
- Securing vendors
- Box lunch (Thurs. March 16)
- Ice cream sundaes for Trivia night (Thurs. March 16 - dinner on your own)
- Cash bar
- Hotel accommodations and dinner for Matthew Rodriguez (March 16)
- Buffet Breakfast, Lunch and Coffee (Friday, March 17)
- Split the cost with DESE for Dr. Nicole Brathwaite (anticipating \$3,000)
- Tech support (MSAA staff)

Stephen, Kim and Yolanda will review the proposals to get back to them and draft a schedule

Vickie will send registration info to all non-member principals and superintendents

Committee members will reach out to other principles with a personal invite

6. Upcoming [Professional Development Offerings](#)

7. Other Items:

The Executive Director update has replaced MSAA Matters

Jill Flanders: Grant Opportunity- an email follow up will be sent out
Compassionate School Leadership Academy-

2.8 million dollars over 3 years - through center for education improvement and Yale dept. Of mental health and psychology. Doing an initial feasibility study with 5 schools in MA and MI- Agawam is already onboard. Looking for a team of adults

(principal, AP, school council, parents, staff (SEL)) to review an SEL assessment tool- SKATE. Target is around 5-8 graders-

The Team would take the SKATE assessment, the Yale researchers will compile the data and send back to the team and then schedule a listening session on what you would want to do with the information. You can stay on the next few years or be done after that initial year.

It's directly tied to your SEL needs and can be used with whatever SEL curriculum you're currently using.

There will be an informational session next Wednesday. Your school is paid \$1,000 for the first phase.

Next step, would include some summer PD and the 2023-2024 looking to expand to 80 schools in the state and add other states.

Vickie will email out the information to the team.

Next Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 (4:00-5:00 pm)

Adjourn: 4:50

LEADERSHIP MATTERS



MSAA | 33 Forge Pkwy | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997

