

WAYLAND • PUBLIC • SCHOOLS

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SHORT DESCRIPTIONS OF SUMMIT BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

September 21, 2014

Enhancing the Curriculum

The Wayland Public Schools endeavors to provide a wide offering of courses, programs, and experiences for students. Over the last three years, we have expanded our curriculum to include new opportunities in Foreign Language, Computer Science, and Fine Arts . To that end, we will be meeting to discuss ways to enhance the curriculum district wide through new course offerings and/or adjustments to the current curriculum. People interested in attending this session should come with ideas to improve Wayland’s students’ opportunities and/or experiences with the curriculum.

Exploring Early Childhood Education

In this breakout session, the facilitators will lead a discussion about optimizing early childhood education programs in Wayland (defined as Pre-K through kindergarten), including the consideration of full day kindergarten.

As background, the discussion will begin with why it’s important to focus on optimizing early childhood education programs in Wayland, providing a brief overview of the programs offered in Wayland, a summary of the programs offered in peer communities, and highlights of the latest research in early childhood education.

Then, the group will develop the “optimal” early childhood education program offering for Wayland, by defining its critical components.

Next, the group will weigh the opportunities and challenges associated with this “optimal” program, including the availability of resources in terms of staff, time and money.

Last, the group will determine next steps, if any.

Promoting Health and Wellness

The Promoting Health and Wellness break out session of the School Committee Summit will focus its time reviewing the highlights and accomplishments of the current Health and Wellness Curriculum K-12, including but not limited to the most recent additions to the curriculum which address the development of healthy relationships, violence prevention, and positive social skills and perspective taking. The group will brainstorm ideas about how to enhance our curriculum by identifying topic related areas which warrant further attention as well as what the curriculum would like in the ideal world. Following this brainstorm session, the group will reflect on the opportunities and challenges of implementation of the various ideas generated (e.g. resources needed). Finally, the group will prioritize its list of recommendations for the future.

Raising The Bar

How do we assure that all students are challenged and working to their individual potential?

What do we mean when we talk about personalized learning? Are resources in Wayland

equitably allocated so that students at all levels, including those “in the middle,” are well served? We will explore these questions during this break-out session. For instance, we will take an objective look at whether our RTI and technology initiatives are equally robust for students at all academic levels within each grade and among all grades. Could the admittedly limited resources of the Wayland Public Schools be reallocated to better optimize equitable opportunity for learners at all levels? In effect, equitable opportunities, personalized to meet the diverse learning needs and foster the growth of each student, raise the bar for all students in Wayland – which is our goal. Join us in this discussion, as it is central to our mission as a public school system.

Employing Technology

The Wayland Public Schools Community will use technology to develop skills for lifelong learning. We are committed to the meaningful and responsible integration of technology as a tool to support, enrich, extend, and personalize student learning. Through integrated learning experiences, students will develop the technology literacy needed to succeed in school and to thrive in a globally competitive world. Technology will play a vital role in teaching and learning that will promote critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, collaboration, and communication.

To achieve this vision, we will explore and define how Wayland Public Schools will

- develop digital fluency and information literacy skills.
- teach and practice safe and appropriate use of technology .
- deliver relevant and ongoing professional development to support the meaningful integration and innovative use of technologies to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- provide access to appropriate resources and support for the effective use of technology in teaching and learning.
- maintain an enterprise class infrastructure (network, hardware, software) that maximizes learning opportunities and provides connectivity to the global community.
- promote online communication with students, parents, staff and the Wayland community.
- personalize learning.
- use technology to support RTI and curriculum initiatives.