

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School  
10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606  
Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484  
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## Education Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, November 12, 2021

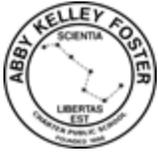
<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/95769808330?pwd=UCtmaGZhM2swVG9OOHdVTGxtcUhzdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 957 6980 8330 **Passcode:** 940789

**By phone:** +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) **Meeting ID:** 957 6980 8330

**APPROVED**

- I. Call to Order- Amy Vernon, Chair
- II. Introductions/Attendance Recorded
- III. Review of the October 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes
  - a. **Motion:** To approve the October 8 2021 Meeting Minutes.
- IV. I-ready scores/comparison- Curriculum Coordinators
  - a. Correlation of MCAS & I-ready
- V. Establishment of Math Committee - Curriculum Coordinators
- VI. Principal Updates- Ms. Gould, Ms. Puliafico, Mr. Kursonis
- VII. Interim Executive Director Goals- Ms. Paluk
- VIII. Upcoming Education Committee Meeting(s):
  - a. Friday, December 10, 2021
  - b. Friday, January 14, 2022
  - c. Friday, February 11, 2022
- IX. Adjournment



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## Education Committee Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

Friday, October 8, 2021, 8:00 a.m.

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/92978657296?pwd=S0k0WEFHek1qdEVPdjZRVUdPWWEJuZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 929 7865 7296 **Passcode:** 193024

**By phone:** +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) **Meeting ID:** 929 7865 7296

The meeting was called to order by Amy Vernon at 8:00 a.m. The attendance was recorded as follows:

**Board/Committee Members:** Amy Vernon, Dr. Jie Park,

**Staff in attendance:** Jessica Regan, Kristine Hersey, Rob Kerr, Kelly Davila, Heidi Paluk, Dr. Caroline Cole, Chris Kursonis, Amy Puliafico, Kelly Gould, Amelie Cabral, Jennifer Giusto

The Committee reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting. Ms. Vernon asked for a motion to approve the September 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Dr. Park, seconded by Ms. Vernon.

The meeting began with the MCAS discussion with the Curriculum Coordinators. Mr. Kerr began with a presentation for the committee. Mr. Kerr began by stating that the state cautioned everyone against comparing against other schools. Mr. Kerr stated that while there were some differences, AKFCS followed the same path as many other schools in terms of scoring. Mr. Kerr stated that this information was to be used instead as a starting point to see where help is needed and changes can be made as last year was like no other and students lost many things during the pandemic year.

Mr. Kerr explained that with the shift with MCAS over the last years to Next Generation, they got away from the Advanced, Proficient, & Needs Improvement and in Failing as categories. Mr. Kerr explained that this MCAS data can help determine if online programming was successful and if so, whether it was only successful in certain grades or all grades overall if the students would need this program again.

Mr. Kerr explained that we have identified Math as a problem area across the district. Mr. Kerr stated that 500 is the standard score and that 2019 was one of AKFCS's best years so seeing some of these decreases this time around is certainly alarming. Mr. Kerr stated that a chart was created with the 8th-grade students' MCAS data from when they were in Seventh grade and compared it to their iReady scores and some correlation can be seen.



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Mr. Kerr stated that Math is going to be the real focus this year and will be for the next couple of years across the district. Mr. Kerr then provided the MCAS science results and explained that the test for the 9<sup>th</sup> graders is different because the grading scale has not been changed and they are still using the Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, & Failing score. Mr. Kerr explained that there were some students that did not pass in 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math, but the score was high enough in ELA that a retake is not needed but there are four students that must retake the test this November. Mr. Kerr explained that 55 students (Seniors) have signed up for the test for scholarship purposes although they were exempt from it and did not need to take it to graduate.

Mr. Kerr stated that in high school, they have already compared the Fall iReady diagnostic results and the Spring MCAS data and they are now breaking up into groups. Mr. Kerr explained that iReady identifies standards and areas that students struggle in. Mr. Kerr also stated that they are in the process of looking through the other standards across the district that have been historically missed. Mr. Kerr explained that grades 3 through 8 took the test in English, Math, and Science, and only half of the test was given so the data is incomplete. That is the reason domains and standards were not released for those grades.

Mr. Kerr stated that based on the scores received, they have set up extra help sessions with the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade teachers as their math scores and skills are low. Mr. Kerr stated that the IB students have come forward offering to set up tutoring and mentoring sessions for the eighth-grade students. The students will be meeting one to two times a week in the cafeteria and working in small groups. Mr. Kerr stated the District is convening a math committee which will be a one-to-two-year process of aligning our curriculum for K to 12.

Ms. Regan explained that they were also going to be looking at the data from iReady and MCAS test data and determine the trends that are being seen. Ms. Regan stated that teachers were also going to be working with iReady and MCAS together to see what needs to be revised for lessons and instructions to meet the needs of the students, which will lead to restructuring the unit plans and the overall pacing to accelerate learning in areas identified as a high and moderate need. Ms. Regan explained that they would also be focusing on the students' unique needs which we may not have seen in the past.

Ms. Regan explained that this year in Middle School, they are implementing a block of time canned WIN (What I Need). Ms. Regan explained that during that time, various interventions would be going on that would be provided by content area teachers in addition to specialists such as Special Education teachers, Reading Specialist teachers, Interventionists, and EL Teachers. Ms. Regan stated that they are also going to be looking at Tier 2 and Tier 3 flexible interventions which would be cycled in and out and quick and can be considered a mini-lesson.

Ms. Regan explained that phonics is also a great need that was a noticeable trend in the current fourth-grade students that was not seen in previous years and is also showing up in the fifth grade as well. Ms. Regan explained that there will be curriculum meetings to look at past standards and focus on the priority standards work that was done in 2019. Ms. Regan stated that since there have been several new staff joining us in the past 2 years, they were not part of the work. Ms. Regan explained that the data analysis would not just be done three times a year that iReady is given and on MCAS scores. Ms.



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Regan explained that they would be doing formative and informative assessments throughout the year based on what the students are learning now.

Ms. Regan stated that they also see a need for a social-emotional component based on actions that the students are exhibiting now. Ms. Regan explained that many students spent the last 18 months (about 1 and a half years) isolated and now need to be taught soft skills involving student discourse, how to work together, how to plan together, how to think together, and how to together. Ms. Regan explained that eventually, they were looking at having social-emotional learning become a component of the "What I need" block which is for students who are requiring time with guidance. Ms. Regan stated that adjustment counselors would also be incorporated into that as well along with small social groups for the students. Ms. Regan explained that if students' social-emotional needs are not met, they are not going to be successful in learning because they will not be ready to learn.

Ms. Regan stated that they did begin a new math program in January of 2020 but that was cut short especially in person. Ms. Regan also stated that they were also looking at shared ownership with history and science teachers and having them take on a part of the literacy standards as well and make them relevant to their curriculum. Ms. Regan explained that a trend that was noticed in the middle school was the constructed responses to the students' writing skills across the board so now everyone will have shared ownership in writing throughout the building. Ms. Regan stated that this can no longer be just the responsibility of the math and ELA teachers and is now a team effort.

Ms. Hersey explained that just as the middle and high schools have shown, the elementary school also had big deficits this year. Ms. Hersey stated that most grade levels have many of the students testing about a grade below in their diagnostic testing and in reading and math that they have done so far this year. Ms. Hersey explained that they do find that in every classroom, in every grade there is a core group of students whose skills are about one year behind, which is a result of the disruption the pandemic caused. Ms. Hersey stated that they have a clear understanding that the foundational skills that the students need for them to move into fourth grade ready to learn as readers and have number sense and number operational skills as well. Ms. Hersey also stated that they are moving from an RTI to a multi-tiered system of support in all areas of learning.

Ms. Hersey stated that they have gone through the first round of diagnostic testing and MTSS meetings and groups are being formed to address needs in phonics and phonemic awareness along with vocabulary and comprehension along with math and other areas such as OT and SEL. Ms. Hersey explained that they are doing a whole child and whole-school approach which means getting each student what they need in their classrooms and in small group support as well. Ms. Hersey stated that they are also making sure that they are identifying students that may need Tier 3 support.

Ms. Hersey stated that overall, there has been a connection between the iReady results that they are getting this fall and what the grades were in the spring so that can give us confidence that there's strong correspondence and alignment between iReady and the kinds of assessment that the students will see in the Spring. Ms. Hersey explained that they have implemented tests and grades K-3 will be using this as it is conceptually based and uses a lot of manipulatives, a lot of turning, and building on math discourse. Ms. Hersey stated that the students are learning the routines that go along with Ready Math



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and weekly, the lessons are broken down into sections. Ms. Hersey stated that each lesson can go up to 6 days and the students have weekly lesson assessments which is an effective way for the students to keep up with the skills.

Ms. Hersey explained that this program allows for them to do some backfilling if needed but also use an accelerated learning approach so that rather than the student remediating all the way back to the previous grade level, they a look at the grade-level standard that is being taught and what can be done to provide the students with the central skills that they need to work on grade-level material.

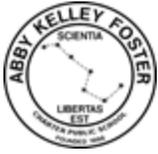
Ms. Hersey stated that they will be looking at all the data to pinpoint where the students need the most assistance and focus on those skills. Ms. Vernon agreed with the Curriculum coordinators and their action plans and asked if anyone had any questions. Dr. Park also wanted to know how what they are proposing in the action plan is different from balanced literacy, which science bears out for the last 20 years is as the gold standard for reading instruction instead of an explicitly phonics-based approach.

Ms. Gould explained that there was a balanced literacy program in place for years and that they balanced that with interactive reading aloud, independent reading, writing about reading, and writing for several aspects' audiences. Ms. Gould explained that there were missing components to this and that there was a strong focus on guided reading but the students need more. They are looking to bring in some more high-quality instructional materials that are not based on a student's reading level.

Dr. Park suggested with the science of reading, (when students move from learning to read to reading to learn), phonics-based instruction does not serve students very well, especially at the middle and high school level. Ms. Gould explained that the students should be exposed to grade-level content, comprehension fluency, and writing about reading as well as phonics in the early MS grades. Ms. Vernon then asked if the new Heggerty program has assessments at that detailed level for the students to which Ms. Gould said yes.

Some teachers are already using the phonemic assessments that go along with the Heggerty program in the classrooms, but it is not yet a school-wide practice this year. Ms. Vernon wanted to know if each grade level has something in place to assess what the difficulties are in the students and if the additional staff was requested. Staff replied that yes there are teams. For example, Ms. Regan stated that there is a reading specialist and a reading interventionist analyzing what the students need and staff is being allocated as appropriate. Mr. Kerr stated that in high school, there is a Special Education teacher in 2 of the level 3 eighth-grade math classes and an aide in the other one left and they are taking an all-hands-on-deck approach.

Ms. Vernon asked if any of the non-special education teachers are getting any additional professional development or support to be able to handle these interventions issues that they may not have experienced at this level before. Mr. Kerr stated that as far as professional development is concerned, it is not something they have yet implemented. Mr. Kerr stated that they are working together with the eighth-grade teachers to really break down the data and use iReady data more than they have in the past. Mr. Kerr stated that they would use the remediation information that comes with the iReady data to try and identify and fix the problems that arise while teaching the eighth-grade standards. Ms.



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Vernon then wanted to know if the state has provided any guidance for us on how to teach grade-level content and remediate simultaneously to which it was told that they suggested learning acceleration versus remediation. Ms. Vernon was told that there is a Learning acceleration document through DESE that has different learning pathways that can be taken as an entire school along with its individual classes and individual students that was released recently and that is the gold star standard they are recommending.

Ms. Vernon asked if anyone else had follow-up questions and there were none. Ms. Vernon suggested presenting this data to the full Board because even though the comparison of this year is not as useful as it would have been, come context would be good considering the large drops. Ms. Vernon stated that there was a drop in scores everywhere across the state, but we can use the data to show how our numbers compared to the state numbers on average.

Ms. Vernon then opened the floor for Ms. Paluk to present. Ms. Paluk began by stating that there is a lot of work that must be done but even prior to that, there was not a lot of intentional alignment from Grade K through twelve in both literacy and math. Ms. Paluk explained that while it is appropriate to have different curriculums for different grade levels, an integrated approach needs to be taken on both academic areas based on historical numbers and the data presented this morning. Ms. Paluk stated that the topic of putting together a district-wide math and literacy committee was spoken of in the spring and that there is some more internal work and internal meaning with just the curriculum coordinators and herself, that must be done first before so the committee is tasked with specific goals.

Dr. Park asked what deliverables were being anticipated. Mr. Kerr explained that the first step was going to be identifying historical data and what the missing standards are so that they can back and evaluate but part of what the small group will do is determine the scope and purpose of the committee. Ms. Hersey added to Mr. Kerr's statement by saying that they spoke about identifying the strongest math thinkers and teachers that are enthusiastic about math and teachers who have influence in the buildings who can really be early adopters of instructional practices and driving change.

Ms. Vernon then moved on to the Executive Director goals. Ms. Vernon stated that one of the roles that the Board plays in monitoring continuous products at the school is to work with the Executive Director to identify roles that are in priority areas that the school intends to focus on throughout the year.

Ms. Paluk explained that students that are two grade levels behind and working in that group will make see at least 80% of growth. Ms. Vernon also explained that the other goal that was being looked at was actively producing a measure and structure for social-emotional success across all grades. This will be as opposed to an outcomes-related goal.

Ms. Vernon moved on to Dr. Cole and the SEL update. Dr. Cole stated that they were on the path to integrating Panorama with Rediker and that they were at the point where they could get into the surveys, look at all the questions, and develop a survey. Dr. Cole explained that the survey from grades K-2 would be a teacher perception survey and then grades 3-5 and 6-12 would be completed by students. Dr. Cole stated that the topics of focus this year are going to be growth mindset, behavioral and emotional regulation, belonging, and a sense of connection so.



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Dr. Cole explained they are hoping to survey all the students by the end of October.

Dr. Cole stated that once that is set up, the next goal is to survey the teachers and see where they are and what support they may need moving forward and the goal is to have this up and running by the end of October. Ms. Vernon asked if anyone had any additional questions and there were none.

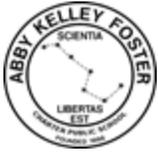
Ms. Vernon then moved on to the mission discussion topic and turned the floor over to Ms. Paluk. Ms. Paluk explained that we are on our 5-year review for IB, and it was mentioned five years ago that our mission did not really fit an IB school, and they made a recommendation at the time that we look at incorporating more IB language into this, but it was not an issue that was taken care of at the time. Ms. Paluk explained that when DESE came in the spring, many of the questions that came from the DESE focus group were around the mission statement and what does it look like for western civilization. Ms. Paluk explained that since there was a charter renewal coming up and the application is due over the summer, now would be a suitable time to look at our mission.

Ms. Paluk stated that there were conversations to be had internally about how big a change is going to be made. Mr. Kerr stated that coming with a standard sufficient statement and then having everybody finalize it is more suitable. Ms. Paluk agreed and stated that the main thing that has been to be thought about is how much buy-in is needed and thought the mission statement would have to be thoughtful and inclusive. Ms. Vernon explained that the mission statement should provide some insight into why we are a charter school and what do we do that is different. Ms. Vernon suggested a survey to ask people what are a couple of words/statements that they would like to see in the mission statement.

The idea of a zoom meeting where people can openly talk was suggested as a way for everyone to be able to join without barriers to which Ms. Vernon and Ms. Paluk agreed. Ms. Vernon then moved on to the principal reports. Mr. Kursonis began and explained that they were in the process of getting back to normal with athletic events and getting ready for the school play, Macbeth. Mr. Kursonis also explained that it is spirit week at the school and the students are enjoying themselves. Mr. Kursonis also stated that they have enabled some 9th-grade groups in terms of that transition and looking back to when they were last in school, what grades they were in, what the expectations were behaviorally and academically, and where that goes along with where they are missing or falling short.

Mr. Kursonis explained that they have been able to address a lot of these things through the eighth-grade team of teachers that solely teach eighth grade. Mr. Kursonis also explained that many of the ninth-grade teachers also only teach that grade level, so they can zero in on these issues and it has shown to be successful when looking at the 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Kursonis stated that progress reports are not something they look at comparatively. Mr. Kursonis stated that as students are getting adjusted, especially in the first quarter, the numbers, especially in the eighth grade, will be high. Mr. Kursonis stated that the numbers are not different or alarming in terms of where we are and that if we look at where we are right now in progress reports with the percentages of how many students are below 70, it is in the 20s.

Ms. Puliafico provided an update on the middle school. Ms. Puliafico explained that they just finished the mid-quarter and that progress reports went out on Wednesday to families. The beginning of



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the year was spent building relationships and trust with the students and getting them back into the classroom, which is important.

Ms. Puliafico explained that out of 475 students in the middle school, 14 % (65 students) had at least one grade under 70 and that 20% (13) of those students had two or more grades under 70.

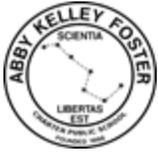
Ms. Puliafico explained that the teachers are holding extra help sessions after school as well as using WIN blocks to start filling some of those gaps and helping students catch up with work. Ms. Puliafico explained that work completion is always a struggle for students, especially when they are still working on their organizational skills and having to come back to school. Ms. Puliafico stated that they are also using WIN time for the students who are in need of higher interventions and that there are about 15%-20% of students in each grade in a higher-level intervention class, with reading being up and running now. Ms. Puliafico also stated that they held back to school night which was held as a “Know your child” night and this allowed for the teachers to have one-on-one conferences with families to find out about their students, what last year was like for them and what are the goals for their students and building those relationships at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Puliafico explained that they have also had their character virtues read aloud school-wide and that each grade has a different book which they read around responsibility and do activities as well as the character virtue celebration. Ms. Puliafico explained that this round was held in person for students and virtually for parents and it will continue to be virtual for parents.

Ms. Puliafico explained that clubs began in middle school and nine different clubs are being offered now. Ms. Puliafico stated that the middle school had their summer reading celebration where students had a choice book and were able to do book clubs with a pizza lunch. Next, Ms. Puliafico stated that they would be administering the Massachusetts Youth Health Survey in conjunction with DESE and they are participating in the statewide results where they test one class in each grade and they are also including grades six and seven and get the data back sometime late in the year. Ms. Puliafico stated that on October 18 and 19, WPI’s math and science academy would be facilitating STEM week activities across the school and there will be about 15 teams of students coming in to run hour-long sessions with every class and grade. Ms. Puliafico also stated that the musical ensemble had begun, the first rental night was held, and 150 students signed up to take part in that.

Ms. Gould provided an update on the elementary school. Ms. Gould stated that they started the school year with a bit of urgency and tried to get the MTSS process started right away. Ms. Gould stated that they decided not to do first-trimester progress reports so that they can have a much better picture at the November conference. Ms. Gould stated that they compared the iReady scores from this year to last year and the first-grade scores are not as heavy as the second and third graders. Ms. Gould stated that they held their first round of diagnostic meetings, and it is a process, but the teachers are an integral part of this as they have brought forward students that they have identified as possibly needing interventions.

Ms. Gould stated that from there, the intervention team looks at each student and determines what needs are brought met during Tier 1 instruction and what changes or amendments or embedded practices need to be added to the Tier 1 instruction. Ms. Gould stated that they would also be looking at Tier 2 and 3 interventions and recommendations for reading and small group math classrooms and some



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will be done with interventionists. Ms. Gould stated that there are progress monitoring tools for each of the groups and that they will be looking at that closely to make sure the students are making progress. Ms. Gould stated that Ms. Hersey has been meeting with each grade level and grade level team meeting and there is also a new math program this year. Ms. Gould explained that they have also added 60 minutes in different grade levels to their targeted reading instruction block because teachers expressed the need to have more time to go over these lessons and instructions.

Ms. Gould stated that she is trying to bring in more high-quality instructional materials that these highly qualified teachers can use from instruction, so they have Ready Math this year and are looking at adding more materials for ELA once the teacher capacity goes up.

Ms. Vernon thanked everyone for their information today and asked if anyone had comments, to which no one replied.

Ms. Vernon called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Dr. Park and seconded by Ms. Vernon. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

**ON OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL READING (BEGINNING OF YEAR VIEW)**

Grade Level	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Grade 1	100%	98%	93%	91%
Grade 2	98%	92%	94%	60%
Grade 3	97%	85%	81%	66%
Grade 4	90%	95%	85%	75%
Grade 5	85%	74%	73%	60%
Grade 6	84%	62%	73%	53%
Grade 7	84%	78%	66%	58%
Grade 8	87%	83%	81%	81%

**ONE GRADE LEVEL BELOW READING (BEGINNING OF YEAR VIEW)**

Grade Level	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Grade 1	0%	2%	3%	9%
Grade 2	2%	8%	6%	38%
Grade 3	3%	12%	17%	25%
Grade 4	3%	4%	7%	9%
Grade 5	11%	18%	23%	24%
Grade 6	5%	11%	23%	15%
Grade 7	11%	11%	9%	10%

Grade 8	3%	3%	6%	6%
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**2 OR MORE GRADE LEVELS BELOW READING (BEGINNING OF YEAR VIEW)**

Grade Level	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Grade 2	0	0	0	3%
Grade 3	3%	2%	2%	8%
Grade 4	7%	1%	8%	16%
Grade 5	5%	8%	3%	16%
Grade 6	11%	25%	3%	32%
Grade 7	11%	10%	25%	28%
Grade 8	9%	14%	13%	13%

**ON OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL MATH (BEGINNING OF YEAR VIEW)**

Grade Level	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Grade 1	98%	98%	97%	91%
Grade 2	97%	88%	94%	60%
Grade 3	97%	89%	81%	66%
Grade 4	94%	88%	85%	75%

Grade 5	92%	83%	73%	60%
Grade 6	97%	82%	70%	32%
Grade 7	87%	89%	66%	58%
Grade 8	90%	80%	81%	61%

**ONE GRADE LEVEL BELOW MATH (BEGINNING OF YEAR VIEW)**

Grade Level	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Grade 1	2%	2%	7%	9%
Grade 2	2%	13%	6%	38%
Grade 3	3%	8%	17%	25%
Grade 4	3%	10%	7%	9%
Grade 5	5%	8%	23%	24%
Grade 6	2%	8%	12%	15%
Grade 7	7%	10%	9%	14%
Grade 8	5%	8%	6%	10%

**2 OR MORE GRADE LEVELS BELOW MATH (BEGINNING OF YEAR VIEW)**

Grade Level	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
Grade 2	0%	0%	0%	2%
Grade 3	3%	3%	2%	8%

Grade 4	9%	2%	8%	16%
Grade 5	3%	9%	3%	16%
Grade 6	2%	11%	18%	32%
Grade 7	6%	2%	25%	28%
Grade 8	5%	12%	13%	29%

**iReady Fall 2021 Comparison to MCAS Spring 2021 (student cohort data)  
SPRING 2021**

	READING	READING	MATH	MATH
Current Grade Level	MCAS % Meeting or Exceeding	iReady % on or above grade level (end of year view)	MCAS % Meeting on Exceeding	iReady % on or above grade level (end of year view)
3	45%	43%	21%	15%
4	41%	34%	7%	13%
5	32%	19%	7%	12%
6	34%	27%	18%	12%
7	29%	27%	15%	12%
8	41%	40%	27%	30%

<b>Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School</b> <b>Interim Executive Director's Goals 21-22</b> <b>Heidi Paluk</b>
<b>Professional Practice-District Alignment</b>
<b>Goal Statement:</b> I will work collaboratively with the Administrative Team to build a culture of Trust, Respect, Communication, and Continuous Improvement, which will enable the Leadership Team to be effective managers at/in their schools, departments, and for staff so all AKFCS employees feel valued in a culturally diverse environment in which all backgrounds, identities, strengths, and challenges are respected.
<b>Supported by Standards and Indicators for Professional Culture: IV-A Commitment to High Standards; IV-B Cultural Proficiency; IV-C Communications; IV-D Continuous Learning; IV-E Shared Vision; IV-F Managing Conflict</b>
<b>District Strategy Alignment:</b>

<b>Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School</b> <b>Interim Executive Director's Goals 21-22</b> <b>Heidi Paluk</b>
<b>Student Learning Goal:</b>
<b>Goal Statement:</b> Relevant District staff will work collaboratively and conscientiously to ensure high expectations for learning, growth and achievement across the district. Success will be measured by (1) the creation of a K-12 District Math and Literacy Committee with a focus on identifying standards and lessons with the most potential for improvement across the District; while creating the committees with relevant classroom teachers who are able to share best practices, model effective teaching strategies, and establish district wide goals. (2) Measuring student progress using multiple measures of data, especially i-Ready. By the end of the school year, 80% of students who are more than a year behind in grades 1-8 will achieve more than one year of growth as indicated by the Spring 2022 I-Ready diagnostic test.
<b>Supported by Standards and Indicators of Effective Superintendent Leadership Rubric:</b>  <b>I-F-Student Learning; I-E-1 Data-Informed Decision Making; I-C-1 Assessment</b>
<b>District Strategy Alignment:</b>

<b>Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School</b> <b>Interim Executive Director's Goals 21-22</b> <b>Heidi Paluk</b>
<b>District Improvement--Guidance Department</b>
<b>Goal Statement:</b> <b>With an intentional focus on Social Emotional Learning and recovery from CoVID, AKFCS will establish a District wide approach using MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) to ensure all students are receiving tier 1 supports in an ongoing manner in the classroom, and appropriate policies/protocols/plans are in places for delivery and evaluation of Tier 2-4 supports as needed. This initiative will be led by the Director of Counseling and Guidance Services, a new position to the</b>

**administrative leadership team and 21-22 will be the foundation, structural creation for future success.**

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### Education Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, November 12, 2021

<https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/j/95769808330?pwd=UCtmaGZhM2swVG9OOHdVTGxtcUhzdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 957 6980 8330 **Passcode:** 940789

**By phone:** +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) **Meeting ID:** 957 6980 8330

The meeting was called to order by Amy Vernon at 8:00 a.m. The attendance was recorded as follows:

**Board/Committee Members:** Amy Vernon, Dr. Jie Park, Shelly Yarnie

**Staff in attendance:** Heidi Paluk, Kristine Hersey, Amelie Cabral, AnnMarie Little, Dr. Carrie Cole, Chris Kursonis, Rob Kerr, Jennifer Giusto, Jessica Regan, Kelly Gould, Michelle Vigneux, Maxwell Weiss

The Committee reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the October 8, 2021 meeting. Amy Vernon asked for a motion to approve the October 8, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was made by Dr. Park and seconded by Amy Vernon.

Ms. Vernon wanted to make a correction to the minutes to this meeting and it should read as “ Ms. Vernon then moved on to the Executive Director goals. Ms. Vernon stated that one of the roles the Board plays in monitoring continuous progress at the school is to work with the Executive Director to identify goals that are in priority areas that the school intends to focus on throughout the year.” along with “Mrs. Paluk explained that students that are two grade levels behind and working in that group will see at least an 80% growth. Ms. Vernon also explained that the other goal that was being looked at was actively producing a measure and structure for social-emotional success across all grades. This will be a processed goal as opposed to an outcomes-related goal.”

Mr. Kerr said that data has been assessed for IReady to see where the students are academically and stated that students are behind one year following the standards from year to year. Mr. Kerr explained that IReady is important and shows what we are missing at foundation levels. Mr. Kerr let it be known that the number do line up but the Math scores are extremely alarming.

Ms. Vernon noticed the same pattern and asked why grades 4 and 5 IReady are over predicting. Ms. Regan explained that they use a standardized curriculum in check with Lesley University.

Dr. Park asked that the 4th and 5th as a stand-alone curriculum- what is the rationale for using it? She asked whether it was coherent and does it align or misalign.

Ms. Regan stated that they do align and that they are looking at a new version for the students.



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Ms. Regan said the Middle School Tier 1 instructional support was given to all students (such as visual aids and multiplication charts) because highlights were missed when the learning occurred. Ms. Regan also stated that the Math coach is working with these students and the teachers are being supported by staff but that there is a need for extra time for math this year.

Ms. Hersey stated the need to increase Tier 1 instruction in the Elementary School and incorporate critical thinking into this program.

Ms. Regan said accessibility is being provided to all students and that this is a mindset and going very well for staff.

Mr. Kerr said that DESE will release the roster of the lowest-performing students which are in the lowest 25% of the district. Math is the priority. Mr. Kerr explained the students are getting more Tier 2 and 3 strategies.

Ms. Cabral mentioned that ESL students are being pushed in content areas for grades K-7 and that Grade 1 ESL teachers are getting Oregilliham training and will make sure that everyone has the necessary tools.

Ms. Yarnie noted the low percentage of scores. Although the staff is being proactive there needs to be extra support for students 1 to 2 levels behind. She states that this needs to be addressed sooner; there must be an urgency.

Ms. Cabral stated the Title 3 grant is extended for ESL students and tutoring will begin after Thanksgiving for Math and ELA.

Ms. Gould said that 19% of Elementary School students are involved in intensive support groups.

Mr. Kerr said that the 8th-grade after-school tutor program is going well. Mr. Kerr explained that there are 31 upper-classmen participating in this program and that there are 60 students after school with a 1-1 tutor. Mr. Kerr stated that this is going well and teachers are also helping out. It was also noted by Mr. Kerr that any student with a grade of 70 or below is taking advantage of this program and the students are paired up with the same tutor every Thursday and the session is about 45 minutes. Mr. Kerr stated that the 3-week turnout seems to be a good sign and that the IB students are using this as a CAS project.

Ms. Regan mentioned that the Mass Academy is providing Middle School remote tutoring at night for all AKF students and that communication between parents, students, and staff have been sent out regarding this program. Ms. Regan did note that there is a lower enrollment - last year there were 29 students; this year only 8 students are participating.

Ms. Vernon noted there is a Math Committee forming to include Rob Kerr, Jessica Regan, and Kristine Hersey and stated in January through June they would be focusing on the domain we are weakest in math.

Mr. Kerr said this is a big undertaking and does not expect this to happen over 1 year but to expect this to be implemented around January 2022 because the focus at the moment is on assessing the weaknesses.



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Ms. Paluk stated that there is a need to have high expectations while still nurturing students and we have to raise expectations for all grades. We are here to support the students and this has to be implemented across the district; the job as staff is to support these students while holding them accountable.

Dr. Park said that if need be do not hesitate to ask the Board for any assistance.

Ms. Gould stated 2nd graders were the hardest hit in intervention support. There are 24 students receiving support. The ES students are referencing their folders before asking teachers for help. Teachers are reporting success and are in good spirits.

Ms. Regan stated there are 77 students in the MS that are an intervention. 36 students in Grade 4, 23 in Grade 5, 18 in Grade 6. A Reading Specialist will train all ELA staff to provide Tier 1 Phonics. There is no Math intervention at this time but teachers are helping out and working in small groups.

Mr. Kursonis said they are comfortable with the Team approach at the High School. Mr. Kerr is responsible for Grades 8 and 9 for academics and behavior. Ms. Davila is responsible for Grades 10, 11, and 12 for academics and behavior. There are team meetings 2 to 3 times a month for IReady and Math updates. Monthly data from 2 years ago showed the numbers were similar with students failing grades. 8th-grade numbers are higher than normal. 6 more students failing a class than 2 years ago. There was no change overall in the 2 years. There were 52 students in Grade 12 who were on the honor roll, Grade 11 - 35 students, Grade 10 - 34 students, Grade 9 - 32 students, and Grade 8 - 40 students. The academic probation list shuts down any students from participating in sports per the MIAA guidelines. Students are told of this when they meet with Mr. Kursonis regarding poor grades. The senior class is amazing and helping out on Thursday with the Math extra help. The focus is on Math. There are 10 students struggling and are meeting with the adjustment and guidance counselors after school.

Ms. Vernon asked if tutors/mentors have any training?

Mr. Kerr said that 2 Math teachers are there after school. If time allowed we would have had training but all in all the teachers and students are doing well. The IB students are doing a great job with the after-school program and there are 2 teachers monitoring the extra help session.

Ms. Paluk discussed her 3 goals for AKF. Number 1 - The District Administration has 10 members; 7 are new in the last 3 years; Number 2 - Getting students back on track; 2 or more grade levels behind have more of a year of growth; IReady data is the key; Number 3 - Social-emotional students - this type of behavior is countrywide and we are not immune to it. We are attempting to help these students that have these issues. Dr. Cole has a handle on these issues.

Christian Science Monitor came to interview Mackenzie Woll regarding the amount of learning students lost due to the pandemic. The writing was national and the pictures were regional. This article will be going out to staff and families soon.

Also, Abby Kelley was voted best of Central Mass by Readers Choice.

300 applications were submitted in the first couple of weeks of the enrollment period.

*Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.*



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Ms. Vernon called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Dr. Park and seconded by Ms. Yarnie. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

### List of Documents Provided:

- I-ready scores/comparison data
- Interim Executive Director Goals