

Governing Board Notes January 5, 2026

Attendees

- Moe Coyle, Principal
- Amanda MacDonald, Chair
- Alyssa Lyons, RTA Rep
- Layne Grasse,
- Jodi Langone,
- Michael Hinojosa,
- Dr. Kenann McKenzie-DeFranza, Community Partner, Gordon College
- Julie Brown, Community Partner
- Paula , parent

Approval of October Minutes

- The October meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Updates

Equity Committee

- The committee is focused on the Welcome Club, a peer leadership club that allows students to take ownership of giving school tours.

Family Engagement and Support

- The committee continues work on student-led conferences, ensuring the model is developmentally and age-appropriate.

Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)

- ILT has developed a lesson-planning protocol that emphasizes the *Learning Pit* while planning instruction.
- This work aligns with the school improvement plan.

Playful Learning

- The committee has been sharing resources and experiences related to playful learning.
- Teachers collaborate and plan lessons using playful learning indicators.

SEL & Student Incentives

- The committee is focused on celebrating students.
- A possible schoolwide Zoom meeting was discussed as a mini celebration.

- Discussion: Julie Brown shared, from a parent perspective, that student-led conferences can be very effective when they work for both the student and family. She noted that this format may not be the best fit for every student.

Equity Plan

- Amanda MacDonald reviewed the 2025–2026 Equity Plan.
- A revised student survey has been created to better reflect current initiatives.
- A parent survey will also be distributed.
- Julie Brown asked for clarification regarding whether all student data is included in MCAS reporting.
 - It was clarified that data includes excused and unexcused absences, as well as tardies.
- Kenann mentioned that distributing an anonymous parent survey immediately following focus groups could result in more accurate data, not influenced by heightened emotions.

Open Forum

- Kenann shared information about a public-facing writing festival focused on student writing. More details will be shared at the next meeting.
- Julie Brown noted recent cuts to SNAP benefits and shared concern from her role as a community partner. While no action steps were identified yet, potential planning may occur at an upcoming PTO meeting.
 - Part of this conversation opened up to the fact that the distribution of resources is usually sent out district-wide as a uniform message.
 - Kenann spoke from a school committee perspective about how the implementation of these programs could be done safely, including partnering with Food Services.
- Michael shared that he would like to continue to partner with us at any upcoming family engagement opportunities. Plans to join Family Open Gym before February break.

Next meeting: Monday, February 2, 2026