



## Middle School Restructuring Committee Meeting 4 November 18, 2024 *Reid Middle School 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

### Agenda:

1. Introductions ( 5 mins.)
2. Review of middle school restructuring timeline approved by the PPS School Committee ([Click here to view](#))
3. Small Group Committee work

Committee members will conduct their small working group research and focus areas.

#### Research & Recommendation of GradeSpan ([click here to access your group's work page.](#))

- **Identify Grade Spans Used Across the Commonwealth**
    - i. Collect data on various grade spans (e.g., K-5, 6-8, 9-12) utilized in schools across Massachusetts.
    - ii. Include information on which districts and schools are implementing each grade span.
  - **Gather Enrollment Data**
    - i. Compile enrollment statistics for each grade span to analyze trends in student population sizes and capacity utilization.
  - **Examine Academic Performance**
    - i. Research academic performance metrics associated with each grade span.
    - ii. Look for standardized test scores, graduation rates, and any performance trends specific to certain grade spans.
  - **Assess Attendance Data**
    - i. Collect attendance records for schools organized by each grade span to determine if there are patterns in attendance rates that may relate to the structure.
  - **Conduct Local Research on Community Reaction**
    - i. Investigate community feedback or reactions to various grade spans in different districts.
    - ii. Look for reports, surveys, or news articles that may provide insights into parent, student, and community opinions on each grade span configuration.
  - **Analyze and Summarize Findings**
    - i. Organize the data by grade span for easier comparison.
    - ii. Summarize key insights on enrollment, academic performance, attendance, and community perspectives.
4. **Research & Recommendation of Educational Model(s) and Programming ([click here to access your group's work page](#))**
    - **Identify School Districts Offering Diverse Educational Models**
      - i. Locate school districts that provide specialized programming for middle grades, including elective options, instructional delivery methods, and advanced programs like Pre-AP or International Baccalaureate (IB).

- **Gather Information on Electives**
    - i. Research the types of elective courses offered in middle grades across various districts.
    - ii. Note any unique electives that support a well-rounded curriculum, such as arts, technology, STEM, or language courses.
  - **Examine Instructional Delivery Methods**
    - i. Investigate different instructional approaches used in middle grades, including team teaching, project-based learning, and blended learning models.
    - ii. Identify any innovative practices that enhance engagement and learning outcomes.
  - **Explore Advanced Programming (e.g., Pre-AP, IB)**
    - i. Look into districts offering Pre-AP or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs for middle-grade students.
    - ii. Document entry requirements, curriculum structure, and any noted benefits or outcomes associated with these advanced programs.
  - **Analyze and Summarize Findings**
    - i. Organize the information by district and type of program or model.
    - ii. Provide a summary of key educational models and programming trends in middle grades, highlighting successful implementations and their potential impact on student learning.
5. **Survey and Focus Group Question and Venue Recommendations** ([click here to access your group's work page](#))
- **Define Objectives for Outreach**
    - i. Identify the primary goals of the outreach process, such as gathering feedback on a specific program or understanding community needs.
    - ii. Use these objectives to guide the design of survey and focus group questions.
  - **Refine Survey Questions**
    - i. Create clear, concise questions aligned with the outreach goals. Include a mix of question types, such as multiple-choice, Likert scale, and open-ended questions.
    - ii. Ensure questions are unbiased and accessible to all participants.
    - iii. Review and revise questions to maintain clarity and relevance.
  - **Design Focus Group Questions**
    - i. Develop open-ended questions that encourage discussion and allow participants to share detailed perspectives.
    - ii. Structure questions to flow naturally from general to more specific topics.
    - iii. Prepare follow-up questions to explore responses more deeply, if needed.
  - **Select Venues for Outreach**
    - i. Identify appropriate locations for conducting in-person focus groups, such as school auditoriums, community centers, or libraries.
    - ii. For virtual surveys and focus groups, select reliable online platforms that are accessible and user-friendly for participants.
  - **Plan for Accessibility and Comfort**
    - i. Ensure that all venues (in-person or virtual) accommodate diverse participants and provide a comfortable environment for sharing feedback.
  - **Organize and Finalize Outreach Tools**
    - i. Compile and review the final list of survey and focus group questions.
    - ii. Confirm venue arrangements and make any necessary preparations to facilitate smooth, effective sessions.

**Our next meeting is on Monday, December 9, 2024**