



Middle School Restructuring Committee Meeting 6

January 6, 2025

Reid Middle School Library • 950 North Street

5:30-7:30 p.m.

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll call and new member introductions**
- III. Massachusetts School Building Authority Feasibility Study overview in relation to the work of the Middle School Restructuring Committee [enclosure 1]**
- IV. Update on ongoing student, parent/guardian, staff, and community survey results**
- V. Small Group Committee work**

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

Research & Recommendation of GradeSpan

A. Identify Grade Spans Used Across the Commonwealth

- 1. Collect data on various grade spans (e.g., K-5, 6-8, 9-12) utilized in schools across Massachusetts.
- 2. Include information on which districts and schools are implementing each grade span.

B. Gather Enrollment Data

- 1. Compile enrollment statistics for each grade span to analyze trends in student population sizes and capacity utilization.

C. Examine Academic Performance

- 1. Research academic performance metrics associated with each grade span.
- 2. Look for standardized test scores, graduation rates, and any performance trends specific to certain grade spans.

D. Assess Attendance Data

- 1. 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.

E. Conduct Local Research on Community Reaction

- 1. Investigate community feedback or reactions to various grade spans in different districts.
- 2. Look for reports, surveys, or news articles that may provide insights into parent, student, and community opinions on each grade span configuration.

F. Analyze and Summarize Findings

- 1. Organize the data by grade span for easier comparison.
- 2. Summarize key insights on enrollment, academic performance, attendance, and community perspectives.

Research & Recommendation of Educational Model(s) and Programming

A. Identify School Districts Offering Diverse Educational Models

1. 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).

B. Gather Information on Electives

1. Research the types of elective courses offered in middle grades across various districts.
2. Note any unique electives that support a well-rounded curriculum, such as arts, technology, STEM, or language courses.

C. Examine Instructional Delivery Methods

1. Investigate different instructional approaches used in middle grades, including team teaching, project-based learning, and blended learning models.
2. Identify any innovative practices that enhance engagement and learning outcomes.

D. Explore Advanced Programming (e.g., Pre-AP, IB)

1. Look into districts offering Pre-AP or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs for middle-grade students.
2. Document entry requirements, curriculum structure, and any noted benefits or outcomes associated with these advanced programs.

E. Analyze and Summarize Findings

1. Organize the information by district and type of program or model.
2. Provide a summary of key educational models and programming trends in middle grades, highlighting successful implementations and their potential impact on student learning.

Survey and Focus Group Question and Venue Recommendations

A. Define Objectives for Outreach

1. Identify the primary goals of the outreach process, such as gathering feedback on a specific program or understanding community needs.
2. Use these objectives to guide the design of survey and focus group questions.

B. Refine Survey Questions

1. 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.
2. Ensure questions are unbiased and accessible to all participants.
3. Review and revise questions to maintain clarity and relevance.

C. Design Focus Group Questions

1. Develop open-ended questions that encourage discussion and allow participants to share detailed perspectives.
2. Structure questions to flow naturally from general to more specific topics.
3. Prepare follow-up questions to explore responses more deeply, if needed.

D. Select Venues for Outreach

1. Identify appropriate locations for conducting in-person focus groups, such as school auditoriums, community centers, or libraries.
2. For virtual surveys and focus groups, select reliable online platforms that are accessible and user-friendly for participants.

E. Plan for Accessibility and Comfort

1. Ensure that all venues (in-person or virtual) accommodate diverse participants and provide a comfortable environment for sharing feedback.

F. Organize and Finalize Outreach Tools

1. Compile and review the final list of survey and focus group questions.
2. Confirm venue arrangements and make any necessary preparations to facilitate smooth, effective sessions.

- VI. Review of Middle School Restructuring Committee recommendation timeline [enclosure 2]**
- VII. The next meeting of the Middle School Restructuring Committee will be Monday, January 27, 2025**
- VIII. Adjournment**