



Academic Committee Meeting
Lionheart Classical Academy
Monday, June 3, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

MINUTES

In attendance: Kerry Bedard, Mercy DeMasi, Lori Finn, Michaela Nichols, Sarah Paradis

Zoom: Kim Lavalley

Call to Order: 5:08 – 6:06 p.m.

No public comments

Approval of Minutes (5/6/2024 meeting) – Bailey Sweet made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lori Finn seconded the motion. All approved.

Discussion:

Executive Director Bedard invited Mercy DeMasi and Michaela Nichols to discuss assessment results. According to Ms. DeMasi, we were right in line with the state last year on state assessments. Science scores have been about the same for the past two years. Fifth grade isn't doing as well as last year, but with two different classes, we can't compare. 48% were at or above grade level this year in math. The sixth grade were the highest scoring in math, with 60% or above at grade level. This is likely because they have had Jordan McCarthy teaching for two years.

The Classical Learning test was administered. The children struggled with analysis and essentials. Writing and reading comprehension, 65% percentile. Ms. DeMasi indicated that professional development and teacher support are needed.

These data will be reported overall for students, then by grade, in October.

Ms. DeMasi explained about Literacy Essentials. She indicated that it takes at least 3-5 years to attain minimal competence in teaching this curriculum. She and Ms. Nichols attended a 4-day training on this and came back to coach teachers, but training by specialists in teaching this curriculum will be available this summer. Seacoast Classical Academy will let us attend their training. At least five staff are expected to attend. Use DIBELS to assess literacy for K-3. Ms. Nichols reported that kindergarten, 2nd, and 3rd grade 42–49%. The first grade (flagship class) scored 84%, so this group has had two years of the Lionheart curriculum. Half of the 2nd grade class is new to Lionheart because we added the second class. Currently 2nd and 3rd grades are struggling.

More reading support will occur next year. There was discussion about possible parent evenings where parents learn about Literacy Essentials and what they can do at home. Ms.

Paradis said that she would love to be given information on how to best support her children at home. Ms. DeMasi reasserted the fact that it takes a minimum of 3-5 years teaching this curriculum to even begin to learn how to use it effectively, so it would be difficult for parents to help at home. She did indicate that we could put some general resources on the website to better inform parents what Literacy Essentials is all about. Will discuss at next meeting, with a goal to have it posted by the start of school in the fall.

Adjourned 6:06 pm.

Next meeting: July 1, 2024

These minutes were approved on 9/9/2024