

Board Workshop on Mission Objectives

3/1/2007

John – Planning workshop meeting with the founders to gather information on their original intent for mission and implementation. Plan on tentative date of March 22nd. C. Mayo to invite the founders. Jen indicates that she can provide contact information for founders.

Reviewed preliminary results of the Mission Survey.

1) Board perspective on clarification of mission

Character Education

Parents make leap from virtues to what is tolerated in public schools. There is a dichotomy of perspective on value of character education: shaping student as whole person vs providing good environment for academic education. Concensus to promote the former and accept the second as an implicit consequence.

Need to select wording that does not convey an impression that we think we are better than others as a result of our emphasis on character education.

Need better explanation of our programs. We lack a consistent, institutional description of programs. For example in the assemblies presenting leaves in the forest of virtue, does everyone eventually get a leaf? If program were done at the peer level would it become a popularity contest, inconsistent with the real objectives.

Our job is to collect information and facilitate the dialog with the faculty on what practices are working well.

Parents as Primary Educators

Community Service

“Self esteem” is not the objective. Community service teaches children that they are “empowered” to take action to make a positive impact in their communities.

Community service emphasizes connection to community.

Core Knowledge

2)Board Objectives for Mission

Character Education

News letters on character education with suggestions and tidbits on how to promote this education at home.

Create some description for teacher of minimal level of what can be expected. Need consistency year to year on what to expect and how it will be done. Begin implementation of curriculum mapping so that parents as primary educators know what to expect.

Parents as Primary Educators

Monthly news letter focusing on each of the four pillars.

Consistent emphasis of the four virtues.

Community Service

Mechanism for sharing ideas, such as the resource binder suggested earlier in the year by Dr. Marcus and the mission committee.

Core Knowledge

How can parents help to prepare for MCAS. Provide links to MCAS web site on school site.

Programs on Core Knowledge and Massachusetts State Frameworks to let parents know what to expect.