

PLEASE POST

FINAL MINUTES

CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS ACADEMIC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Central Office, 8965 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 280 Las Vegas, NV 89123

Posting of Agenda:

This agenda was posted at the following locations:

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas ("CASLV"), Green Valley Library, Enterprise Library, James Gibson Library, Paseo Verde Library, Whitney Library, CASLV website at www.caslv.org, and Nevada Public Notice website at <http://notice.nv.gov>.

Format / Procedures / Rules:

[See Agenda for information regarding format, procedure, and rules governing the meeting]

Agenda

Call to order Ms. Hayman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Ms. Hayman, Ms. Kazelskis, Dr. Warren, Laura Byrd, Mr. Gunozo, and Mr. Ercan (left the meeting at 6:00 p.m. to attend another school event.)

Pledge of Allegiance

A. Public Comment (*Information*)

[Please see the Agenda for the procedures and rules regarding Public Comments.]

B. Discussion/Possible Action Items (Recommendations)

1. State Required and School Wide Testing

Mr. Ercan informed the committee that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) Board recently announced that schools are no longer required to administer the ACT Aspire.

CASLV's matrix of tests required by the State was reviewed. The SBAC is administered to 3rd through 8th grade students. It requires six hours of time over the course of two weeks. In addition, 5th, 8th, and 9th grade students also take a two-hour science test. The state mandated ACT test is administered to 11th grade students, which is required for college admission and eligibility to scholarships.

The state is now mandating schools administer Map tests for Kindergarten through 3rd grade students to monitor student progress. CASLV has been MAP testing Kindergarten-8th grade, three times a year, since its inception. The school also requires the 8th-11th grade students to take PSAT and Practice SAT. The 11th grade PSAT test is required to qualify for the national merit scholarship.

PLEASE POST

Ms. Hayman asked if everyone takes the Brigance test. Mr. Gunozu listed all of the state mandated tests including Brigance test with the subcommittee and noted apart from these tests, all of the ELL students need to take WIDA for K-12 annually.

Dr. Warren noted that CASLV testing is rigorous for 8th through 11th grade. She asked why these students are given the PSAT at such a young age. Mr. Ercan stated the PSAT is a practice test and requested by many parents. The school has not received any complaints regarding PSAT testing in the past. As a STEM and college preparatory school he recommends requiring PSAT test for 8th – 11 grade students.

Dr. Warren asked if the goal of the meeting is to understand the testing. Ms. Hayman responded the goal is to understand the school testing requirements and suggest changes if there is an opportunity to do so.

The committee had further discussion of the importance of the PSAT test. Mr. Ercan feels that the PSAT is important for the students. Ms. Hayman has concerns that the MAP test is stressful and rigorous for younger students. Mr. Ercan reminds the committee it is state mandated and age appropriate. CASLV also uses MAP test results for student placement.

The committee reviewed test scores compared in the Nevada Report Card website. There are 10 subgroups that have set achievement targets in ELA and Math. The state requires participation of at least 95% in each subgroup. In essence, the state mandates students to take the tests if they are enrolled in public schools including charter schools.

Last year the two or more races subgroup did not meet the 95% participation requirement at one CASLV campus. CASLV must have 95% participation this year to avoid penalties; which will affect the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school rating negatively.

Students are expected to take tests when they attend publicly funded schools unless they have a medical excuse that would not allow them to participate. All campuses will require students to take the test. Parents will appeal to Executive Director's office if they do not agree with the state mandated regulation.

2. Opting Out from State Required Testing

The committee reviewed the language prepared previously for parents. Dr. Warren asked how hard it would be for school to send a tailored letter for each grade level giving a snapshot of what these tests will look like throughout the year.

The committee reviewed sample policies. The school currently has letters in place for 1st through 3^d grades, which explain tests, expectations, schedules and recommendations. Mr. Gunozu explained the school needs a notice for the website and handbook to make families aware of these state mandated tests and that there is no opt out. Ms. Kazelskis noted the wording should be clear.

PLEASE POST

Mr. Gunozu noted the state of Nevada would like all schools to act like an LEA (Local Educational Agency). The school needs to interpret the law for parents. According to the expectations and law, CASLV will not allow opt out based on the pertaining guidelines that refer to the testing requirements.

In essence, the CASLV administrative team has requested school board to approve a statement to share with the school's community. The committee agrees that the language should read that the state is demanding. As such CASLV provides a rigorous college environment, how these tests are implemented and for these reasons every child that is enrolled at CASLV must participate in standardized testing. The Nevada Department of Education does not give option for parents or students to opt out. Dr. Warren recommended the letter should state for CASV to be in compliance with this policy, every child enrolled must participate in statewide testing.

As a state public charter school CASLV does not recognize the option for students or parents to opt out of state mandated tests. Dr. Warren stated if a parent wants to understand the reason, they should be able to contact the governing body of the Department of Education.

Ms. Hayman said when the board meets again the committee will have the edited policy. Mr. Gunozu will work with the committee until then, and he will add it to the February board meeting agenda. Ms. Kazelskis asked if this should be shared with Ms. Diggins in advance and the committee agreed that is a good idea.

3. Nellis AFB Campus 2018 Nevada State Required Testing

Mr. Gunozu provided the committee a report card from the state of Nevada. CASLV Nellis AFB campus was recognized as a 4 star school, an improvement from 2017 school year. This improvement was the result of targeted intervention. Nellis received a grant which allowed for educational programs to close gaps and bring struggling students to grade level. All students participated in an enrichment program, which improved the overall common assessment. The committee agreed this is really nice that CASLV is doing this for these students. Mr. Gunozu noted that this year CASLV has a Title III immigrant grant for funds to provide 120 minutes additional instruction on top of regular classroom instruction.

4. Academic Enrichment Program at Windmill Campus

The Windmill campus Instructional Coach, Ms. Byrd, reviewed the enrichment program for 4th-6th graders at the Windmill campus. All students participate in the program. The students are grouped according to fall MAP scores. The MAP data also creates a continuum report, which allows the teachers to focus on the needs of individual students. Each class is broken into four smaller groups that work one on one with the enrichment teacher. Students also have individual tasks when not working with the teacher. The curriculum is created by the teachers as well as resources provided by the school curriculum, Everyday Math and Glencoe Math Program. IXL and ALEXS programs are also utilized. Enrichment times are consistent each day and do not conflict with the core curriculum. The committee

PLEASE POST

discussed learning and how each student learns differently. Ms. Kazelskis stressed the need for writing support in middle school. The committee agreed this is all great.

C. Public Comments (*Information*)

Please see the procedures and rules referenced in item A above.

D. Adjournment (*Action*)

Ms. Hayman made a motion to adjourn, Seconded by Dr. Warren.

Action: Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.