

December 16, 2022

Notes Feedback from Families:

- The meeting began with an opportunity for the parents on the council to share questions or wonderings about Eliot school.
- A parent was curious about any questions bubbling to the surface in regards to Eliot's "school state report card"
 - Ms. Bourn heard from a few families regarding the school state report card. She has not received many questions.
 - She shares student growth data for the MCAS with teachers rather than focusing on specific testing results. Growth is an indicator of instructional approaches, curriculum and overall how we are teaching students.
- At the last meeting there was feedback about inconsistent communication of the math curriculum units in the new math program. Families are now receiving more communication about the math program.
- There was a conversation about the podcast *Sold a Story*, which critiques literacy curriculum and approaches to teaching reading. We discussed what are parents saying about it, in regards to current school practices for literacy curriculum?
- Eliot teachers have systems in place (structured literacy, early bird assessment, phonemic awareness and phonics instruction) in grades K-3, to create a well rounded literacy program. The district is reviewing our literacy curriculum and there will likely be changes.
- In addition, Eliot students in grade 2 are receiving daily targeted phonics instruction for 30 minutes in the Eagle Block.

Panorama Education Survey:

- Karen showed the survey data results from families administered last spring. There were 122 participants.
- Conversations about homework in each of the grade levels at Eliot. As of January, all grades will have age appropriate homework expectations in grades 1-5.
- Results were favorable with learning behaviors, engagement of learning and topics.
- Results showed that 15% of respondents scored the "high academic standards" as favorable which was concerning for the group. This was in the area of academic rigor.
- Results show that the extra curricular activities, nutrition and counseling are supports families still would like to see improve or have more opportunities
- Eliot has the high ratings for family's sense of belonging, anti-racist practices and feeling comfortable in the school.

Team Thoughts about Data:

- The council was happy that families feel teachers respect students and families.
- Sense of belonging is very important for our school and we were pleased to see this area rated favorably.
- Lingering questions about how to communicate that we have high academic standards. We need to find out more about this and this is an area of inquiry.

- The rigor score overall has decreased across the district.
- Academic rigor has been the focus of professional development for staff focusing on culturally responsive practices that communicate a “warm demander” approach to teaching children. The “warm demander” teacher is one who is warm and approachable but has high academic and behavioral expectations for their students.
- Teacher leaders talk about communication across the grade level which is a school improvement plan goal.

Discussion:

- About communication home to families across grade levels
- Math night was a great first step to link the learning to their child’s experience
- More opportunities for parents to go into classrooms to see work of their children