

ALTERNATIVE PACE/PLACE COMMITTEE

Notes from 2/25

1. Review of Committee Charge:

Recognizing that this committee's work is very much connected to and dependent upon the work of the Pathways Committee, we agreed to the following:

- a. Immediate focus to be on Homework Policy, with target completion of June, at the earliest, and August the latest.
- b. We presume we can simultaneously complete the other policies on our list (PE Exemption, Community Service, and Independent Study) this year, but they will not be a primary goal for the group.
- c. We will continue to track progress of changes being made at the middle school level stemming from Master Schedule conversations to determine whether other priorities require our attention.

2. The remainder of the meeting focused on responding to a draft of a potential new Homework Policy. It is intended to be purposely bold and "out of the box" to provoke conversation.

- a. Point to other documents about our philosophical beliefs about homework: We hold these beliefs...
- b. Here are the skills the prepare kids for rigor at the next level - Focus, Responsibility, Ownership etc. Links to research – we do not believe traditional homework necessarily to contributes to enhanced learning. Workload is not equal to rigor, etc.
- c. Add sub-heading re: Personalized Learning?
- d. Sub-Head: For PK-5th Grade.
- e. Vast majority of a students practice/workload should be completed during school time.
- f. Beautiful teaching practices include opening/closing exercises where teachers bring in what kids are learning at home.
- g. Another example: Here are options for home learning you might try this month. Nice when there is an option to share in class, so teachers can recognize. Nuance: teachers are still expecting this "learning away from school" to happen.
- h. Teachers: 1) Hold the expectation that rich learning is happening outside the classroom, 2) Provides specific ideas/options, 3) Reduces stress by when it comes back, 4) Talks/reviews/engages kids with this learning during the classroom (closed loop), 5) Do we expect teachers to provide meaningful feedback, per student?
- i. Sub-head: Middle School: Music, belief that skills/progress requires practice.
- j. Should parents be required to sign off on amount of homework done? (Not a lot of appetite here)
- k. Sub-head: Students who need Support/Remediation.