

ACADEMIC SUBCOMMITTEE

9.8.22 / 5:00-6:00 / Zoom

Objectives

- Align on headlines from NY State Exams in '21-'22
- Provide updates on programmatic shifts and interventions in response to assessment data

Participants

- Alison Richardson (Committee Chair), Amy Arthur Samuels (Trustee), Tamika Bradley (Parent Rep.), Romy Coquillet (Brooklyn Board Chair), Desiree Dalton (Parent Rep.), Jesse Balis-Harris (Elementary Chief of Schools), John Sharkey (Interim Chief Academic Officer)

Meeting Details

Timing	Agenda Topics
5 min.	Welcome and Introductions/Re-Introductions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call to Order2. Public Comment
30 min.	State Test Data and Programmatic Implications <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Summarizing Our 21-22 Performance and Headlines2. Identification of Program Shifts and Interventions/Progress Monitoring3. Open Subcommittee Discussion
20 min.	School Management and Development <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. School Tiering and Support Plans Update2. Planning for Principal/Dean Professional Development3. Open Subcommittee Discussion
5 min.	Look Ahead <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Upcoming Data2. October Agenda Proposal

Notes

- Meeting Attendees:

- Trustees: Alison Richardson, Tamika Bradley, Romy Coquillet, Amy Arthur Samuels, Desiree Dalton
 - AF Staff: John Sharkey, Jesse Balis-Harris, Sulafa Bashir
- Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm by Alison Richardson, Committee Chair
 - Sulafa Bashir recorded the minutes.
 - There was no public comment.
 - John Sharkey kicked off the meeting by doing a round of introductions around the room.
- John S. then proceeded to present a summary of School Year 21-22 performance and headlines.
 - Alison R. asked for clarification about the statement “Pre-pandemic results are not where scholars deserve to be” to which John S. replies that the network’s commitment is for all students to graduate the skills they need to matriculate in college and achieving a proficiency level of 50% of students is far short of the promise that all kids graduate from each grade ready to meet the academic requirements of the next level.
 - There was a clarifying question about the other internal assessments used and John S. responded that previously, assessment was overly anchored on a singular data point which was the state test, and the challenge there is that reliability of data is not as strong if we use one data point. Additionally, there is a need for robust and rigorous data in a timeframe that allows intervention. State test date, which is released in late August, is too much of a lagging indicator to allow for meaningful intervention. This is why it is important to be able to rely on internal assessment data that is aligned to state test data.
 - Romy C. asked if STAR and STEP were the only two internal assessments being used and John C. responded that there is a pilot for a new assessment (M-Class) in Elementary as well as a new fluency screener being rolled out universally in Middle and High. Board members Alison R and Board Chair Romy C, requested the names of the fluency intervention screeners. John S. said he will provide those with examples and plan to do a deep dive at a future meeting.
 - Desiree D. asked about teacher shortages and their impact on administration of testing. John S. stated that this is currently a bigger issue in Math as in ELA. Using Fountas & Pinnell took longer because it was not adaptive whereas STAR is, and it uses technology and is easier to implement.
 - Desiree D. (parent rep) asked about Khan Academy stating that her scholar only does what he’s asked to do and is not comfortable with technology, so doesn’t go back for anything extra. John S. stated the NY State is moving to all digital

assessments by SY'25. AF will not be moving to virtual assessments internally this year but will start phasing this next year.

- Jesse Balis-Harris presented on school tiering.
 - There was a question about the categorization of schools and the stock and flow, i.e. the numbers of schools in each tier and the movement across tiers over time. Jesse B.H. stated that the tier process was run every year and often schools stayed in the same tier over time, but there was movement and that the number of schools was capped at 10 across the AF network in order to be able to give meaningful support to schools that need it.
 - There was a request from the board members for the network to provide historical tiered data and provide case studies if possible.
- Jesse B.H. presented on Principal/Dean Professional Development.
 - There was a question about whether training mixed principals of different experience levels and Jesse B.H. stated that training is heterogeneous so principals can learn from those who are strong and it showcased those who have best practices and allowed leveraging of more experienced leaders' skills.
- John S. presented the Look Ahead at future meeting agenda topics. Alison R. said her initial reaction was positive but she would like time to digest.
- Alison R. said she liked the idea of focusing the conversation with the full board on interventions. She commented that the conversation today did not cover the slides on changing demographics and pandemic trauma. There was agreement from several trustees that this material should be unpacked more before taking to the full board and the suggestion was made to remove it from the board prep material for the upcoming meeting. John S. And Alison R. stated that they will connect offline to discuss this.
- There was a request from Romy C. for data at a future meeting on how scholars in 2- and 4-year colleges are doing.
- John S. shared that he will be the main participant in future committee meetings. He thanked Jesse for his efforts on the committee to date.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM by John Sharkey

ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

- Board members Alison R and Board Chair Romy C, requested the names of the fluency intervention screeners. John S. will provide those with examples and plan to do a deep dive at a future meeting.

- Additionally Alison R requested that materials presented to the full board should include the holistic list of assessments used by AF outside of just the state test.
- Alison R. requested that the topic of “Implications for post secondary tracks” be included in a future meeting
- Per board members’ request, JBH will provide historical tiered data and provide case studies if possible.
- There was also a request for adding the topic of “development of future principal pipeline” to a future agenda.
- Alison R. and John S. will meet offline to pare down and focus the content of what is to be presented to the full board on 9/21/22
- There is a request from Romy C. for data at a future meeting on how scholars in 2 and 4 year colleges are doing