

District Assessment Committee Summary

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Richard Montgomery High School

Media Center

Meeting Outcomes:

By the end of the meeting, participants will have:

- heard the meeting outcomes, introduced themselves to the group, and agreed upon meeting ground rules;
- studied and discussed the specific components of the More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017;
- reviewed the charge and work of the District Assessment Committee in the context of the law;
- examined the recent history of the MCPS assessment program and heard an overview of assessments;
- provided feedback on the “working” assessment chart for the 2018–2019 school year;
- participated in a summary of the meeting and identified next steps; and
- evaluated the meeting.

Meeting Overview

The group was welcomed by Dr. Erick Lang and Mrs. Sheila Berlinger. Participants introduced themselves and reviewed the meeting outcomes and agenda. The group reviewed and agreed to ground rules.

Overview: More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017

The committee participated in an activity where in small groups, they reviewed the More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017. Specifically, participants looked at the law and documented language in the law that identified the charge of the group. The small groups shared out and Mrs. Berlinger summarized the discussion.

Recent History of the MCPS Assessment Program

The participants then received additional context and background regarding the recent history which led to the establishment of the committee. Mr. Scott Murphy provided an overview of the Curriculum 2.0 assessment program and background on the elimination of final exams. Dr. Janet Wilson shared information on the Commission to Review Maryland’s Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools Report which was a catalyst for the More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017. Dr. Wilson served as a member of the committee. Mrs. Niki Hazel offered background on the development of the Montgomery County Public Schools Evidence of Learning Framework. Mr. Chris Lloyd discussed the involvement of the Montgomery County Education Association in the initial work to provide feedback on the district assessment plan as required by the law.

Focused Interactive Conversation: “Working” Assessment Summary/Chart

The committee reviewed the “Working” Assessment Summary/Chart. The chart is a summary of all external and district required assessments proposed to be administered next year. The participants met in small groups reviewing the chart in the context of the law and the charge of the group in the following areas:

- the time required to administer each assessment;
- the duplicativeness of assessments;
- the purpose of assessments;
- the value of feedback provided to educators; and
- the timeliness of results.

Each group used the time for an initial review of the document identifying areas of agreement, questions, and concerns.

Meeting Close

Mrs. Berlinger offered a brief summary of the next meeting. There was a discussion of the need for an additional meeting due to the cancellation of the March 21, 2018, meeting due to the weather emergency. Meeting dates, times, and locations were shared followed by dismissal.