

## **Promoting Health & Wellness**

### **10/27/14 (Boston Parent Meeting)**

#### **Concerns**

#### **Barriers**

#### **Solutions**

- \*Resources for “introverts” who may have concerns about shootings and safety, including referrals for therapy
  - Helping students to find own voices
  - Student groups to discuss concerns
  - Mixing activities to help new connections and mixing of groups. Cultures, backgrounds
  - Focus on healthy relationships
- \*Help with understanding feelings and expression
  - Focus on taking care of self, including nutrition
- \*How the brain and feelings develop and connect
- \*Discussing trauma, effects, grieving and skills needed
- Substance abuse consequences and understanding
  - Sexual abuse, signs, planning
  - Building resilience
- \*Learning of empathy and compassion
- Addressing violence
  - Identifying needs in common
- Body Image Awareness
- Health & Wellness for Teachers

## Exploring Early Childhood Education

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- Full Day Access for all students (current system: lottery)
- \*Transition for Traditional K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade (significant increase in time)
- Supporting educational transition through communication with entering families
- Awareness of different learning styles
- \*Spring Assessment – supporting FDK decision
- Informational Packet on Kindergarten to support in summer leading up to entrance
- \*Summer program in Wayland for entering Kindergarten students (Academics) ➡  
August (spring assessment)
- Extend the summer Literacy and Math programs to additional grade levels

## Enhancing the Curriculum

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- Using drama/theater to help have tough conversations, address topics
- Prepare younger grades early with a strong home/school connection
- World Languages across all graded – beginning in elementary
- Home economics – typing /accounting – beginning @ upper middle school
- Keyboarding beginning early elementary
- \*Enhance music curriculum for younger students – chorus & instrument lessons could beginning earlier – partnering with other music & arts organizations, i.e. Berkley
- \*Opportunities for internships to prepare for college & careers
  - Motivational speakers & presentations to show the wide variety of options for classes, careers, interests, etc. Peak kids' interests and show them all they are capable of achieving
  - Handwriting, drafting, writing process with pencil & paper
  - Increase number of iPads in each classroom – especially younger grades

All teachers should be trained in Orton-Gillingham

## Raising the Bar

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- Elementary - Reading support 4x week and send home assignment/activity
- Pull out can have negative impact
- \*Boys learn differently – styles, “Chronicle”, more activity
- \*Prep at Middle School to get kids ready for Honors & AP courses
  - Self advocate
  - We need a metric/measure to know (earlier) who qualifies/is ready
- Parent awareness of what/how students are doing
- Mentor Program older/younger boys
- - guide academics, decisions
- What are other METCO towns doing?
- Socialization – Raise the Bar – important to belong
- Biggest Challenge – being a part of activities (elementary )
- Need late bus for elementary level
  - Organize car pool
- Teachers support social inclusion of students
- Are there placement tests in WPS for HS placement?
- Will the summer program (elementary) expand?
- How do we make a more formal process for younger students to connect socially in order to have these solid relationships in HS (family friends)?
- How do we ensure that all teachers have high expectations for all students?

# Employing Technology

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- Programming (gaming)
  - Developing app's
  - Different coding languages
  - electronics – hardware
    - various components – what makes them up, how do they work
    - robotics
    - understanding probability and statistics
- Microsoft Suite
  - Word
  - Spreadsheets - Excel
  - PowerPoint (games)
- Security of System