

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 17, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

NOTE: This meeting is being held in-person. For those attending via Zoom, please click on the meeting under District Calendar for the Zoom link.

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: In richness of cultures and with a respect for all, (1) Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum, (2) Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction, and (3) Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Review March 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Attachment #1)
3. Discussion re: Attendance Data (Attachment #2)
4. Review Referral Tracking Sheet (Attachment #3)
5. Review Board of Education Meeting Template (Attachment #4)
6. Adjournment

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Dean Antipas, William Horgan, Liz Porter (remote), Matthew Shulman (remote), Beverly Washington (remote), Jay Weitlauf (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rita Volkmann

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Clint Kennedy, Sam Kilpatrick, Ted Keleher, Matt Brown, Jordan Panucci, Carmita Hodge, Amy McKenna

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. REVIEW OF MARCH 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Ackerman, Horgan: To approve the COW minutes of March 13, 2022 with correction under item IV – “she would like history to be a 4 credit requirement, however, she would be willing to discuss 3.5 credits.”
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. ADVANCED COURSES AT FHS

IB Diploma Program and IB Courses – Mr. Keleher stated that families need to know more about IB. He noted that Kelly Donovan is working very hard to identify students for IB courses and that the next piece is to start educating the faculty. This is all about educating the families, students and staff. Mr. Keleher noted that he asked the question of how many parents went to a school with advanced placement courses at the Program of Studies night and very few raised their hand in response. Matt Brown shared his experience over the years in teaching the AP and IB courses. Jordan Panucci shared his experience in teaching sociology in his IB and AP courses and noted the differences between IB and AP courses. Carmita Hodge addressed the scheduling piece and Amy McKenna addressed the English piece.

IV. CIP PLANNING MEETING UPDATE

Mr. Kilpatrick stated that last Monday, he and Dr. Kennedy met with the Planning Commission to review the 3 CIP items-Security Cameras, Mutualink, and FHS Sewer repair, put forth by the Town Manager. Dr. Kennedy gave an overview of the items. Mr. Kilpatrick talked briefly before the meeting to the Planning Commission about the Culinary Arts project but it wasn't on the list, so it wouldn't come up for discussion. After that discussion he was very confident that the 3 items will move forward. Mr. Kilpatrick received an email from John Burt stating that the Board can bring the Culinary Arts project up for consideration when they meet with the Town Council. If the Board is expecting to have the Culinary Arts project in the CIP, they need to bring it up at the Town Council meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to follow the Town Manager's suggestion to ask the Town Council to put the Culinary Arts project back into the CIP.

V. DISCUSSION RE: RE-INSTITUTING THE BOARD PTO LIAISON GROUP

Mr. Shulman discussed the Communication Committee's interest in holding a hybrid meeting with the PTO and Booster Club officers to discuss the utility of re-instituting the Board PTO Liaison group.

Noting that all PTOs/Booster Clubs share the identical mission of providing enrichment activities for our students, he suggested that such a meeting would give PTOs/Booster Clubs the opportunity to "weigh-in" on the utility of:

- Coordinating PTO/Booster Club activity dates to avoid scheduling conflicts;
- Cross-pollinating ideas about activities that have proven successful (or unsuccessful);
- Discussing strategies to boost parental engagement as active PTO/Booster Club members;
- Determining PTO/Booster Club interest in reinstituting a Board: PTO/Booster Club Liaison group that would hold 3-to-4 hybrid (Zoom/in-person) meetings per academic year; and
- Sharing whatever other community engagement communications issues that PTOs/Booster Clubs may have.

VI. REVIEW REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

The Board reviewed the Referral Tracking Sheet.

R2022-10 Change to Review financial literacy curriculum
R2022-16 Change to Review Program of Studies for GMS and FHS

REMOVE:

R2021-9 Discussion of Educational Rising Club – National Organization
R2023-6 Discussion re: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, AP, ECE, and honors courses
R2022-12 Review Board involvement in obtaining a new bus contract

ADD:

R2023-7 Discussion of PTO/Booster Clubs outreach – Communications (Matt Shulman)
R2023-8 Discussion of the Communication Plan – Communications (Matt Shulman)
R2023-9 Review and support updates for high school curricula in Science, PE, Health, Social Studies, and others as determined by department leaders – Curriculum (Liz Porter)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Porter:

To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Groton Board of Education

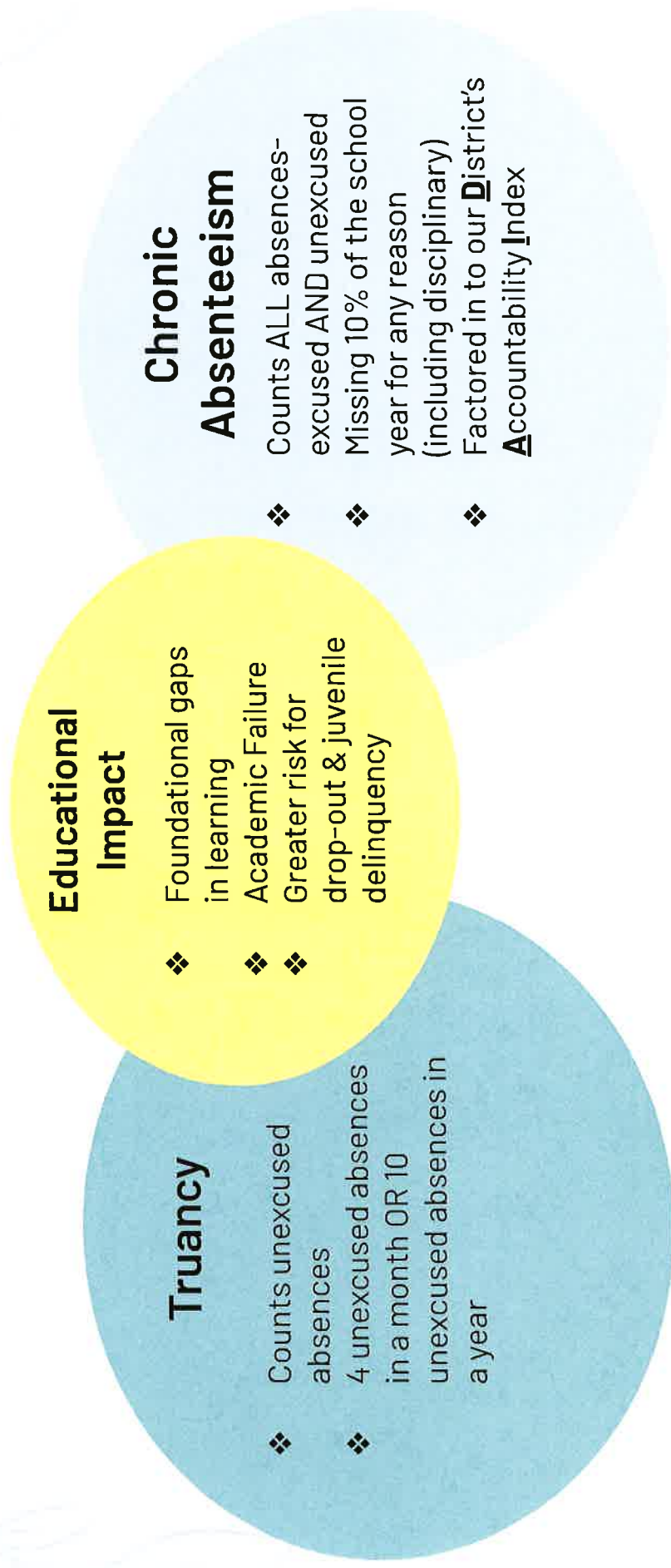
Attendance Report

April 17, 2023

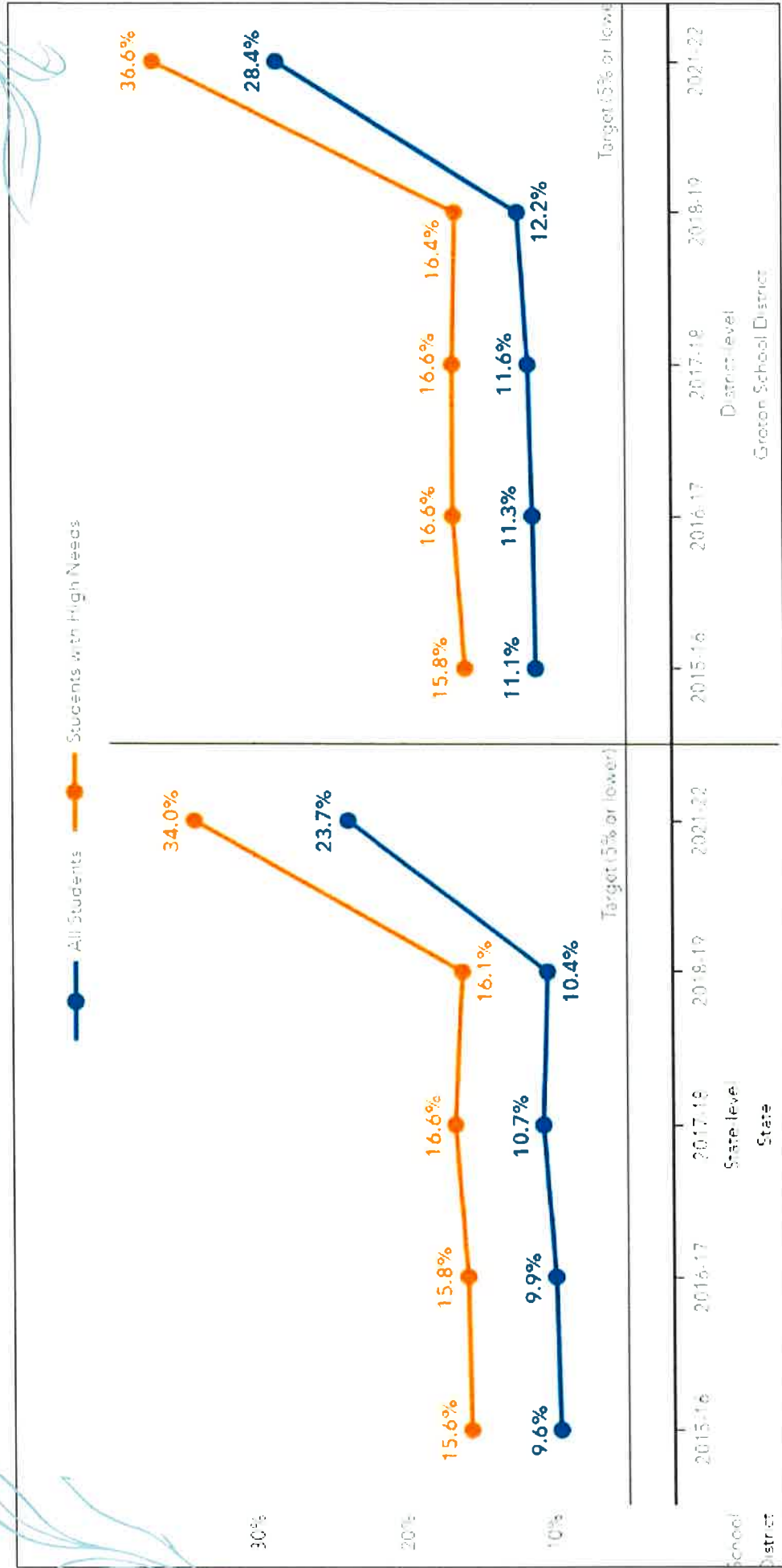
Our Goal

To increase student and staff attendance through consistent and proactive practices

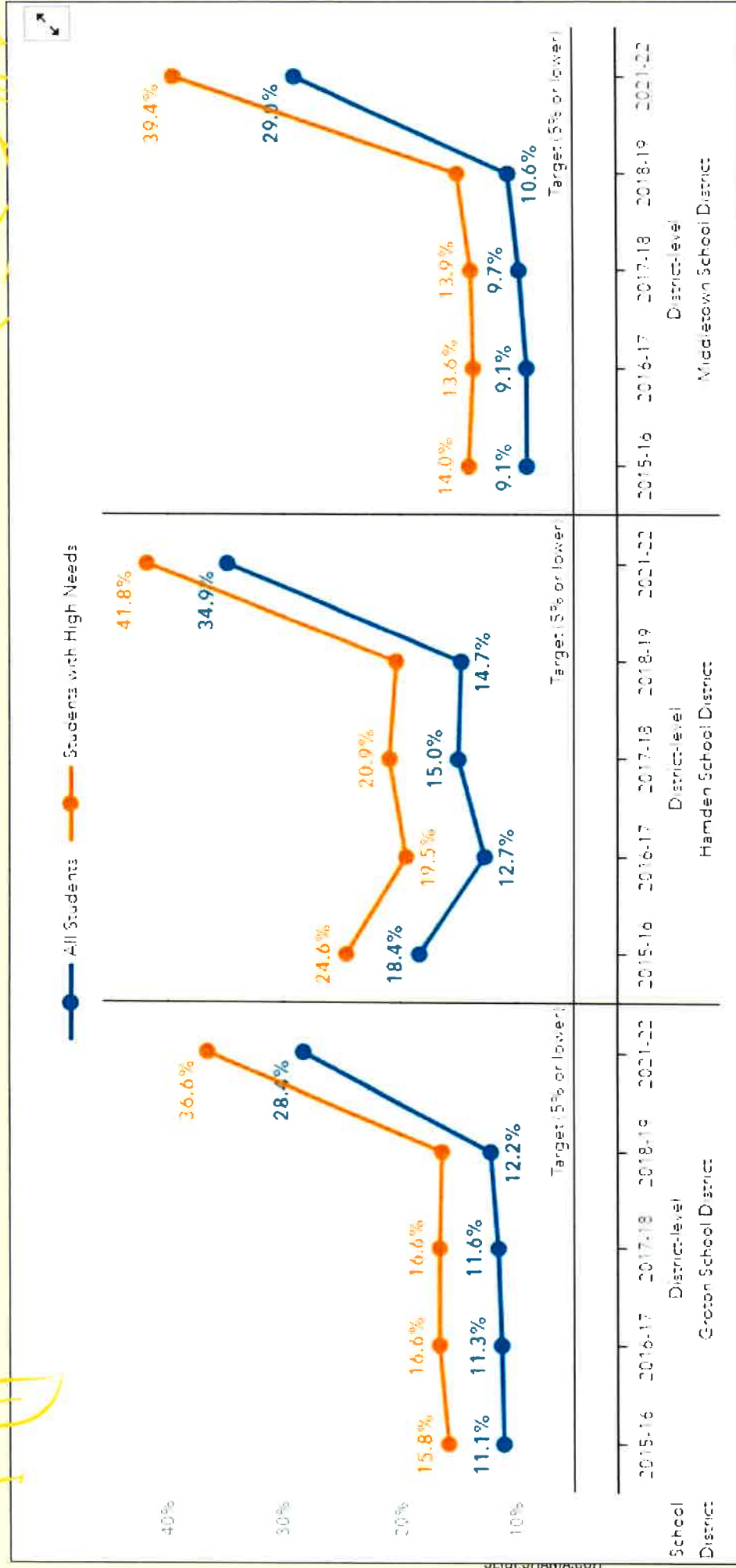
Student Attendance



Chronic Absenteeism: State vs. Groton

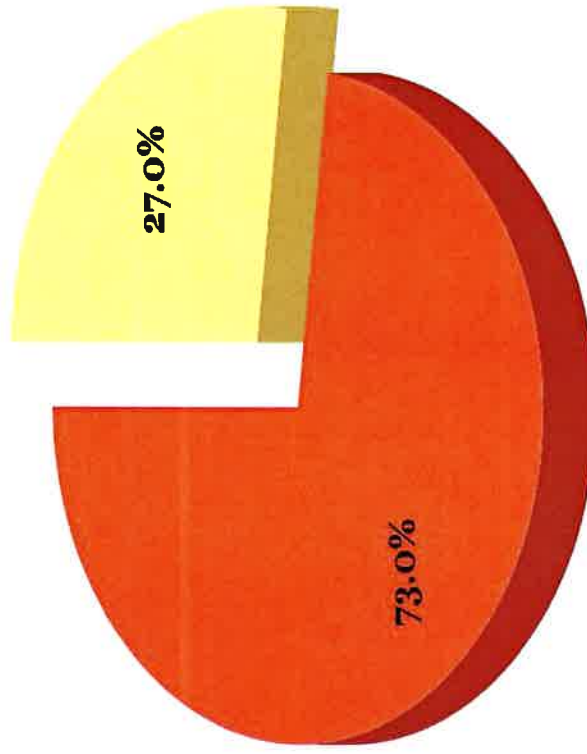


Chronic Absenteeism: A Comparison of Like Districts

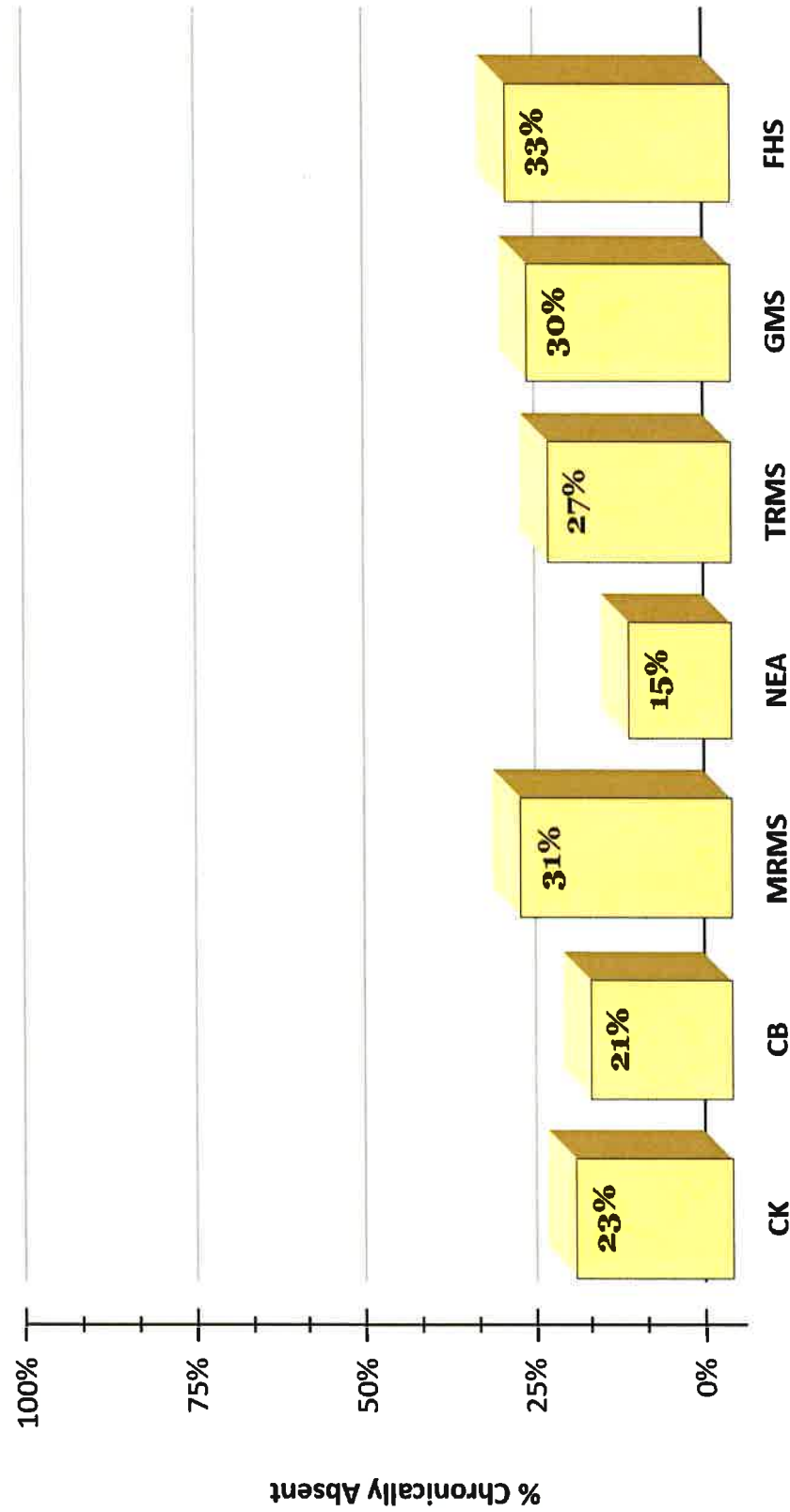


District-Wide Attendance

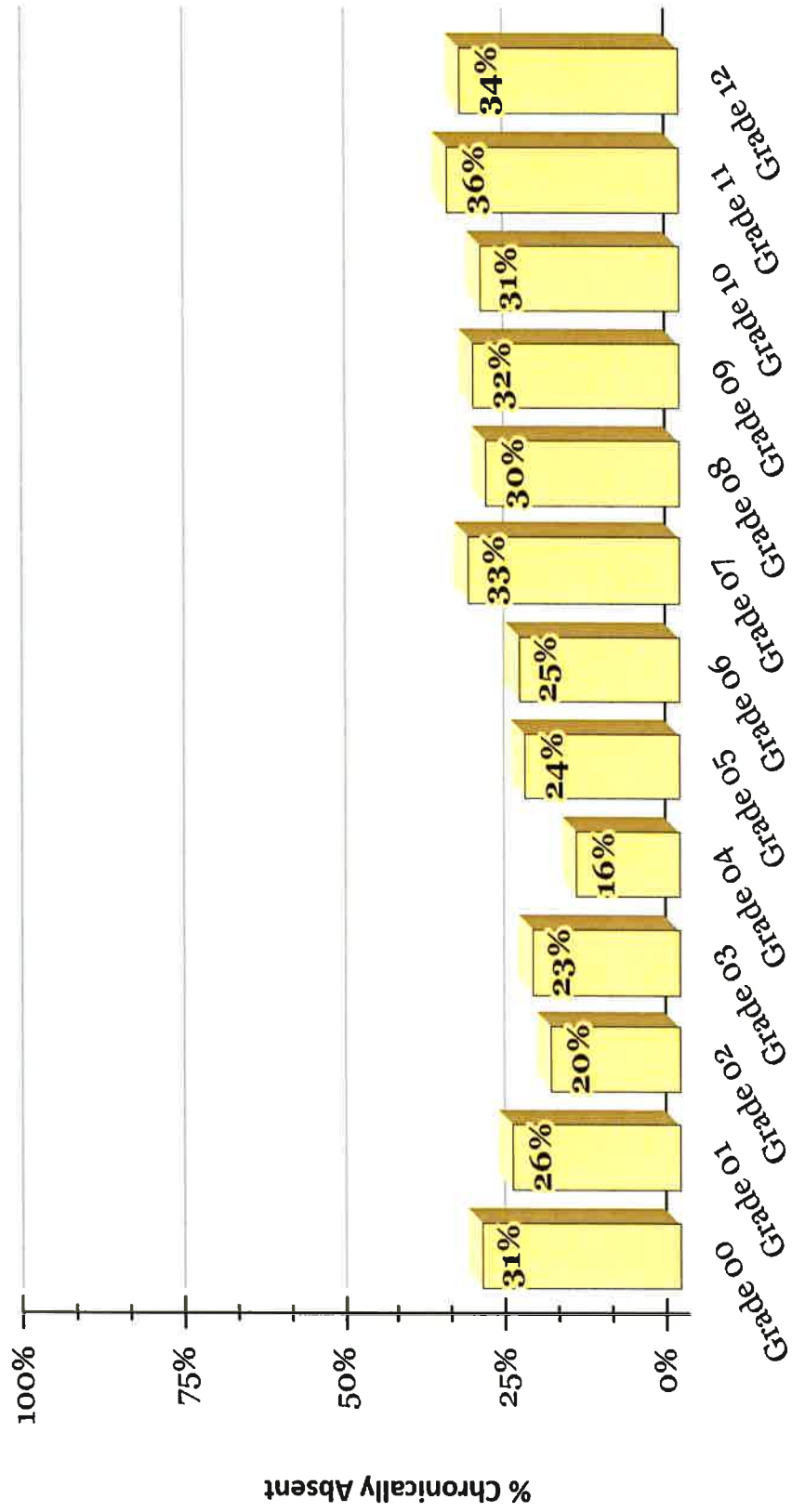
● Below 90% Average Daily Attendance ● At or Above 90% Average Daily Attendance



Chronic Absenteeism by School

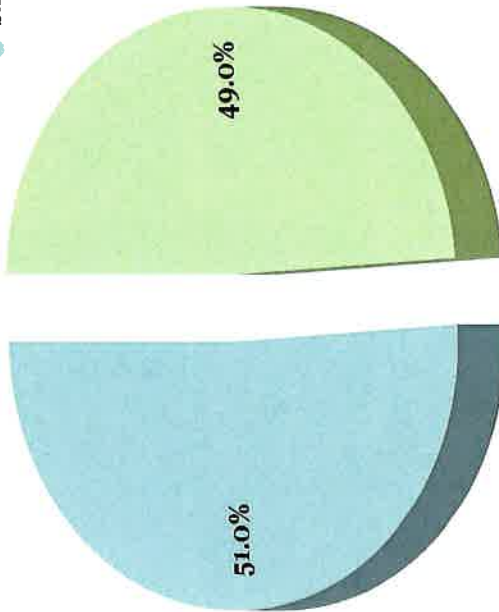


Chronic Absenteeism by Grade Level



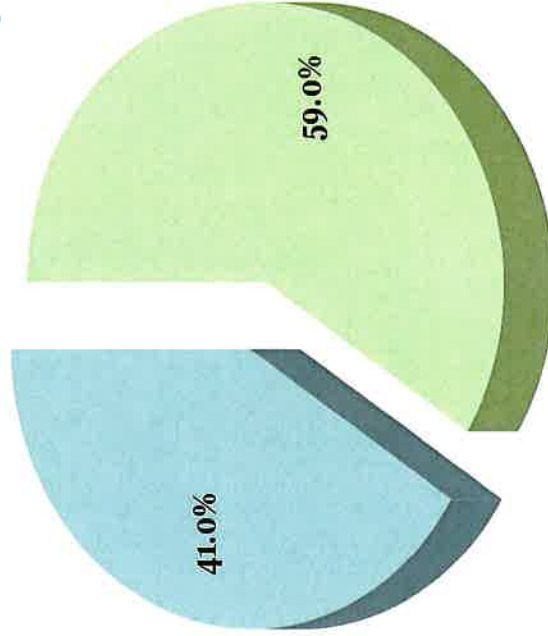
District Breakdown for Free and Reduced Lunch

Students w/ Free or Reduced Lunch
Students w/o Free or Reduced Lunch

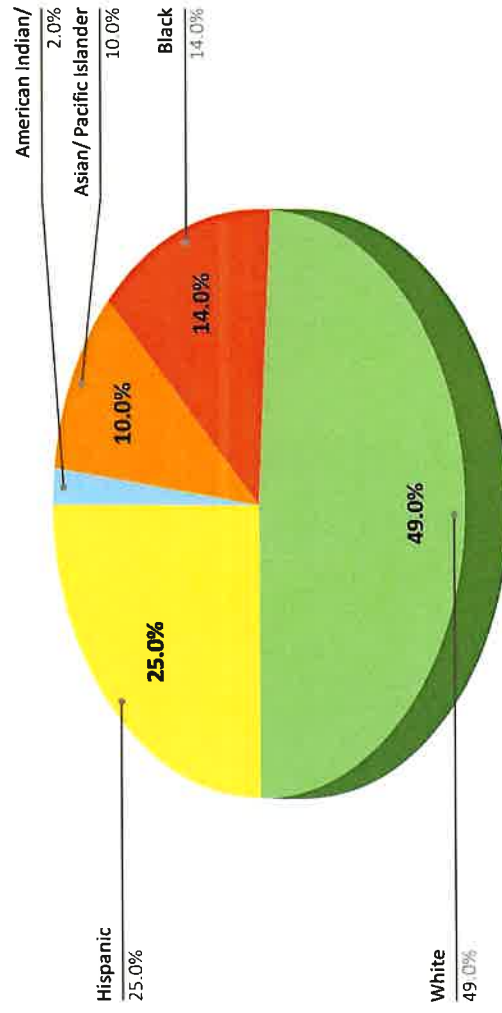


Chronic Absenteeism by Free and Reduced Lunch

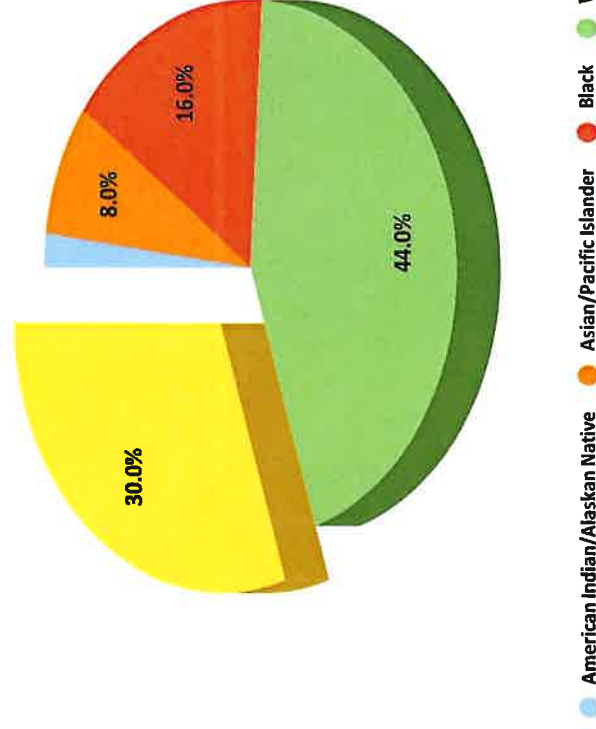
Students w/ Free or Reduced Lunch
Students w/o Free or Reduced Lunch



District Breakdown by Ethnicity



Chronic Absenteeism by Ethnicity



● American Indian/Alaskan Native
 ● Asian/Pacific Islander
 ● Black
 ● White
 ● Hispanic

Considerations

Connecticut Policy & Military Families

Senate Bill No. 217

Public Act No. 14-198

AN ACT CONCERNING EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF SERVICE MEMBERS.

"A child, age five to eighteen, inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, *shall be granted ten days of excused absences in any school year and, at the discretion of the local or regional board of education, additional excused absences to visit such child's parent or legal guardian with respect to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian.*"

Improving Attendance: One Step at a Time

Connect with appropriate community resources as needed

Parent meetings after the 10th absence to determine root cause

Attendance letters sent home by the 4th unexcused absence in a month or by the 10th unexcused absence in the school year

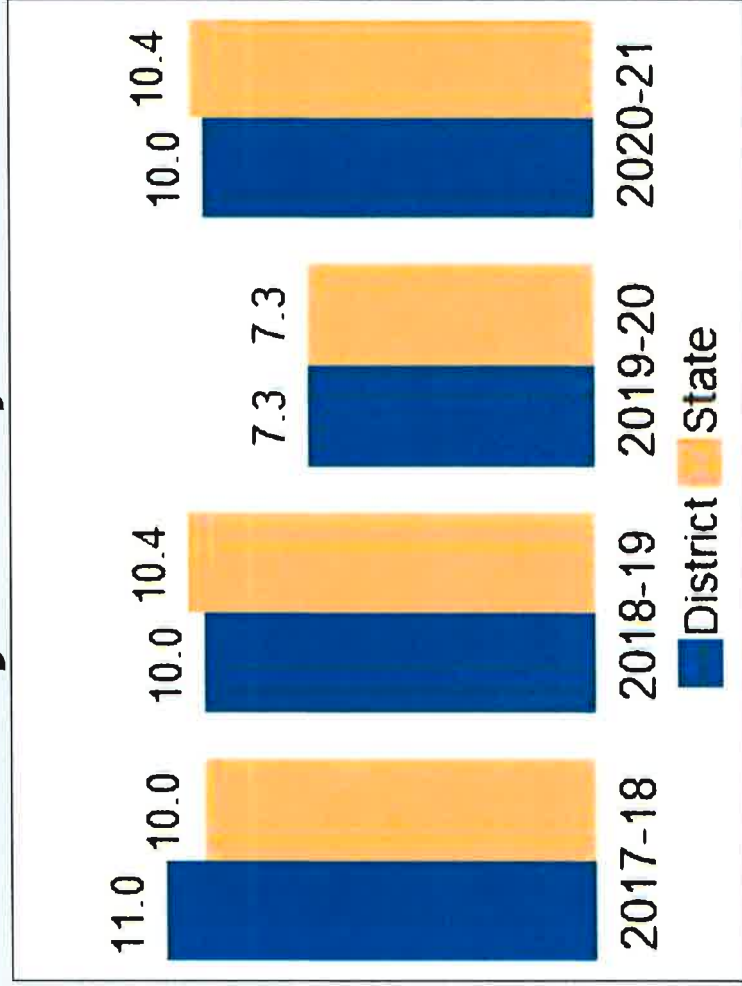
Regular attendance monitoring across all grade levels with supporting documentation

Calibrating attendance reporting across the district

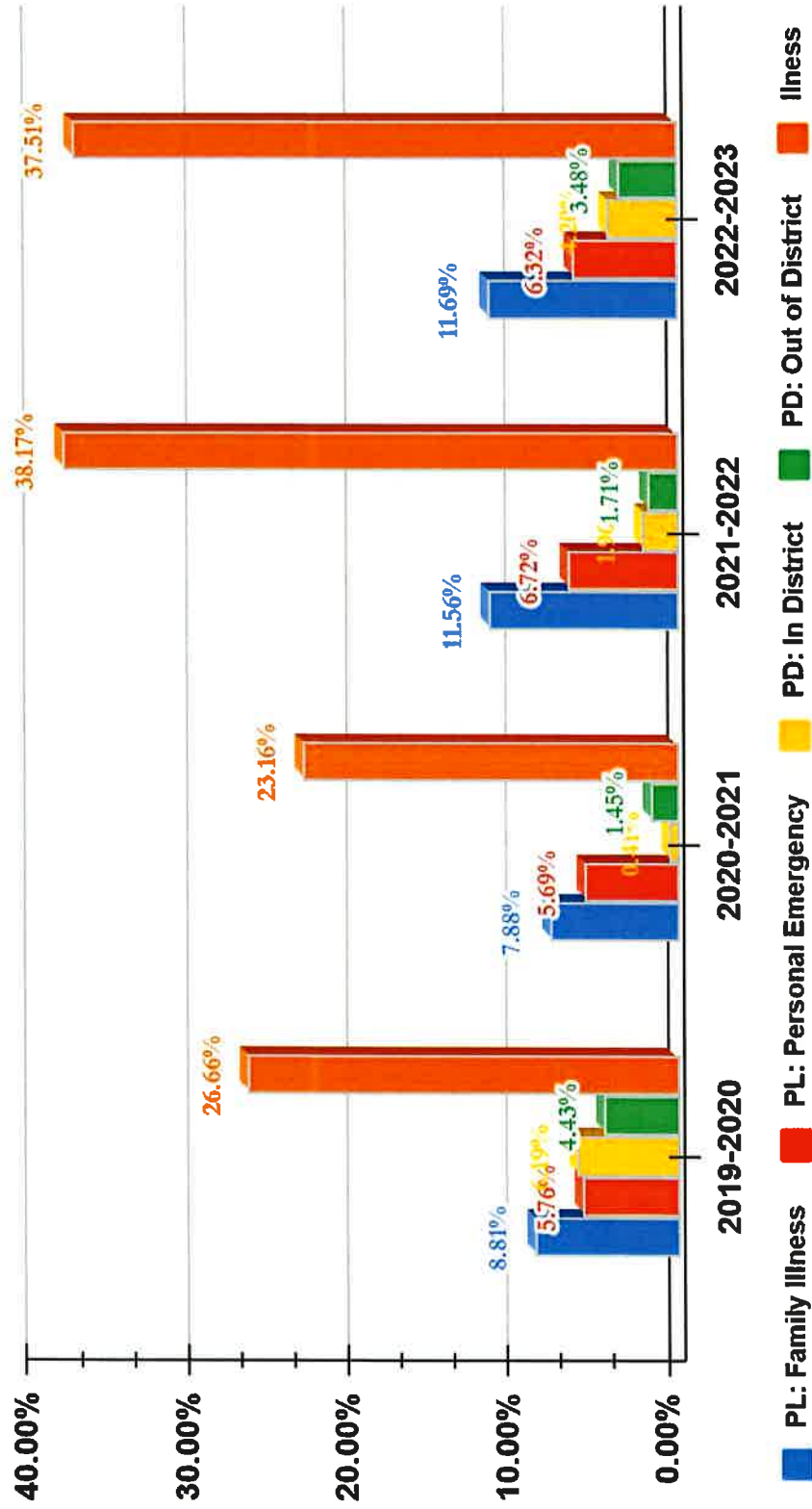
STAFF ATTENDANCE

Classroom Teacher Attendance

(Average FTE Days Absent)



Breakdown of Total Absences



Lingering Impact from COVID

- * (22-23) First full year back to school where staff and students are mainly unmasked
- * Immunity is low due to several years of masking among the "tridemic"
- * Continuing to see COVID related illness

Monitor and Support

- * Regular monitoring of attendance across staff and students.
- * Identifying barriers and discussing available supports needed
- * Provide social and emotional supports for staff and students alike (resources, referrals, wellness activities)

Moving Forward

- ✱ Bolster preventative measures
 - Attendance certificates
 - Incentives
 - Family Engagement Campaigns
- ✱ Pursue dialogue at the state level to align
 - CT policy
 - Supports for students with military roots
 - Groton Public Schools Accountability Index
- ✱ Increase community engagement

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Revised: March 31, 2023

Attachment #3

CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2015-37	12/10/18	Review of English Language Arts Curriculum – Grammar/Conventions (AA)	Ongoing
R2022-10	3/22/22	Review financial literacy curriculum	April
R2022-16	5/17/22	Review Program of Studies for GMS & FHS	Ongoing
R2023-9	3/20/23	Review and support updates for high school curricula in Science, PE, Health, Social Studies, and others as determined by department leaders (EP)	Ongoing

POLICY			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2018-10	6/4/18	Review policy P 5111.3 - Protection of Undocumented Students	Ongoing
R2018-25	1/7/19	Review policy P 6146.1 - Examination Grading	April 2023
R2020-20	10/6/20	Review policy P 9000 - Rules of Procedure	Ongoing
R2022-15	5/17/22	Review policy P 6146 - Graduation Requirements	2 nd Reading - 3/27/2023
R2023-1	2/14/23	Review policy P 6161.1 - Library Materials Selection	1 st Reading - 3/27/2023
R2023-2	2/14/23	Review policy P 5123 - Promotion/Retention/Graduation	April 2023

COW			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2018-18	12/10/18	Discussion of student achievement by sub groups (KJ')	Ongoing
R2020-8	5/18/20	Discussion of a regional approach to an alternative high school and how to support each; regional program for kids w/ mental health issues (KW)	Ongoing
R2021-14	10/13/21	Discussion re: the evaluation of the magnet themes – are they working? (RV & DA)	Summer
R2021-17	10/25/21	Discussion re: the audit report (KW)	End of April
R2022-4	2/16/22	Discussion re: Career Pathways – Chelsey Courtright (MS)	Biennial
R-2023-3	3/10/23	Discussion re: Attendance data for students and staff	4/18/2023
R-2023-4	3/10/23	Discussion re: Reading Waiver and GPS model reading, writing, and phonics curriculum K-3	5/8/2023
R-2023-5	3/10/23	Discussion re: GPS Report Card 2022 and State Growth data; Getting ready for SBAC, NGSS, SAT 2023	4/24/2023

FINANCE/FACILITIES			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2021-6	6/14/21	Purchase of vans to transport SpEd students (RV)	Future Committee Meeting
R2021-22	11/9/21	Review Tree House Finances (KW)	Future Committee Meeting
R2021-25	11/23/21	Review the Use of PayPal	Future Committee Meeting

COMMUNICATIONS			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Status Report
R2022-13	4/11/22	Discussion of Mentor Program	Future Committee Meeting
R2023-7	3/20/23	Discussion of PTO/Booster Club Outreach (MS)	Future Committee Meeting
R2023-8	3/20/23	Discussion of the Communications Plan (MS)	Future Committee Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TEMPLATE

Month	C.O.W. Meeting - 2 nd Monday (Curriculum/Data)	C.O.W. Meeting - 3 rd Monday (Finance/Facilities)	Regular BoE Meeting - 4 th Monday
August	School Climate Data	- Staffing update - Facilities report - Technology update	- Open school report - Review summer curriculum, instructional work, & summer programs
September	- Grant related report - Review of summer curriculum development (literacy, math, science)	- Review CIP proposals - Develop budget timeline	- Adopt CIP proposals for next FY - Approval of Custodial Workers Recognition Day - District overview – SBAC, SAT, ACT, AP, IB - Communications Update
October	- Elementary school data - SBAC school results & action plan - Science assessment data - School Climate Data - Closing the achievement gap	- Class size/enrollment in AP & IB - Class sizes at GMS & FHS - Review draft school calendar	- Approval of class size parameters – minimum & maximum - Establish schedule of annual BoE meetings (committees, COW., BoE) - Official October 1 enrollment data - Adoption of school calendar
November	- Secondary school data - Science assessment data - Middle school – SBAC/CMT - High school – CAPT Science - SAT, ACT, AP, IB - Closing the achievement gap - Budget prep: non-union salaries, wages, stipends, budget development	Grants closing that requires staffing	- After school Enrichment Program update - District strategic plan update - Alliance Status & Funding
December	Budget prep: non-union salaries, wages, stipends, budget development		Special Education Update
January	Budget worksession meetings	Budget worksession meetings	- Budget development - Meeting with legislators
February	Budget worksession meetings	- Final budget review - Review of the cost of AP/IB tests and who pays for them - Review of class sizes including AP/IB	- Board appreciation month - Adoption of budget - Approval of Healthy Food Certification
March	- Winter literacy assessment (F & P, on demand writing) - After school enrichment program update	Review of the Audit Report	- Approval of Para Appreciation Day - Approval of Administrative Professional Day and Week - Communications update

Month	C.O.W. Meeting - 2 nd Monday (Curriculum/Data)	C.O.W. Meeting - 3 rd Monday (Finance/Facilities)	Regular BoE Meeting - 4 th Monday
April	- Curriculum development update - Accountability Index - Growth Model - State Report Card		- National Teacher Day and Week - Approval of School Nurses' Day - Non-tenure Renewals
May	- LAS data - Mentor program update	- CABE Student Leadership Awards - Friends of Education & Support Personnel Recognition - Teacher of the Year Recognition	- Review of the work of the DEI Committee - Culturally responsive teaching - Review of Minority Recruitment
June	- Guidance: College acceptance/remedial college courses - Review report cards	Review tuition rates	- Adoption of tuition rates - Grant writer report - Review magnet themes - Review lottery
July	- Spring literacy assessment (F & P, on demand writing) - Sp. Ed. Year-end review - Student Attendance Data	Review CIP proposals	- Board's self-evaluation (special meeting) - Superintendent's evaluation (special meeting)