

HOMWORK STUDY GROUP

PRESENTATION

FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2019



AGENDA

- PURPOSE AND PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION
- PLANNED OUTCOMES
- STUDY GROUP PROCESS
- HISTORY OF HOMEWORK
- CONSIDERATIONS
- GUIDELINES
- HOMEWORK-FREE VACATIONS
- FEEDBACK NEEDED AND NEXT STEPS



PURPOSE

- + TO ALIGN CURRENT HOMEWORK PRACTICES IN THE DISTRICT WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY
- + STUDY CURRENT RESEARCH AND IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES
- + EXAMINE OUR BELIEFS ABOUT HOMEWORK
- + IDENTIFY CURRENT PRACTICES IN FRANKLIN
- + CREATE HOMEWORK GUIDELINES THAT ALIGN WITH THE POLICY



PROBLEM: INCONSISTENT PRACTICES

- SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS CONDUCTED SURVEYS AND FOCUS GROUPS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS
- RESULTS: FRANKLIN HAD A WIDE VARIETY OF HOMEWORK PRACTICES AND EXPECTATIONS
- SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPTED NEW POLICY



PLANNED OUTCOMES

FORMATION OF A HOMEWORK STUDY GROUP IN FALL 2017 WITH THE GOAL OF PRODUCING A SET OF COMPREHENSIVE HOMEWORK GUIDELINES THAT:

- REPRESENTS CURRENT RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD
- ALIGNS WITH THE FPS SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY
- ADDRESSES THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY ACROSS THE DISTRICT
- ARE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES
- CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FALL OF 2019

STUDY GROUP PROCESS

- READ, RESEARCHED, STUDIED
 - THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON THE WHOLE CHILD
 - EXAMINATION OF OUR OWN BELIEFS
- DEFINED WHAT SUCCESS WOULD LOOK LIKE FOR THE STUDY GROUP?



STUDY GROUP PROCESS

- STUDIED AND RESEARCHED BEST PRACTICES REGARDING HOMEWORK (FALL 2017)
- EXAMINED CURRENT PRACTICES IN FRANKLIN VIA TEACHER SURVEY (SEPT. 2018)
- ESSENTIAL QUESTION: "HOW WILL WE COMMUNICATE OUR NEW LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING HOMEWORK TO CREATE CLOSER ALIGNMENT BETWEEN CURRENT PRACTICES AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY?"



STUDY GROUP PROCESS

- IDENTIFIED AS A COMMITTEE WHAT HOMEWORK GUIDELINES COULD/SHOULD LOOK LIKE- CONTENT AND FORMAT (OCT 2018)
 - DID NOT RECREATE THE WHEEL - LOOKED TO OTHER DISTRICTS
 - IDENTIFIED WHAT WAS A BEST FIT FOR FRANKLIN
 - CONSIDERED RESEARCH, COLLECTED DATA TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING
- BEGAN DRAFTING SECTIONS IN SMALL GROUPS (NOV-DEC 2018)
- FINALIZED PROPOSED GUIDELINES IN JANUARY 2019

History and Why We Did This Work

End of 1800s:

little homework assigned due to lack of consistent attendance

1900 -1950:

progressive movement lead to low homework assigned - *fresh air was a key focus*

Late 60s and early 70s:

anti homework thoughts resurface - *lower pressure on students*

Late 90s and early 2000s:

back to low homework due to *family time and Whole Child*

2000's-2020:

The Pendulum is split! Varying views, opinions, and beliefs!

1950s:

competition with the Soviet Union (Sputnik!) caused a spike in homework assigning - "We need to be prepared for the future!"

80s - 90s:

"A Nation at Risk" published and the pendulum swings back - *economic success is being tied to academic success*

CONSIDERATIONS

- DEFINITION OF HOMEWORK
- PURPOSE(S) OF HOMEWORK
- AMOUNT OF TIME SHOULD TAKE A STUDENT IN EACH GRADE
 - GUIDE FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS
- DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF STUDENTS
- FAMILY/STUDENT WORK-LIFE BALANCE
- RESEARCH-BASED BEST PRACTICES FOR HOMEWORK
- FRANKLIN-CENTRIC



PROPOSED GUIDELINES- [LINK](#)

- DEFINES HOMEWORK AND ITS PURPOSES
- EXPLAINS THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL: STUDENTS, TEACHERS, FAMILIES, AND ADMINISTRATORS
- EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF NIGHTLY READING AND MATH FACT FLUENCY AS FOUNDATIONS FOR ONGOING LEARNING
- PROVIDES RECOMMENDATIONS BY GRADE LEVEL FOR AVERAGE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK
- RECOMMENDS CONTINUING HOMEWORK FREE VACATIONS

HOMWORK FREE VACATIONS

- PILOTING AGAIN THIS YEAR AND CONDUCTING SURVEYS TO GATHER FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES
- OVERWHELMING SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THIS K-8
- SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUATION
 - “TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE FOR FEBRUARY AND APRIL”



FEEDBACK NEEDED

- THE CURRENT PROPOSAL OF FPS HOMEWORK GUIDELINES WILL BE OPEN FOR FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES
- WE NEED TO HEAR FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS
- A SURVEY WILL BE ADMINISTERED FOR EACH GROUP



NEXT STEPS

- MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO PROPOSED GUIDELINES
- INCLUDE IN HANDBOOKS FOR SUMMER 2019 WITH IMPLEMENTATION IN 2019-2020
- MONITOR NEXT YEAR, VIA SURVEY TO DETERMINE EFFICACY OF IMPLEMENTATION



STUDY GROUP MEMBERS

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



CREDITS

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