



**David Mindess School  
Transition Plan Update  
January 22, 2020  
School Committee Meeting**

## **Motion:**

"I move that we unify the Mindess curricular programming, moving to an as yet to be determined model that incorporates the best practices currently utilized both throughout Mindess as well as in education as a whole. The details of this unified model, including structure, delivery methods, transition plan and timeline for transition, will be voted on by the School Committee when available. Until such time, no changes related to this transition will be made."

-Paul Kendall, SC Member

# OUR TASK

- Unify structure and instructional delivery
- Incorporate “Best Practices” currently in place at Mindess and in education as a whole
  - Flexible, skill-based grouping
- Allow for authentic mentoring opportunities

## **Process: CPT meetings**

- Week of December 2:  
**Concerns and fears about the change**
- Week of December 9:  
**Strengths of our current model**
- Week of December 16:  
**Collection of ideas of what a new model could look like**

# **Process: Curriculum Meeting**

- December 19 Curriculum Meeting:  
**Integrated small group conversations**

# Concerns and fears about the change

- Scheduling and frequency of how long we will see students
- How can we maintain the mentoring piece
- Class size increase
- Authentic and meaningful opportunities for multi-grade mentoring and learning and relationship building
- Will teachers need to learn new curriculum and grade levels?
- What happens to the current special education model: dual/inclusion?
- What are our teams going to look like?
- Will special ed and ELL model need to change?

# Strengths of our current model

- Options
- We currently have opportunity to be flexible
- Leveled instruction allows for improved instruction in the classroom
- Flexible groupings are a strength as we can move students in and out
- Whole school schedule that allows for common planning
- Implementation of Responsive Classroom and consistency
- Flexible, Skills-based groupings
  - Easier to plan
  - Easier to differentiate
- Centers based instruction
- Grouping, but not labeling or tracking
- Freedom of teachers to make decisions

# Collection of ideas of what a new model could look like

## Various Teaming Models

- 5/5
- 2-2-2
- 10-10-10
- Vertical/Horizontal sharing
  - 7/8 - 15
- Skills based for Math and ELA teaming-eliminate Dual model
- Content based switching
- Mixed lunches, mixed recesses
- Multi-grade Discovery/Advisory Block
- Mosaic 1/week for 6 weeks
- Team Teaching
- Multi-Age Groupings for Project Based Learning



# Process: Curriculum Meeting

- December 19 Curriculum Meeting:  
**Integrated small group conversations**

*What were some commonalities?*

*What are some road blocks?*

*How can we compromise with one another to meet the needs and hopes of our teachers, while also meeting the expectations of our school committee and staying true to our student-centered mentality?*

# What's Next????

- What happens to the incoming third graders?
- What happens to the 4th and 5th graders next year, if there are no 3rd graders?
- I am concerned about when this change takes place and how does it impact us in September?

## What's Next????

- Exploration of various ideas
- What do potential schedules look like?
- Present 2-3 Options to staff
- Creation of working group