



## **PCCS Board of Directors / Academic Excellence Committee**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

Monday, May 14, 2018 7:00 PM  
Vicky Ranney Environmental Library  
Upper Wright Schoolhouse  
1571 Jones Point Road  
Grayslake, IL 60030

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#### **Call to Order**

7:04 pm

Nick Kotzamanis

#### **Members Attending:**

Nick Kotzamanis, Committee Chair  
Ed Jamison, Secretary  
Nell Anen  
Devon Mann

#### **Members Not in Attendance**

Abe Janis  
Bob Bolin

#### **Staff Attending**

Geoff Deigan, Executive Director  
Tony Zamiar, Dean of Students

#### **Public Attending**

None

#### **Discussion Agenda**

1. Accelerated Placement Act (Public Act 100-0421)

Mr. Zamiar reports that the act states that districts are to come up with a plan to make it possible for children to participate in an advanced curriculum. Today, PCCS differentiates in most subjects, most significantly in ELA and Math subjects. We do not have a standardized test for placement in the different groups. We assess the performance of the students during the year and place them according to their performance. Some of the challenges facing PCCS are that we don't have the resources to support a program as published. It would require additional staff, facilities and reporting to comply as written. Despite those challenges, we are putting pieces in place to keep pace with the requirements of this Act. PCCS would prefer to be even or ahead of these standards.

Mr. Kotzamanis suggests that we stay in open communication with our feeder districts to make sure we are all speaking a common language around the curricula and make sure we are reporting to the schools our students will move to in a way that they find most useful in placing our students properly.

Mrs. Anen suggests that we be in communication about non-Math (specifically ELA) standards as well to ensure we're also using a common language to assess and place PCCS students.

Mr. Zamiar responds that there is an open dialog with our surrounding schools on an ongoing basis with the intent of making sure there is a shared language and our students will be properly measured and placed.

Mrs. Mann mentions that our Math program is set up in such a way that advanced students can get High School credit for what we're doing at PCCS and get placed into more advanced course tracks.

Mr. Zamiar responds that the surrounding schools weigh multiple criteria across different subjects, plus placement exams and recommendations from PCCS staff to place students in ELA, Science and History classes.

Mr. Deigan mentions that we had 3 younger Kindergarten students applying this year that fell into a range that required assessment for admission. The process includes a variety of tests performed by the staff, including socio-emotional evaluation. There is also a request made of the parents to provide details on the students and their capabilities and how they might fit in and perform at PCCS.

Mrs. Anen asks whether we differentiate educationally prior 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There was further discussion around how the school does provide a differentiated learning experience appropriate for the learning level of the student wherever possible, even in earlier grades..

Mr. Deigan comments that communication is a major goal for the whole organization over the coming years, which will help to provide clearer understanding of what is going on in the classrooms and how programs are being applied.

2. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes  
Meeting will be approved at the Board Meeting

**Public Comment - None**

### **New Business**

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business before the committee, Nell Anen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Devon Mann

On a voice call – “all ayes.” MOTION CARRIED at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Jamison  
Secretary



May 14, 2018

A copy of the board documents for this meeting is available for viewing on the school web site.