



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

Highlights from the June 16, 2014 business meeting

To see the meeting video, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzOnUQMOK6k&feature=em-uploademail>



Minutes Approved

The Board approved the minutes from the [May 19, 2014 regular](#) and closed meetings.

Video stop:
[0:00:42](#)

Recommendations and Reports of Superintendent



Co-Teaching

Scott Wuggazer, assistant superintendent for special services, shared the results of an extensive study of the district's co-teaching practices. Co-taught classes are regular classes that include students with special needs/those with individual education plans. Both a regular educator and special education teacher teach the class.

Wuggazer presented data that has been collected since 2007. Analysis shows that co-teaching has resulted in increased student performance. For example, he said that PSAE reading and math scores have shown a "significant increase" in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding these standards.

As the number of students performing well has increased, the number of students who are included in co-taught courses has also grown. In addition, these students have been provided with greater access to more challenging courses than they have in the past, with students moving from instructional and 200-level courses to 300-level courses.

In a survey about co-teaching, 87% of students stated that the practice supports their learning and teachers believe that it "is vital" to student learning.

The district will continue to focus on student achievement, professional development to staff and the ongoing collection of data about co-teaching in the future.

To see the full presentation, please visit:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9KYKWM4CF1F6/\\$file/Co-Teaching%206-16-2014%20PDF.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9KYKWM4CF1F6/$file/Co-Teaching%206-16-2014%20PDF.pdf)



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*



[Video stop:](#)
[0:15:58](#)

D99 Curriculum Update

According to Superintendent **Mark McDonald**, District 99 continues to improve upon its curriculum by raising the level of rigor and standards that students must meet. These new and more challenging expectations are also consistent throughout multiple subjects, reinforcing the skills being taught. He emphasized that the curriculum changes and improvements, which also adhere to new state standards, are resulting in many positive changes for our students.

Associate Principal **Georgia Hash** explained how the district launched new English Language Arts standards for 9th/10th graders during 2013-14, starting with speaking and listening skills. Faculty also started planning expectations and rubrics to assess 11th/12th graders to adopt in 2014-15. (Standards for high school students are grouped by 9th/10th graders and 11th/12th graders.) The areas of concentration for next year include presentation, discussion and listening skills.

Taking into consideration the pre-tests and post-assessments of how students performed, over 4,600 assessments were given each semester during 2013-14. The findings will be invaluable in planning instruction in the future. In addition, teachers will be able to analyze data class by class and longitudinally in order to measure students' progression and growth in speaking and listening skills.

North High English Department Chair **Chris Bronke** shared the district's experiences in analyzing the new writing standards and adapting them for District 99. He explained how writing exercises are now more practical for use in the "real world," which is a departure from more traditional, essay-type assignments. Adopting the standards is a district-wide effort, with teams of teachers from both schools studying how to sequence the skills that students must learn. Next year, argument and critical thinking skills will be a focus.

North High Mathematics Department Chair **Jon Heldmann** reported that the district has successfully completed one full year of adopting its Math 1 courses, and that collaboration with all of our associated districts continues to be strong. He said that teachers are finding no curricular gaps with incoming freshmen, evidence that the collaborative approach is working well.

Analysis of student performance shows that there's been a decrease in the D/F grades in Math 1 when compared to the traditional Algebra classes. In addition, students report an increase in understanding math. Math also now includes more writing than in the past, as well as more presentations to explain solutions to problems.

District 99 staff members continue to serve as leaders in education for how other schools can effectively increase the rigor of curriculum. District 99 has hosted other schools throughout the state as well as presented in various forums, including the Illinois State Board of Education panel and institute days at other schools.

Heldmann said that students have risen to the challenge of taking on more responsibility for their



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

learning. For example, students must attempt to determine how to approach a problem and solve it on their own without immediate help from the teachers. This “habit of mind” has been implemented into all math classes, and will continue to be a focus next year.

Heldmann shared a quote from a freshman, which he believes encapsulates the changes of our more rigorous expectations:

“Students are expected to be inventors and invent a way to solve the problem. Training a brain to think like that is hard work.”

To read the full presentation, please visit:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9L34KT5AFD2C/\\$file/Common%20Core%20Report%20061614.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9L34KT5AFD2C/$file/Common%20Core%20Report%20061614.pdf)



[Video stop:](#)
[0:54:30](#)

Appraisal Report

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Pete Theis** provided an update of work that has been done by many on the appraisal process at District 99, including work that has been accomplished during the “Administrator Academy,” the rubric that has been completed for department chair evaluations and the work of the appraisal committee.

In August 2013, all certified administrators who evaluate staff spent two days in training sessions conducted by the Regional Office of Education. These sessions were focused entirely on teacher appraisal practices. In addition, administrators attended five half-day workshops throughout the year. The goals of the sessions were to standardize the evaluation process at the district, as well as to improve inter-rater reliability (i.e., ensure that the performance measures used to rate teachers are used consistently across the district). One outcome of this effort has been that the same percentage of teachers were rated as being “excellent” at each school.

The district also worked on the process of evaluating department chairs, and created a rubric that was used for 2013-14. Work will now focus on setting department and individual goals.

The Appraisal Committee, which is comprised of administrators and teachers from both schools, met monthly during 2013-14. After surveying staff on how they were being evaluated, they used feedback to improve upon the process and forms being used. Reports are positive about the new process.

To see the full presentation, please visit:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9KZ7D66651FB/\\$file/Appraisal%20Update%20061614.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9KZ7D66651FB/$file/Appraisal%20Update%20061614.pdf)



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

Consent Agenda



Video stop:
1:05:45

The Board members **unanimously approved** the following, modified consent agenda items:

- Personnel Report
- [Financial Pages](#)
- [2014-15 Board of Education Meeting Calendar](#)
- [Prevailing Wage Resolution](#)
- [Transfer of Interest from Working Cash Fund to Education Fund](#)
- [District Depositories](#)
- [Property and Liability Insurance](#)
- [Textbook for 2014-2015](#)
- [Student Tour](#)

Recommendation for Action



Video stop:
1:07:04

The Board members **unanimously approved** the following items:

- Spending \$219,719 on supplies for the 2014-15 school year, including recycled paper and other custodial and maintenance supplies:
 - For the first time, the district will [order recycled paper](#) in bulk. In the past, recycled paper was cost prohibitive, but it has now become more affordable.
 - [Custodial maintenance and grounds supplies](#) will include pool supplies and HVAC filters; by standardizing the products used by each school, the district was able to achieve a discount of approximately \$8,000.
- A new three-year support staff contract.

Old Business



Video stop:
1:13:47

Policy Committee Report – Second Reading

Board members **unanimously approved** these policies recommended by the Policy Committee:

- [2.60 Board Member Removal from Office.pdf \(4 KB\)](#)
- [2.70 Vacancies on the School Board - Filling Vacancies.pdf \(75 KB\)](#)
- [2.80 Board Member Oath and Conduct.pdf \(82 KB\)](#)
- [2.100 Board Member Conflict of Interest.pdf \(68 KB\)](#)
- [2.130 Board-Superintendent Relationship.pdf \(65 KB\)](#)
- [2.170 Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services.pdf \(5 KB\)](#)



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

- [5.230 Maintaining Student Discipline.pdf \(69 KB\)](#)
- [7.55 Student Fees.pdf \(32 KB\)](#)
- [7.326 Parent-Community Fund Raising.pdf \(233 KB\)](#)



Video stop:
[1:13:52](#)

New Business

The Policy Committee presented the following policies for first reading:

- [3.50 Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent.pdf \(322 KB\)](#)
- [3.53 Controller.pdf \(228 KB\)](#)
- [3.55 Director of Physical Plant and Operations.pdf \(151 KB\)](#)
- [4.20 Fund Balances.pdf \(52 KB\)](#)
- [6.236 Websites and Social Media.pdf \(63 KB\)](#)
- [7.275 Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment.pdf \(57 KB\)](#)

The Superintendent asked the board members to consider attending the Downers Grove Fourth of July parade and Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation annual luncheon. The board also discussed timing for the superintendent's evaluation, and board retreats.



Video stop:
[1:23:47](#)

Communications and Announcements

- Member **Keith Matune** reported that the Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND) met for the last time in the school year last week, and referred others to read the report prepared by Superintendent **Mark McDonald**.
- Member **Julia Beckman** gave an update on the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED). She attended the dedication of a new "keepsake" garden, which honors all of the students with special needs who have passed away. The garden is located at SASED's headquarters, on the corner of Naper Blvd. and Chicago Avenue.
- Member **Julia Beckman** also invited others to visit the [Illinois Humanities Council website](#); they have a program called "public square" that fosters debate and exchange of ideas on a variety of topics, such as coal and climate change.
- Member **Deb Boyle** said that the Illinois Association of School Boards is celebrating its 100 year anniversary, and plans are underway for the 2014 conference.



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

Upcoming Board Meetings

July 21, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

Business Meeting
Administrative Service Center

August 18, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

Business Meeting
Administrative Service Center

September 8, 2014 – 7 p.m.

Workshop Meeting
Administrative Service Center

September 15, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

Business Meeting
Administrative Service Center

*This publication is for information purposes only;
minutes approved by the Board serve as the official meeting record.*