



BOARD OF EDUCATION *Highlights*

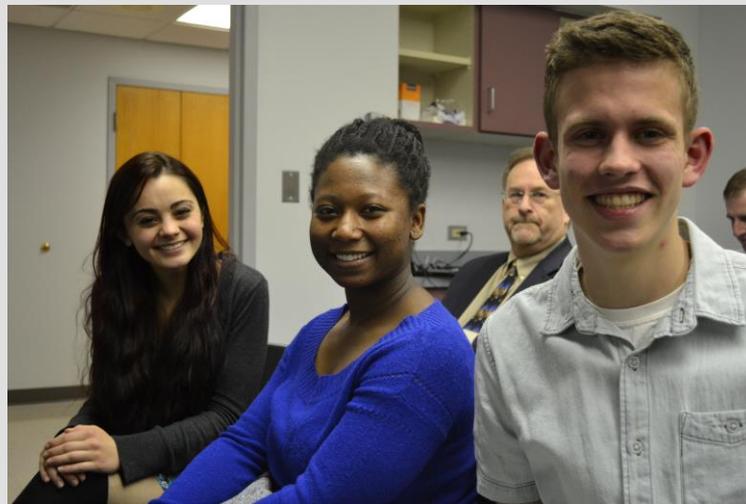
Highlights from the December 2, 2013 workshop meeting

To see the meeting video, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET2NDB0onAc&feature=em-uploademail>

Student Perspectives



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South High Students (l-r) Ilirida Memedovski, Jasmine Smith, Jeff Heffernan

Three students from South High shared reflections about their involvement in the upcoming Winter Play, "Midsummer Night's Dream," which will run Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14 at 7 p.m. at the school:

- **Ilirida Memedovski** is acting in the play, and said that being involved has taught her responsibility and given her more confidence and self-esteem. She commended her teacher and play director Tiffany Rubin, calling her a "great woman, role model and director."
- **Jasmine Smith** is serving as a student director, and would like to study theater and directing after high school. She also credited Rubin's influence, saying her teacher has "opened up a whole new world of possibilities" for her.
- **Jeff Heffernan** is serving as the sound designer for the production. He said that the experience of participating in the theater program has taught him to "work with others, be responsible and to be a better citizen."



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Board Workshop



Recommended New Courses for 2014-15

Department chairs from both schools presented their recommendations for new courses for the 2014-15 school year. All of the new courses proposed support the District 99 strategic plan to offer all students challenging coursework.

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- Science Chairs **Karen Eder** (South High) and **Mike Heinz** (North High) recommend adding AP Environmental Science to the department's offerings. The chairs reported that graduating students have requested environmental science courses on school exit surveys, and there is an "overwhelming" student interest. The new course, geared for juniors and seniors, will have broad appeal to students who are interested in environmental stewardship opportunities.
- Social Studies Chairs **Chris Esposito** (South High) and **Jill Rose** (North High) advocated for adding a Multicultural Studies in American Society elective course, which will be a 300-level course for juniors and seniors. The course will expose students to an "integrated and comprehensive" approach to the experiences of various ethnic groups in the U.S., including African American, Asian American, Native American and Latino minority groups. The chairs said interest in this type of course "bubbled up from interest in the community" as well as the minority parent groups at both schools; the DuPage Regional Office of Education also recommends this content be included in curriculum. "This is a gap in our curriculum—we need to have a space in our curriculum for this," said Esposito.
- Career and Technical Education Chair **Mark Mirandola** (North High) recommended adding a Digital Tools and Communication course, which will condense and upgrade current keyboarding and other technologies courses. Mirandola said that they considered all of the technology skills students need in their other academic classes in order to construct the new class, which will still include an element of keyboarding for skill and accuracy. Students will be taught new skills (i.e., experience with spreadsheet and presentation software) to put into their "digital backpack."
- Fine Arts Chair **Brayer Teague** (North High) proposed adding AP Music Theory to the line-up of classes offered in Fine Arts. He explained that they currently offer a similar course, which investigates the math and science of music and is geared for students interested in majoring in music in college.
- Math Chairs **Paul Stevenson** (South High) and **Jon Heldmann** (North High) explained the next proposed courses in the Common Core Mathematics sequence: Math 2/2S and Math 2 Honors. The population of current freshmen will take these courses as sophomores.



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Math 2 will replace the Geometry 200, 300 and 400 courses. Both chairs reported enthusiasm for the course; integration between Math 1 and Math 2 courses and concepts will be able to truly come into practice. Teachers will also be able to further reinforce the “standards of mathematical practice,” a hallmark of the Common Core State Standards for Math. “A layered tier of support is crucial to help students and will continue to be in place,” said Stevenson.

For more details about the proposed courses, go to

https://www.csd99.org/assets/1/7/New_Course_Proposals_for_14-15.pdf.

The Board will vote to approve the courses at its business meeting on December 16, 2013.



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Corporate Sponsorships

The Board discussed the possibility of pursuing corporate sponsorships to help offset fees and other costs. Superintendent Dr. Mark McDonald shared the current district policy about advertising in the schools at http://www.csd99.org/assets/1/7/8_25-Advertising_in_Schools.pdf and compared it to the IASB policy, which is more permissive.

The Board members discussed the difference between advertising and sponsorships, as well as dedicated and more informal sponsorships.

Members agreed that they would like to investigate possible new revenue sources and partnerships. Before involving possible partners and booster groups, they asked the policy committee to begin the process by developing more explicit direction. For the discussion outline, see [http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9E27F87AF867/\\$file/Corporate%20Sponsorships.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/csd99/Board.nsf/files/9E27F87AF867/$file/Corporate%20Sponsorships.pdf)



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“Triple I” Conference Sharing

Board members who attended the “Triple I” conference in Chicago shared insights about various sessions they attended or topics they learned about with one another. The conference is an annual three-day, joint conference sponsored by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), and the Illinois Association of School Business Officers (IASBO). It offers training, networking and the opportunity to learn the latest policy and legislative initiatives on education related subjects.

Board members agreed that the exposure to and discussions with other school districts and education professionals gave them even more confidence about how well managed and prepared District 99 is for the future.



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Parking Lot – Ideas

Board President Dr. Nancy Kupka suggested that the Board members establish a “parking lot” for ideas. For example, it was suggested at the Triple I conference that a district’s auditor give an annual report to the Board of Education; this will be placed in the “parking lot” to be discussed and considered at future meetings for District 99. The Board members unanimously agreed this will be a useful and constructive tool for their work.

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 16, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Service Center
6301 Springside Avenue, Downers Grove

January 13, 2014 - 7 p.m.

Administrative Service Center

January 27, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting and Celebration, 6:30 p.m.,

Business Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Transition House
4232 Venard, Downers Grove

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