

District 99 reviews goals for 2015-16 school year



NEWS

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DOWNERS GROVE – Community High School District 99 highlighted some of its goals for the 2015-16 school year at its Oct. 5 meeting.

Superintendent Mark McDonald laid out the highlights in where the district hopes to go. He said the board looks over the goals every October.

AVID program progress

One of the biggest things to look at will be the AVID program, which helps with a students' college readiness.

The program is in its third year and administrators are preparing for the fourth year.

McDonald said it will be important to look at how many students in the AVID program go to college and how well they perform. Those results could help determine what the AVID program will become.

"In terms of evaluating it ... we don't know what the end game is at this

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time," McDonald said.

Board member Michael Davenport said he's interested in seeing how the AVID students perform in college. He said the district could continue contact with AVID students to track their progress in college, which also could be useful for alumni development.

Curriculum updates

McDonald said the district would look at multiple aspects of the curriculum, including changes to graduation requirements, physical education, driver's education and civics requirements.

"There's actually going to be a lot of work on curriculum ... over the next year," he said.

The district also is hoping to look at ways to increase enrollment in Advanced Placement and honors classes. It also hopes to develop a 21st century learning curriculum with new STEM classes.

Facilities use

With facilities, the biggest factor McDonald hopes to look at is the master facility plan. Administrators likely will give a concept to the board to consider during the upcoming school year, and he said it'll be important to get feedback on the issue.

"Communicating about the master facility plan is going to be a part of our plan for the next year," McDonald said.

The district also will look at the usage of the facilities in District 99 and explore chances to rent out facilities and develop a facility maintenance plan for summer 2016.

Budget concerns

McDonald said there is a "major concern" about funding. The state's budget is in flux, and the district does not know how much money it will receive from the state for this school year.

"We are going to look at our budget and look at things we can reduce in the future," he said.

The district also will identify budget priorities if state revenues negatively affect the revenues. The board also will be presented with a five-year budget forecast.

Technology

This is the first year for 1-to-1 learning in District 99, and McDonald said it will be reviewed throughout the course of the year to see how effective it is. He said they also will look at the funding plan and see if it's appropriate.