

October 22, 2018

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a special meeting and curriculum workshop on Monday, October 22, 2018, at Herrick Middle School.

1. STAFF MEET & GREET

The Board met informally with District 58 staff at 6:15 p.m. in the Herrick LRC.

2. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the special meeting/curriculum workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: President Doug Purcell; Vice President Elizabeth Sigale; and Members Doshi, Harris, Hughes, Miller, and Samonte. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least 30 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

3. PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVER APPLICATION

A. Public Hearing

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul presented the application for the renewal of a waiver of the school code mandate to provide physical education three days a week. The District proposes to provide two days of physical education instruction, supplemented by one day of Teacher Directed Physical Education (TDPE) in first and second grades. Grades 3-8 already receive at least three days of physical education instruction.

President Purcell opened the hearing for public comment. Anthony Calderone, Highland parent, commented that the social skills learned in P.E. curriculum are especially important at first and second grade levels, and instruction from a qualified P.E. teacher is beneficial. There being no further comments, the hearing was declared closed at 7:05 p.m.

B. Approval of Waiver Application

Member Harris moved and Member Miller seconded the motion to approve the Application for Waiver or Modification of School Code Mandates as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell,

4. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Mr. Sisul introduced teacher representatives to give a brief update on the work of each curriculum committee.

- English/Language Arts: Sue Anderson reported on the district-wide implementation of ELA resources Benchmark and StudySync. Phase 1 teachers and the publishers have helped prepare Phase 2 teachers for full implementation. The committee worked on alignment with report card standards so that teachers know what they will teach and how to report that to parents. Teachers have expressed that the materials are challenging and provide appropriate rigor for students. The committee will continue grade level meetings regarding implementation, plan professional development, evaluate supplemental resources, and evaluate grammar/spelling/writing resources.
- Math: Katie Hurckes and Haley O'Reilly reported that last year the Math Committee continued to revise the Math Blueprint, provided assessments (including common assessments) for all topics, and worked on vertical alignment and gap identification. Goals for this year include creating a "framework/goals" guiding document, continuing to assess programs for both accelerated and struggling learners, and creating a future timeline for curricular materials. The committee has concluded that the Blueprint is not the long term future of math instruction in the District, and will explore possible new core curricular resources.
- Science/STEM: Kelly DeMarco and Deanna Jacobs reported that last year the committee looked at multiple resources, but did not find one with complete NGSS alignment. The committee considered whether to delay the process or to seek a usable imperfect resource that can be supplemented with knowledge of three-dimensional learning. Goals for this year are piloting resources for K-5 and 6-8, and making a recommendation by February 2019 of a future resource adoption if a viable one exists.
- Social Studies: Mr. Sisul reported that this new committee held its initial meeting in May 2018 with a presentation by Mary Ellen Daneels from the Illinois Civics Association. Committee goals for this year include building committee background on social studies standards and instructional shifts, exploring potential resources, developing professional learning recommendations, and ultimately establishing a district-wide curriculum.
- Biliteracy: Biliteracy Coordinator José Anaya reported that the Biliteracy Committee met for the first time in October 2018. The committee includes biliteracy, English Learner and general education teachers, as well as administrators. Committee goals include reviewing the current program, researching best practice in dual language instruction, determining how to

meet the needs of District 58 students, and working toward a recommendation for any program revision in spring 2020.

- Innovative Learning and Technology: Director of Innovative Technology and Learning James Eichmiller reported that last year the committee evaluated the existing 1:1 learning program, reviewed survey data from teachers, parents and students, and made a recommendation for a refresh of 1:1 devices. This year's goals are to develop professional learning experiences for teachers in technology integration, create integrated technology-enhanced student activities, and align student experiences with technology and classroom learning standards.
- Middle School Exploratory: Kathy Mahay reported that the committee reviewed current exploratory offerings in Districts 58 and 99, learning standards, and survey data. The committee made some tentative recommendations for course offerings and plans to develop and revise curricular content to make it relevant and meaningful.
- Middle School Health: Haley Underwood reported that this committee, comprised of Herrick and O'Neill staff, wrote a two-year scope and sequence based on the Illinois Health Standards. They developed a 30-lesson plan for the first year, which is now being implemented for 7th and 8th grade students as part of P.E. The committee will develop the second 30-lesson plan, and continue to revise the first year's lessons to best meet the needs of students.
- Curriculum Council: The council, created as part of the Strategic Goals Action Plan, oversees curricular development and review. Its initial task is to develop a timeline for curricular review across the District. The council will report fully during the quarterly strategic plan update in December 2018.

Member Sigale asked whether the future curriculum adoptions mentioned in the curriculum committee reports would be too much of a burden on teachers to implement. Mr. Sisul responded that, although curriculum adoption recommendations are teacher driven, the Curriculum Council will be assessing the pace of change and creating a reasonable timeline for implementation. Board members also discussed the integration of technology curriculum and professional development. Board members requested feedback on professional development progress and needs.

Mr. Sisul addressed MAP and PARCC assessment data for 2018, noting that the results on both assessments reflect similar overall achievement, which allows for side-by-side comparisons of the data to look for trends by grade level or building. Data analysis began with an initial overview with administrators on October 12th, and will continue with ongoing building-level analysis throughout the next few months. Grade-level analysis will be considered later by the ELA and Math Committees to improve resources, methods and timing of instruction. These data will also be used in reviewing school improvement plans for the coming year.

Mr. Sisul next presented the preliminary Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

summative designations that will be released by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in final form on October 31, 2018. ESSA is federal legislation requiring each state to create a plan based on educative, equitable and non-punitive principles. It is designed to identify schools and sub-groups that need support, and then funnel grant money and resources to support those groups. Under the Illinois ESSA plan, each school receives a summative rating, or tier designation. The data points used this year to calculate those designations are: 50% growth, 20% chronic absenteeism, 10% each math and ELA proficiency, 5% English learners progress to proficiency, and 5% climate survey. All data is exclusively from the PARCC and DLM assessments. Data is collected by school and by sub-group. Sub-group indicators include all students, each major racial and ethnic group, English learners, former English learners, economically disadvantaged students, and students with IEPs. A sub-group is defined as 20 or more students per indicator. Math and ELA proficiency is calculated against state-established targets for each year. The ISBE rank-orders schools by their "all students" group, identifies the lowest performing 5% and highest performing 10%, and checks for underperforming sub-groups at individual schools, and then assigns final designations. In District 58, eleven schools received a Tier 1 Exemplary designation, while Hillcrest and O'Neill received a Tier 2 Commendable designation. Parent forums are scheduled at all schools to present this information and answer parent questions.

School improvement planning is an annual process in all buildings wherein teams of teachers review data on academic performance and school environment. The teams set goals in three areas: reading, math and social-emotional learning. Specific action steps are identified. By Fall 2020, school improvement plans will be more closely aligned with the key performance indicators outlined in the Strategic Plan.

ISBE will officially release School and District Report Cards on October 31, 2018. The preview released to districts on October 19th includes new data, such as the ESSA sub-group indicators, and some new formatting of previously reported data to reflect the shift in emphasis beyond simple achievement data. There is greater focus on proficiency by sub-group, as well as ELA and math growth.

5. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Emily Hanus, Pierce Downer attendance area, commented on the importance of social studies instruction and asked that social studies is considered when planning and implementing curriculum updates.

Georgia Kaempf, O'Neill attendance area, asked for information about parental access to summative quizzes. She also spoke in favor of positive reinforcement and social-emotional learning for special education students.

Rich Stachon, Henry Puffer attendance area, inquired about the sufficiency of standards and professional development for technology instruction. He also asked how tuition money from the Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement

Program (OKEEP) is spent. Dr. Cremascoli responded that those funds go directly to OKEEP teacher salaries and supplies. Mr. Stachon requested budget information regarding OKEEP.

Emily Hanlon, Kingsley attendance area, commented that technology education should include instruction on how to organize, filter and sort email. She praised the District's shift to trimesters and the meaningful information and teacher comments provided on report cards. She asked the District to consider giving elementary parents access to a grade portal.

Ami Johanson, Pierce Downer attendance area, noted that there are many community partners who can offer support and resources to supplement science and STEM curriculum.

Tracy Weiner, Henry Puffer, commented on lack of transparency in communication regarding Pierce Downer air conditioning, as well as circumstances surrounding the transfer and busing of students from El Sierra to Kingsley. Dr. Cremascoli stated that at the beginning of the school year, enrollment was trending high in certain grade levels at El Sierra and Hillcrest. Because principals had expressed the desire to avoid combination classes to reduce class size, the District decided to offer transfers to any newly enrolled Hillcrest or El Sierra families with students at those specified grade levels. Using existing bus routes would prevent additional transportation costs. Two families accepted the offer to transfer to Kingsley, and two declined. A third family transferred to access the biliteracy program at Kingsley. Transportation is always provided for families transferred for special programs. The District plans to review its intra-district transfer policy before enrollment begins for the coming year.

The Board has reviewed all of the documents and communication regarding the Pierce Downer air conditioning. Members Doshi and Hughes stated that although communication regarding this issue could have been better, they did not perceive a lack of honesty. Several board members commented that improving communication is a top goal of the Strategic Plan and that the Board will continue to explore avenues for improvement.

Fanny Vlahos, Highland attendance area, asked whether ESSA is the only legislation applicable to these designations, and whether funding is based on tier designation. Justin Sisul responded that the federal ESSA legislation requires each state to make a plan, and Illinois' plan meets those requirements. Tier designation provides schools access to additional grant money to support particular underperforming groups.

Michelle Gromada, Highland attendance area, asked for additional information about gifted programs.

Emily Kao, Kingsley attendance area, stated her concerns with iPad use by

students in younger grades. She asked whether the District is taking into account research on the benefits and downsides of screen time, and what guidance is given to teachers about the amount of time per day iPads should be used for various purposes.

Sara Roussin, Highland attendance area, asked about Apple professional learning and professional development for teachers regarding technology. Mr. Eichmiller responded that some of the Apple professional learning time has been used during teacher institute days, and some time for technology is captured at every institute day and grade level meeting. Technology training during the November institute day will make use of some free professional development resources. The District has also provided optional after-school technology learning sessions for teachers that have been well-attended. Ms. Roussin also asked about budgeting for ongoing curricular updates and asked what steps are in place to assess curriculum. Mr. Sisul responded that the Curriculum Council's role is to set a timeline or audit schedule for ongoing curricular updates, and noted that there is an assumption in budget planning that new resources will be adopted.

Georgia Kaempf asked for the name of the District's 504 Plan coordinator. Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart fills that role.

Jennifer Norgaard, Highland attendance area, stated that during her participation in the Communications Feedback Council, she heard from representatives of other districts that being transparent in communication helps prevent negative feedback.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Purcell announced the following dates:

- November 9th, 7:00 a.m. – Financial Advisory Committee – ASC
- November 12th, 7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting – Village Hall

7. CLOSED SESSION

Member Hughes moved and Member Harris seconded the motion to convene in closed session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to

- the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1);
- collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2);

- the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10);
- litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Harris, Hughes, Miller, Purcell, Samonte, and Sigale
 NAYS: None Motion carried

Member Harris moved and Member Miller seconded the motion to reconvene in open session.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 9:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 10:20 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Hughes moved and Member Samonte seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Doug Purcell, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary