

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole: Curriculum & Technology
at 7:00 p.m. on October 9, 2018
Jefferson School - Multipurpose Room
8200 N. Greendale, Niles, IL 60714

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Larry Ryles, Tom Sotos, Rick Biagi and Mark Eggemann. Board members Fred Sanchez and Eastman Tiu were absent. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez, Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden, Director of Student Services Lea Anne Frost, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, and about eight members of the public.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at: <http://www.d64.org>.

Board President Borrelli stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive an update and additional information on curriculum and technology as applied to student learning within the District and to hear a report on the Middle School Review Committee's activities that had been deferred from the September 24 regular meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board member Ryles led us in the Pledge.

Board President Borrelli briefly reviewed recent Board activities, including the first meeting of the Special Education Board Committee, and its meeting materials and minutes; plans for the first meeting of the School Resource Officer Board Committee; and the ABC's of School Board Service meeting in September to provide information to community members considering service on the Board in advance of the April 2019 election. Board President Borrelli then confirmed that the Board at its last meeting had discussed guidelines for receiving public comment on non-agenda topics during a public comment period at each meeting and as agenda topics were considered, and ways for the Board President to facilitate calling on Board members during its own discussion of agenda items.

Public Comments

Board President Borrelli invited public comments on non-agenda items; none were received.

Board Member Discussion

At the request of Board member Biagi, Board members were updated on an unusual situation where D64 school buses may not travel on two streets (Rose and Broadway) as it is privately owned by a homeowners association that prohibits bus traffic within their community boundaries. District 64 does provide transportation for students to and from school, but students walk a short distance to ride the bus. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to ask for legal counsel to review what options are available to the District with respect to using private roads to facilitate bus service to students.

Student Learning and Technology Update

In their comprehensive written update and presentation at the meeting, Dr. Lopez and Tech Director Warden focused on "responsive teaching" as the instructional practice that has the most significant impact on student learning. Now entering the fourth year of the *2020 Vision* Strategic Plan, they reported on the plan's continuous improvement mindset and progress in the first four (of six) objectives that address the rigor of the District's educational program. In responsive teaching, they pointed out that effective teachers monitor student learning and provide targeted instruction by using feedback from students in three key areas: student learning, student engagement, and student connectedness.

A deeper view was then offered of the work underway in each of the key areas:

- **Student Learning** - Dr. Lopez and Director Warden reported that teachers address a range of academic needs in the classroom. To support achievement, they reported on three of the tools that D64 teachers use to diagnose student needs and design instruction, including: formative assessment, which happens during a unit of study and is designed to shape instruction taking place in response to student need; the Workshop Model currently being implemented in reading and piloted in writing; and common assessments, along with the related technology tools that help teachers access student learning in real-time and organize data for differentiation.
- **Student Engagement** - They next reported that research shows that students who are actively engaged in their learning are more likely to excel, and that today's teacher makes the distinction between passive compliance and active engagement. Director Warden showcased several advances in technology that offer opportunities for students and teachers to experience learning in ways that were not possible in the past. She and Dr. Lopez reported on the high-impact instruction underway through inquiry-based learning, a form of active learning that starts by posing questions, problems or scenarios for students to solve. Virtual reality experiences offered through Google's Learning Expeditions also were explored. Roosevelt School Instructional Technology Tiffany

Costa and Building Technologist Gretchen Buhrke joined the presentation to help facilitate Board members using the mobile app to view 360-degree scans of locations -- like coral reefs, Antarctica, or the human anatomy -- that place students in the middle to explore, inquire and make connections.

- **Student Connectedness** - Dr. Lopez and Director Warden pointed out that when students feel a deep sense of connectedness to their classmates, teachers and other adults, they are more engaged, more persistent and demonstrate fewer disruptive behaviors. They noted that D64 is developing a comprehensive program to promote this positive school culture, and reported on a number of tools to support social-emotional learning (SEL) and the four components of the District-wide effort: explicit skill instruction guided by the District-wide *Second Step* program; environmental structures, such as expectations for positive behavior that each school embeds in an acronym, such as Emerson Eagle SOARS or Roosevelt School's 5 Bees; community-building practices, such as the introduction this year of "restorative practices" like communication circles; and data collection for the purpose of progress monitoring, like the Safe and Civil Schools *Climate & Safety Survey* conducted recently to collect baseline data across the District.

Board members engaged in discussion with Dr. Lopez, Director Warden and Dr. Heinz throughout the presentation to delve further into topics of interest to them. Board members suggested a report be prepared by the team in the future about restorative justice and communication circles, which will be the focus of the November 6 Institute Day professional development for many D64 staff members.

Update on Middle School Review Committee

As stated earlier, Dr. Lopez noted this report had been deferred from the September 24 Board meeting. Dr. Lopez reported that the Middle School Review Committee had been convened in September 2017, and that last year's work had focused on creating a middle school mission; reviewing feedback from student focus groups and a ThoughtExchange interactive online forum; reviewing various types of middle school schedules; and establishing a scheduling subcommittee to work with consultant Dr. Michael Rettig. Dr. Lopez noted that this year's activities will be focused on reviewing the options outlined by the subcommittee; proposing possible resolutions for any challenges or opportunities created by the schedule options from Dr. Rettig; seeking feedback from stakeholders on viable options, and making a recommendation to the administration regarding scheduling. She pointed out that the committee is also expected to review student feedback and the ThoughtExchange results regarding exploratory/elective offerings in further depth. Board members engaged in discussion with Dr. Lopez and Dr. Heinz about the committee's work this year, and when the District would receive the committee's recommendations.

Board President Borrelli and Dr. Heinz thanked Dr. Lopez and Director Warden for their report and for showcasing the efforts undertaken across D64 to implement the student learning and professional development objectives within the Strategic Plan.

Board members also reached consensus on switching the locations of the October and November regular meetings to be on site at Washington School on November 12 in order to celebrate the school's receipt of the 2018 National Blue Ribbon School Award, which is occurring on November 7-8.

In response to a Board member question, Public Information Coordinator Tramm also reported on the launch of a FOIA log on the D64 website to provide information about requests received by the District beginning October 1.

Adjournment

Board President Borrelli invited any public comments on these topics; none were received. At 9:02 p.m., it was moved by Board member Biagi and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Ryles, Sotos, Borrelli, Biagi

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Sanchez, Eggemann, Tiu

The motion passed.

President

Secretary

Dated: _____