



District Leadership Team
Minutes

Date: March 8, 2018

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: Board Room, Administration Center

District Strategic Priorities:

- Highest levels of student achievement
- Buildings, infrastructure, and technology to support our mission
- Quality staff for quality learning
- High level of engagement with our broader community
- Proactive communication within the District and with our stakeholders
- Long-term financial stability

Members present:

Kim Myers, Sue Ickes, Rosi Portillo, Carrie Pilichowski, Jim Franks, Farah Anderson, Rena Wils, Brandi Floming, Emilie Heald, Elia Nunez-Raya, Kristin Humphries, Jen King, Jeff Fairweather, Kristin Taylor, Mike Hawley, Tracy Greer, Sheri Coder, Casey Kyser, Chris Mueller

Members absent:

Elia Nunez-Raya

Co-chair: Jen King

Co-chair: Kristin Humphries

Note taker: Chris Mueller

Timekeeper: Casey Kyser

The meeting began at 3:33 p.m.

Jen King welcomed those in attendance and asked everyone to share something positive in their work or personal lives.

Reports from Sub-committees

District Student Achievement Committee

Sheri Coder shared information about a data walk, which was a recent activity of the Student Achievement Committee. Committee members reviewed MAP data from fall/winter, along with PARCC data from last year. Observations from the committee included a focus on EL and SPED student percentages, why they were seeing the trends they were seeing, and how this data could be used to enact improvement.

The committee plans to have a deeper conversation at their next meeting. Ms. Coder added that there was significant movement in MAP scores, especially in Language Arts at Glenview. She hopes to see a positive correlation between growth in Math and PARCC scores. Studying gaps in test scores of student sub-groups will be a focus of future discussion.

Mission: We will prepare all students to become life-long learners who are productive, responsible members of a global society.

District Finance Committee

Tracy Greer shared that the Finance Committee is using a book on school finance as a reference to guide discussion and more fully understand the district's financial reports. She added that this is a learning experience especially in light of so many recent changes. Dr. Humphries added that he attends and participates in various meetings and discussions on school funding.

District Culture and Climate Committee

Farah Anderson stated that at the most recent meeting, the committee was asked to define "culture". Discussion then involved whether or not a different name was needed to better describe this committee. More discussion is planned for the next meeting. The committee worked to provide a list of "Top 10" highlights of District #37 for the Quad City Area Realtors to use for marketing purposes. Rosi Portillo talked about the upcoming QC 2030 event, *Quad City Big Table*, to be held April 20 and 21, 2018. East Moline School District will host a private table on April 20. Suggestions from the DLT on individuals to invite are welcome. This will be a 1-hour discussion, two rooms of 8-12 people per room. Farah explained how to join or host a Big Table discussion.

21st Century Learning Environment

Carrie Pilichowski stated that the recent committee meeting has been rescheduled for the end of March. Presenters will discuss such topics as paint, lighting, etc. The committee will provide an update at the next DLT meeting.

Building Leadership Team Update

Mike Hawley informed the members that principals held a meeting to discuss the structure of Building Leadership Team committees. The primary focus was to align to the District Leadership Team, and the continuous improvement in student achievement.

Jeff Fairweather added that there were two consistent areas of need identified, a two-way communication plan with students/parents, and feedback from internal and external stakeholders. Dr. Humphries added that certain decisions need teacher voices, and that when this happens, it results in a positive effect on student achievement. He added that as a District Leadership Team, one goal is to find a way to include student input in decisions, as appropriate. Mr. Hawley added that a goal of the Building Leadership Team is to build a common voice. Rena Wils provided an example of a letter-writing activity her students recently shared regarding cafeteria improvements. Dr. Humphries expressed the importance of self-directed students who take ownership in their learning. Giving a voice helps build leadership skills. Ms. Coder asked if there was a diagram to illustrate relationships between Building Leadership Teams and District Leadership Team. Dr. Humphries will share a draft flowchart with the committee.

K-4 "Specials"

Dr. Humphries noted that the Board of Education would like to see one additional "special" at the elementary level next year. He asked the members for input on the type of program to add. Suggestions included surveys of staff and students. Questions included whether or not research data was available to show which specials most directly impact student achievement, whether there are existing programs which could be enhanced, or whether or not S.T.E.A.M. or Project Lead the Way enhancements should be a consideration. Dr. Humphries noted that our

Project Lead the Way is different because it is not an after-school elective. This gives exposure to all students.

A concern was expressed regarding the lack of arts at the elementary level, and the need for more opportunities for creative expression. Another concern was that some opportunities were only available at the middle school level.

Dr. Humphries stated that he would like a recommendation ready for the Board by the May meeting, and asked if everyone is in agreement about adding a “special”. The committee members responded in agreement. He asked if everyone was in agreement that the Superintendent should decide on a process for input into this decision, and if student voices should be included. The committee was in agreement. Ms. Coder suggested that teachers could obtain student input, but should have a common mini-script to ensure that students fully understand the information being presented to them.

Jen King asked for reflection on what was discussed, and prior discussion on consensus-building. Dr. Humphries asked if the flowchart provided at the last meeting could help the committee make decisions. Comments included that the flowchart guiding the process of building a consensus was a new concept, as opposed to the traditional “majority rules” method. Another member commented that it has been interesting to learn more about District #37. Dr. Humphries asked for thoughts on areas in need of improvement. Jen King asked the members to email any thoughts and concerns that come up later.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.