

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a special meeting and curriculum workshop on Monday, February 25, 2019, at Fairmount School.

1. STAFF MEET & GREET

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

2. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the special meeting/curriculum workshop to order at 7:05 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; Catherine Hannigan, Manager of Business Services; 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 19 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

President Purcell asked for one minute and 18 seconds of silence in memory of former Lester and Herrick student Beth Dunlap.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

There being no request for individual consideration of any items on the consent agenda, the President stated that a motion would be in order relative to items on the consent agenda, consisting of the Personnel Report. Member Miller moved and Member Hughes seconded the motion to approve the following items:

A. Personnel

The request for Family Medical Leave of Absence for one certified teacher, the appointment of the Henry Puffer Principal, the resignation of one certified staff employee and one educational support staff employee.

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

Superintendent Dr. Cremascoli introduced newly appointed Henry Puffer Principal Britta Waszak, who expressed her excitement at joining the Puffer community.

4. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Mr. Sisul gave a brief update on the work of each curriculum committee.

- Curriculum Council: The council is comprised of parents, teachers and administrators, and its work is guided by Strategic Plan Goal #1. The council has developed an initial recommendation regarding the sequence of new curricular resource consideration: 1) Science, Fall 2019; 2) Math, Fall 2020; 3) Social Studies, Fall 2021. The council emphasized that this timeline is only manageable with additional support for professional learning, both in time and personnel.
- Math: The committee has been researching and evaluating potential core resources for pilot in Fall 2019. They have strengthened their background on best practices in mathematics instruction, are developing a guidance document on best practices for the District, and have invited vendors to present potential resources.
- English/Language Arts: The committee has been supporting Year 2 of implementation of Benchmark and StudySync resources. They have also analyzed teacher feedback to develop specific areas of support, with a focus on writing, grammar and vocabulary instruction and consistent district-wide experiences for students. The committee expressed the need for continued professional learning in English/Language Arts even as new curricula in other subjects is adopted.
- Social Studies: The committee has been building committee background on the new Illinois Learning Standards and the C3 Instructional Framework, gaining a more thorough understanding of inquiry-based instruction and questioning. The committee is pursuing a gap analysis of current instruction compared to the current standards, and intends to explore future resources.
- Middle School Health: The committee is reviewing the implementation of Year 1 of the health curriculum, revising as appropriate, and is developing Year 2 lessons.
- Biliteracy: The committee continues to build background on best practice in dual language instruction, review current program offerings and those who might be eligible but are not currently served, and review and refine screening and eligibility processes. They also plan to conduct an initial exploration of the possibility of a two-way dual language program.
- Social-Emotional Learning Audit Committee: The committee is in the process of review and refinement of the scope and sequence of direct SEL instruction, and is exploring Tier 1 assessments that could provide information on current levels of performance in SEL Competencies.
- Elementary Art Curriculum: The committee continued work to align instruction to the new Illinois Arts Learning Standards. The District plans to move to weekly art lessons for students in grades K-6 for 2019-2020. Though weekly lessons will be 30 minutes rather than the current bi-monthly 40 minutes, there will be a net increase of over 360 art instructional minutes for grades 3-6 and kindergarten. Art teachers are re-

conceptualizing instruction around shorter class periods and alignment to essential questions.

- Middle School Exploratory: The committee has gone through a two-year process to review and develop courses, including surveys of staff and students, partnerships with District 99, and expansion of the committee to include multiple teachers per subject. Exploratory courses are written for specific lengths to increase student opportunities in a given year. Seventh grade classes will include Connections (a 15-day introduction to middle school), art, music and Family and Consumer Science (FACS). Eighth grade offerings will include art, Foreign Language Exploratory (FLEX), FACS and STEAM Studio (a Northwestern-designed course offering student choice of a variety of hands-on and technology-focused activities). Alternatively, full-year Spanish and French will also be available to all students.

Mr. Sisul next reviewed the winter MAP data. He noted that the benchmarking window was December 3-21 for the 2019-20 school year, as compared to prior winter benchmarking periods in January. Therefore, this year's data is not exactly comparable to previous years' data. The statewide mandated assessment for students in grades 3-8 will be the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), replacing PARCC. The IAR will be administered by Pearson this year, utilizing PARCC questions and the PARCC testing platform, although the test will be slightly shorter overall. Parent communications will go out the week of March 5, and students will be provided with some exposure to the testing platform during the month of March. The IAR assessment window is April 1-19.

Finally, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Jayne Yudzentis further explained the Professional Learning Plan for 2019-20. As discussed at the February 11 Regular Board Meeting, the District recommends a weekly 2 p.m. student dismissal on Mondays, providing 90 minutes weekly for staff professional learning. The District believes professional learning time is a high priority need to ensure curricular implementation, improve professional practice, and provide the highest quality student experiences. Dr. Cremascoli shared exemplars from 14 other districts, which provide guidance for successful implementation. She also noted that all local childcare providers the District is aware of have stated they can accommodate a 2 p.m. Monday release. Dr. Yudzentis explained that the consistency of the weekly early release will allow for equity in the specials schedule. Furthermore, teachers of these classes will be able to receive targeted professional learning. Conservative estimates of the impact on substitute usage and cost show a \$13,000 minimum savings, with potential additional reductions in the need for substitutes for student data/progress monitoring meetings, committee work, and additional teacher meetings.

Regarding the impact of early release on instructional time, the addition of 10 minutes to the instructional day in grades K-6 realizes a net gain in instructional time. However, middle school scheduling is more complex. A team of teachers and administrators is working to consider the overall impact on middle school instructional time and possible scheduling options.

Mr. Sisul presented a sample professional learning schedule, which includes three categories of learning: building-directed, District-directed, and teacher-directed. He emphasized that the overall outcome impact of this plan is continuous improvement of the student learning experience. Initial communication will begin with a series of brief communication pieces to all District families in March. An FAQ section will be developed for the website, and information will be included in registration materials. The early release schedule will also be reinforced in letters from principals, as well as communications to local childcare agencies. Parents will be surveyed regarding ways the District can support the transition. Continuous feedback will be sought from staff and families, and regular reports made to the Board.

5. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Katie Hurckes, DGEEA, commented that in her experience sitting on several committees, teachers are excited by the opportunity for more professional learning.

Alison Rozell, Hillcrest and O'Neill parent, thanked the Board for the proposed expansion of art instruction. She stated her concern about the impact of the reduction of the school day every week, and whether weekly professional development is as effective as longer blocks of time. Dr. Cremascoli responded that the proposed calendar maintains institute days for longer blocks of professional development.

Craig Young, DGEEA, stated that the professional development plan is a critical piece of the puzzle to implement new curriculum and technology.

Carrie Blonigen, Belle Aire parent, asked whether there has been any discussion about reducing the number of times the MAP assessment is given in a year. Mr. Sisul responded that this topic is already on the agenda for the next meeting of the Differentiation and Assessment Committee.

Addie Pampalone, Whittier parent, expressed concerns that some of the material in the new ELA Benchmark curriculum and the difficulty of the assessments may discourage some students from reading. Mr. Sisul responded that the District hopes to give parents better tools to support their students with the curriculum, and a parent education series is being considered. Teachers may begin to use supplementary materials as they become more comfortable with the curriculum.

Tracy Weiner, Henry Puffer parent, asked what effect the addition of art time will have on instructional time in other subjects. Mr. Sisul responded that the addition of 10 minutes to the school day will recapture the instructional time. Ms. Weiner also asked about how teacher-directed professional learning time will be spent.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Purcell announced the following dates:

- Legislative Committee - Wednesday, February 27th, 4:00 p.m. - ASC
- Special Meeting (Closed Session-Supt Search Workshop) - Tuesday, March 5th, 6:30 p.m. - ASC
- Special Meeting (Closed Session-Supt Interviews) - Thursday, March 7th, 6:00 p.m. - ASC
- Special Meeting (Closed Session-Supt Interviews) - Saturday, March 9th, 2:00 p.m. - ASC
- BOE/Community Meet & Greet - Monday, March 11th, 6:15 p.m. – Village Hall
- Regular Board Meeting - Monday, March 11th, 7:00 p.m. - 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).

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

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

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 9:17 p.m. and returned to open session at 10:35 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Harris moved and Member Doshi seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Doug Purcell, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary