

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois, met for a curriculum workshop on Monday, October 23, 2023, at the Downers Grove Village Hall. The meeting was live-streamed to the public on the Village of Downers Grove YouTube channel.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and announced that it was a curriculum workshop of the District 58 Board of Education. Members present: President Darren Hughes; Vice President Gregory Harris; and Members Kirat Doshi, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Melissa Ellis. Also in attendance were Kevin Russell, Superintendent; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Staff Development; Elizabeth Ehrhart, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; James Eichmiller, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Faith Behr, Interim Community Relations Coordinator; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

President Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

A. Proposed Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Dr. Russell reviewed the process and timeline of the development of the new strategic plan. The process began in March 2023, when the Board outlined the five key areas of focus. In May, the community and staff established priorities for each key area, and over the summer/fall, development teams created action plans for each priority. The draft plan was shared with the District Leadership Team at its September 11 and October 9 meetings. A final recommendation will be presented to the Board for approval at the November 13 board meeting.

The assistant superintendents briefly summarized the objectives, action plans, and implementation plans for each of the five key areas of focus: (Attachment A)

- Goal 1: Focusing on Learning (Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction)
- Goal 2: Connecting with the Community (Communication)
- Goal 3: Securing the Future (Finance and Facilities)
- Goal 4: Building for Success (Implementing the new PK-5 and 6-8 Models)
- Goal 5: Cultivating Talent (Maximizing the Potential of Students, Staff,

and Families)

Dr. Russell reviewed a slight change in language in the District's vision statement and outlined the next steps in approving the strategic plan. The administration will finalize the written report and seek approval from the Board at the November 13 regular meeting. Updates on progress toward strategic goals will be provided quarterly to the District Leadership Team. A year-end review will be provided to the Board in May.

B. 2022-23 Year-End Data and School Improvement

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Liz Ehrhart provided a wrap-up of 2022-23 school year student assessment data, including the spring growth reports for MAP and IAR, and combined MAP and IAR data. Overall, the data showed expected growth across the District. The spring growth summary for the IAR in all subjects and in ELA showed higher-than-expected growth. Last year, writing was an area of focus in school improvement plans, and the student assessment data shows improvements in that area as well. Schools have been reviewing fall data as compared to spring data, and using it to create intentional student grouping and specific interventions, and review curricular pacing. Schools also added a positive behavior goal to their school improvement plans. Each plan is posted on the school website and is highlighted at regular board meetings.

Board members asked questions regarding staff feedback regarding the ECRA platform, how school improvement plans are shared with PTAs, whether there is an explanation for the significant jump in growth scores in third grade, and how the ECRA data helps the District understand growth and achievement over time.

Ms. Ehrhart explained how summative designations are calculated by ISBE for the Illinois Report Card, which will be released on October 30. Dr. Russell noted that chronic absenteeism is an issue in District 58, as in all districts, and affects 20% of the summative designation score.

Curriculum coordinators Christine Priester, Eleni Gajewski and Sandy Cristobal gave updates on several curricular committees. The ELA Committee has continued to focus on the pilot of potential new ELA resources and the implementation of the Schoolwide Writing Workshop. The Gifted Committee has been tasked with evaluating the current gifted program and proposing an update. They have reviewed the criteria and identification process, and explored additional support for differentiation by classroom teachers. Committee members recently attended the Illinois Association for Gifted Children conference. The MTSS (Multi-Tiered Support Systems) Committee had been building background in best practices in MTSS and exploring how to develop consistent systems for implementation. The Dual Language Program continues to grow, expanding its two-way program to first grade, and another full cohort of kindergarteners. Dual language staff have received specific training and are piloting new curricular resources to support

biliteracy. Ms. Ehrhart shared that the Curriculum Council, Differentiation and Assessment Committee, and the District Equity Leadership Team will be working on goals within the strategic plan. The Positive Behavior Support Systems Team (PBSST) will create system-wide structures to reinforce positive behavior across all schools and focus on the District tenets of “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.”

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, November 13, 7 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting Downers Grove Village Hall
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5. ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:	AYES: Members Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk and Weiner	
	NAYS: None	Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary