

DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2023

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 3:45 p.m. at O'Neill Middle School.

Call to Order

Kirat Doshi called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m.

Present

Co-Chair Kirat Doshi, Brent Borchelt, Todd Drafall, Liz Ehrhart, James Eichmiller, Katie Hurckes, Melissa Jerves, Lisa Niforatos, Kevin Russell, Justin Sisul, Katie Thomas, Britta Waszak.

Approval of Minutes

Katie Hurckes moved and Liz Ehrhart seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

December 2023 Progress Update

Dr. Russell shared that progress updates for the previous strategic plan were presented as a long-form narrative, and later as a shorter quarterly update when the narrative became too long and unwieldy. He recommends continuing the shorter update format, with previous updates archived for reference. The color-coding system will also be updated:

Red: not making expected progress

Yellow: making progress on amended timeline

Green: making expected progress

Check mark: Complete

The website will be updated with the new strategic plan and its progress updates, while the old plan will be archived. The committee recommended adding a link to the website's strategic plan page at the top of each progress update for easy reference.

Goal 1: Focusing on Learning

Liz Ehrhart reported that the Curriculum Council met to begin defining "high expectations" for all learners; they expect to finish after winter break. Next they will address instructional frameworks, MTSS, and Professional Learning Communities. New grant funding to support mental health and

wellbeing has already allowed a small staff team to attend a national conference, school-based mental health support staff will participate in training in January, and general education staff will train in March. The District has partnered with ReferralGPS, a provider locator service, to provide mental health services to students, families and staff. The Attendance Committee met to clarify guidance regarding attendance practices and staff will have training on more intensive supports (attendance intervention mentoring).

Goal 2: Connecting the Community

Justin Sisul reported that the formation of the new Connection and Communication Council is in progress, with an initial meeting planned for January to assess current communication structures. Administration is researching the latest thinking and books on school/home connection to share with the Council.

Goal 3: Securing the Future

Todd Drafall reported that the Board of Education has approved two bid groups; one for electrical equipment with long lead times, and the other for subcontractors for the middle school additions, for a total of \$65.8 million. The bids for the first summer of work on Phase 1 elementary schools will be opened soon. 39% of the construction budget has been bid and awarded. So far bids have been slightly under budget and there has been no need to adjust the construction schedule. Over winter break, asbestos abatement and some other preliminary work will be completed at the middle schools in preparation for the next phase of construction.

Goal 4: Building for Success

The Building for Success Steering Committee has met twice to discuss essential attributes of a successful middle school and how to collect information about the current middle school staff's understanding of the middle school model. The committee established a timeline and workflow for subcommittees (scheduling and staffing, student support, transition of 5th and 6th graders to middle school).

Goal 5: Cultivating Talent

Justin Sisul reported that the District has been accepted into a new athletic conference, which will provide new opportunities for student athletics and activities, including wrestling, scholastic bowl and chess. Wrestling for boys and girls began as an intramural sport. The Superintendent's Community Advisory Council and District Equity Leadership Team will provide guidance on student opportunities offered across schools. The Resources Review Council will convene in January to make decisions on resource allocation.

Team members suggested that the progress report avoid the use of acronyms so that parents can understand, and include more links to background information and leaders' email addresses. They

also suggested providing color coding at the action step level for a more accurate picture of progress.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjourn

Justin Sisul moved and Katie Hurckes seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.