

DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING

February 24, 2020

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on Monday, February 24, 2020 at Hillcrest School.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m.

Present

Co-Chairs Darren Hughes and Tracy Weiner, Todd Drafall, Matt Durbala, Erin Guth, Megan Hewitt (*Ex Officio*), Katie Hurckes, Melissa Jerves (*Secretary*), Jason Lynde, Kevin Russell, Justin Sisul, Craig Young, Jayne Yudzentis.

Absent

Michael Cassa, Emily Honn, Erin Menet, Angie Rybarczyk, Jason Suchy.

Approval of Minutes

Jayne Yudzentis moved and Katie Hurckes seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Review Goals Progress

Goal 1

1.1: The strategy of promoting and sustaining a District culture of rigor will always be “in progress,” as district-wide systems continue to solicit feedback from all professional learning opportunities and committee meetings.

1.2a: The Curriculum Council continues its discussions about vertical alignment, and how supporting those transitions can help reach the target of the characteristics listed in the Portrait of a Graduate.

1.2b: The Instructional Model Review Council continues to research and discuss best practices in instructional programming. Implementation plans are part of Curriculum Council and other curriculum committees.

1.2c: The Professional Learning Council has completed much of its work, but will continue its ongoing review of alignment and professional learning. The Board was provided with an update on professional learning at its February 2020 meeting.

1.3: Mr. Sisul shared a near-final draft of the District’s curriculum review and adoption timeline.

Parent education opportunities are being developed, including the mini-workshops at the upcoming Curriculum Workshop, an assessment overview, technology, and the new math curriculum. A video series is being explored to share these events with a broader audience.

1.4: The Differentiation and Assessment Committee is focusing its work on best practices for building level teams to analyze student data, and the administrative team is engaged in training on “Cycles of Inquiry,” an enhancement to the school improvement process.

Goal 2

Megan Hewitt reported that communication plan is in development; exemplar plans and the District’s own previous communication plans are being used to create a template, with input from the administrative team and Superintendent’s Community Advisory Council. A complete draft is expected to be ready for review in March. The internal staff newsletter has been consistently published biweekly, with an open rate for 72-74%.

External website hosts have been researched and narrowed down to two finalists. Feedback from staff indicates that the preferred platform is whichever is easiest to update. Feedback from parents indicates a desire for a more powerful search engine.

The most recent communication survey results show that parents want more information about curriculum and value the school’s weekly newsletter. All principals are sending out weekly newsletters; Ms. Hewitt creates regular consistent district-wide content for principals to include.

Jayne Yudzentis reported that the Resources Review Council has been put on hold as the current work is dependent on other groups such as the Differentiation and Assessment Committee. The District continues to move forward on class size targets, which have been well-received by parents. The Personnel Office is working on assessing enrollment and staffing to align with those targets.

Goal 3

Goal 3’s timeline has been modified; the new timeline graphic will be inserted soon. All Citizen Task Force materials are available on the website under the “Facilities” tab. The Task Force will meet again on March 2nd to pare down the \$248M list of priorities to more viable sets of options. The process is still on track to put a question on the ballot in November. After spring break, a community engagement plan can begin including polling and community engagement sessions. While the administrative centers are not included in the Task Force’s options, the District is exploring a variety of alternatives, including the possibility of sharing a new administrative center with the Village of Downers Grove. The District is also working with the Financial Advisory and Policy Committees on a fund balance policy, which would help to accumulate capital to budget for future facilities maintenance work.

Public Comment

No visitors attended the meeting.

Adjourn

Katie Hurckes moved to adjourn and Tracy Weiner seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.