

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a curriculum workshop on Monday, February 28, 2022, at O'Neill Middle School. The meeting was live streamed to the public on the District 58 YouTube channel.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Melissa Ellis, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk, and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: none. Also in attendance were Kevin Russell, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; James Eichmiller, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Todd Drafal, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Sonali Patil, Manager of Business Services; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary.

2. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul introduced John Gatta, CEO of ECRA Group, to give a presentation on the development of new Key Performance Indicators (KPI). Mr. Gatta explained that ECRA is a national organization that works with school districts to align their measurement systems from board goals to individual student success. Setting KPIs is a way to operationalize the board's vision into a set of measurable metrics. The strategic plan is implemented through the annual school improvement process. ECRA provides monitoring tools, including a strategic dashboard and school improvement tools.

The District worked with ECRA to develop the following draft KPIs: academic proficiency, academic growth, social and emotional competencies, communication critical thinking, and collaboration. Co/extracurricular activity participation and access to advanced programs are suggested indicators as well. The District is still finalizing the benchmarks and metrics for each indicator. The dashboard would give teachers and administrators the capacity to analyze academic data in new ways and track progress toward school improvement goals. The District plans to seek Board approval of the first two KPIs (academic proficiency and academic growth) at the March board meeting.

El Sierra principal Jason Lynde gave a brief history of the dual language program in District 58. Fifty students are currently enrolled in a one-way dual language program for grades 1-8; eligibility is based on a student's native language being

Spanish or whether Spanish is spoken at home. Bilingual education is required when there are 20 or more EL eligible students from the same language in an attendance center; this year, Indian Trail and El Sierra meet this threshold. The District invites all EL students with Spanish speaking heritage to participate in the program.

The Dual Language Committee began to review the program in 2017. Their research resulted in a desire to explore two-way dual language instruction. This work was paused in 2020 due to the pandemic, but recent work has included engagement with dual language experts; feedback from students, families and staff; and surveys of families with incoming kindergarten students. Mr. Sisul summarized some of the research and survey results for the Board, and presented the committee's proposal to begin a two-way dual language program for incoming kindergarten students in the fall of 2022.

Mr. Sisul and O'Neill principal Matt Durbala shared proposed changes to the middle school schedule for 2022-23. These changes would allow students additional opportunities for support without giving up the opportunity to participate in exploratory classes. A 15-minute daily Student Advisory Period would be added to the beginning of each day (Tuesday-Friday); the current 30-minute Monday Student Advisory Period would be retained and designated for SEL instruction. The 15-minute period will include announcements, executive functioning supports and check-in, preparing for the day, and technology troubleshooting.

The time opposite lunch, currently called Homebase, will become a Student Support Period. Reading and math interventions would be scheduled for this time; students without interventions will use the time as a study period. Opportunities for social-emotional groups, support for students with disabilities, and enrichment and extension activities also may be developed for this time.

The new schedule shortens class periods to 43 minutes, but does not change the length of the school day or otherwise affect school or bus schedules. One of the biggest drivers for the change is to provide time for interventions without removing an exploratory class from a student's schedule. It is hoped that addressing SEL and executive functioning skills early in the day will prevent some of those issues from arising later in the day and taking away instructional time from core classes.

Mr. Sisul next presented updates to middle school math course offerings. There are currently a large number of course options, placement criteria has not been reviewed in several years, and there is no defined path for double acceleration. The double block math course will be removed, as students have not shown the growth that was expected, and interventions will instead be provided during the new Student Support Period. Course offerings will be streamlined and placement criteria for the remainder of the course offerings have been adjusted. In addition, criteria for math acceleration beginning in third grade is being reviewed. A procedure to consider students for double acceleration is being developed. After

implementation, all changes will be monitored to ensure they are providing intended outcomes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Smetana, Highland attendance area, commented that he would like to see more student assessment data broken down by school and by subgroup, and more readily available to the community. He also advocated for a process for acceleration for primary students.

Mr. Sisul stated that there is currently an ad hoc response to families requesting acceleration for younger students, but the District is looking to increase the specificity of the criteria and process. Dr. Russell stated that assessment data presentations from previous curriculum workshops can be posted on the District website to be more easily located.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following dates:

Monday, March 7, 2022, 7 p.m.	Curriculum Workshop Part II O'Neill Middle School
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5. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary