

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a special meeting/curriculum workshop on Monday, February 22, 2016, at the Longfellow Center.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: President John D. Cooper; Vice President Doug Purcell; and Members Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu, Miller, and Sigale. Member absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Matthew Rich, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Richard Bubula, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Pamela A. Osika, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least 25 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

## 2. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

### A. Overview of English Language Arts & Math Committee Status

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Matt Rich introduced El Sierra Principal Jason Lynde from the Math Committee and Hillcrest/Pierce Downer Assistant Principal Christine Clavenna from the English Language Arts (ELA) Committee. Brief reports were given on the work being done by these committees. Both the Math and ELA Committees are comprised of staff representing all District 58 schools, as well as District 99. These committees have worked to draft a common definition for curriculum within their subject area. Each has worked collaboratively to define a shared understanding of curriculum, scope, and sequence, which aligns with the Common Core State Standards.

### B. Exploration of Programs

Board members and visitors were invited to break into small groups and rotate around five stations where presentations were given on special programs in District 58. These programs included the Developmental Learning Program (DLP); the Behavioral, Emotional and Social Training (BEST) program; the Reaching Independence through Structured Education (RISE) program; the Biliteracy Program; and Grove Children's Preschool.

#### 1) DLP - Developmental Learning Program

The Developmental Learning Program (DLP) is a highly individualized special education program designed to meet the intensive needs of students with known or suspected intellectual disabilities. These disabilities are often combined with a communication disorder, limited

adaptive skills, behavioral issues, social limitations, and/or significant academic deficiencies. To accommodate special needs of students, the program offers a low student-to-staff ratio, integrated services and other specialized services, such as dog therapy. Programs are located at Hillcrest School for grades K-6 and O'Neill Middle School for grades 7-8.

- 2) BEST - Behavioral Emotional and Social Training Program  
The Behavioral, Emotional and Social Training (BEST) program was introduced in the 2014-2015 school year. The BEST program uses a team approach to serve students with disabilities whose social, emotional, and behavioral needs significantly impede their ability to access curriculum exclusively in the general education environment. Programming can include multi-grade grouping and can range from a full self-contained environment to the use of consultative services only. BEST classes are located at Kingsley School for grades 1-6 and O'Neill Middle School for grades 7-8.
- 3) RISE - Reaching Independence through Structured Education  
District 58 initiated the Reaching Independence through Structured Education (RISE) program in 2015-2016 to specifically serve students with known or suspected autism spectrum disorder. The program employs highly specialized teachers and staff who work collaboratively to meet each student's social, sensory, academic and communication needs. Currently, the program consists of one preschool/kindergarten classroom at Indian Trail School, with plans of expanding the program by grade levels in future years.
- 4) Biliteracy Program  
A kindergarten/first grade bi-literacy, bilingual classroom was opened at El Sierra School in the fall of 2014, serving native Spanish-speaking students. This year the program has been expanded to serve K-2 students and will continue to expand by grade level each year. The program provides dual-language instruction in both Spanish and English. It aims to teach students to fluently read, write, speak and understand language and concepts in both Spanish and English.
- 5) Grove Children's Preschool  
Grove Children's Preschool is located at Indian Trail and Henry Puffer schools. This blended program serves tuition students, special needs students, and at risk students from three to five years of age. It offers the expertise of certified teachers, aides, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and social workers.

The Board extended appreciation to the staff members who attended this Curriculum Workshop and made presentations on their special programs. It was suggested that all staff members who serve on the many District 58 committees be formally recognized at the March Board meeting.

C. 2016-2017 Optional Kindergarten Enrichment & Enhancement Program (OKEEP) Update

Assistant Superintendent Matt Rich shared an update on the Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program (OKEEP), which was offered for the first time this school year in the District's five Title 1 schools – El Sierra, Henry Puffer, Highland, Indian Trail and Kingsley. When reviewing OKEEP achievement reports, it was noted that MAP results showed OKEEP kindergartners and non-OKEEP kindergartners in Title 1 buildings both achieved higher percentages of students meeting or exceeding MAP growth targets than kindergartners in non-Title 1 schools. This could be an indication that the enriched learning experiences of OKEEP students are positively affecting their classroom peers who are not enrolled in the enrichment program. A survey of kindergarten parents in Title 1 schools was recently conducted regarding their child's kindergarten experiences. More than 100 responses were received with input from parents with children in OKEEP as well as parents with children in traditional half-day kindergarten. The results of that survey were shared. The vast majority of parents believe that kindergarten has enhanced their child's growth in all subjects and believe that all instructional areas received adequate instructional focus. Non-OKEEP parents were more likely to indicate that they would like to see an increased focus in reading, mathematics, writing and social-emotional learning. All OKEEP parents indicated that they believe the enhanced OKEEP instruction provided value to their child. Parents of students in the traditional half-day kindergarten program shared reasons for choosing the half-day program over OKEEP. The survey results will be considered as District 58 plans next steps. As consideration is given to expanding the OKEEP program, application and procedures for participation will be refined, staffing needs will be reviewed, and facility needs at Lester School in particular will be analyzed. The Board of Education is expected to make a final decision regarding OKEEP expansion at the March 14<sup>th</sup> regular Board meeting.

D. Winter Achievement Report

Using graphs and charts based on MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) and AIMSweb data, the Board was shown progress being made by students in the areas of reading, math, and language usage. This being the third year for District 58 using MAP assessment, Dr. Rich was able to share year over year MAP comparisons. District 58 students continued to excel in all subjects and at all levels, consistently exceeding national averages. Students continued to demonstrate improved growth across subjects. The Math MAP results found that current eighth grade students made significant performance improvements over the past three years. AIMSweb is a series of assessments and tools used as a general indicator of a student's general reading health and measures fluency. It provides the District insightful data, especially in the primary grades. The AIMSweb assessment data found that the percentage of students identified as Tier 2 (scoring at the 15th-50th national percentile) and Tier 3 (scoring at the 0-15th national percentile) had declined in grades 3-6, indicating that more students were reading at or above grade level.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

#### A. Personnel Report ~ Appointment

Member Miller moved and Member Diehl seconded his motion to approve the appointment of Kenneth Young to the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds effective July 1, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Cooper, Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu,  
Miller, Purcell, and Sigale  
NAYS: None Motion carried

Ken Young thanked the Board for his new appointment, recognized Rick Bubula for his years of service with District 58, and looks forward to continuing the great work accomplished by the District's maintenance and custodial department.

### 4. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Allison Bava, Lester parent, spoke out about space issues at Lester School, referenced the District 58 Mission Statement, and asked the Board to implement an action plan for a long-term solution to the space issues.

Katie Chesters, Lester parent, shared that she is a speech pathologist for another school district and commented on space issues at Lester and how it may impact students receiving services.

Laura Gilmartin, Lester parent, spoke in favor of neighborhood schools, commented on the temporary solution proposed for Lester OKEEP, and asked the Board to look for long-term solutions regarding space constraints currently facing Lester School.

Darren Hughes, Lester area resident, explained that he is a teacher at Hinsdale South High School, spoke in support of OKEEP, and would like to see a long-term solution proposed for Lester space issues.

Kim Carter, Lester parent, commented on the proposed plan for Lester OKEEP next year, would like to see OKEEP offered at Lester School, asked if special consideration could be given to keeping an incoming kindergarten sibling at Lester for OKEEP, and if a bus schedule could be made available at Kindergarten Round Up.

### 5. CLOSED SESSION

Member Lupescu moved and Member Diehl seconded the motion to move to closed session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Cooper, Diehl, Heppner, Lupescu,  
Miller, Purcell, and Sigale  
NAYS: None Motion carried

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:37 p.m.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Miller moved and Member Diehl seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

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John D. Cooper, President

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Pamela A. Osika, Secretary