

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a special meeting/curriculum workshop on Monday, February 27, 2017, at the Lester School; 236 Indianapolis, Downers Grove, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The President called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Members present: President John D. Cooper; Vice President Doug Purcell; and Members Roberta Diehl, Christopher Heppner, Sallie Lupescu, John Miller, and Elizabeth Sigale. Member absent: None. Also in attendance were Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; and Pamela A. Osika, Board Secretary.

2. CLOSED SESSION

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

VOICE VOTE Motion carried

The Board convened to closed session at 6:36 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 6:58 p.m.

Joining the meeting at this time were Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Matthew Rich, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services; James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning; and Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations. Attending this meeting were at least 27 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

3. NON-ACTION REPORT -- OPEN SESSION -- 7:00 p.m.

"Spotlight on our Schools" ~ 6th Grade and Middle School English-Language Arts (ELA) Pilot Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Matt Rich and O'Neill Assistant Principal Melissa Sawisch gave a brief update to the Board on the English-Language Arts Committee. A more in-depth presentation was given at the

regular Board of Education meeting on February 13th. Sixth grade representatives elected to review materials and hear presentations from a larger number of publishers. Seventh and eighth grade teachers elected to review materials and hear presentations from a more select group of publishers after developing a blueprint. The Committee selected two resources to pilot at the seventh and eighth grade level and three resources to pilot at the sixth grade level in order to determine which resources could support students and teachers in promoting student understanding of the Illinois Learning Standards in English-Language Arts. Preschool has elected not to pilot resources until the Benchmark Advance preschool resources are complete.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. English-Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Materials Pilot Grades 6-8

Member Miller moved and Member Diehl seconded his motion to approve the pilot of Benchmark Advance for sixth grade and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and McGraw Hill resources for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels, which include the acquisition of three unit pilot kits from Benchmark Advance at no cost for piloting teachers, McGraw Hill Study Sync materials and professional development for a cost of \$2,500.00 with the cost allocation only occurring for professional development, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys teacher resources and consumables for a cost of \$20,601.18 with the cost allocation only occurring for student consumable materials.

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

B. Personnel Report ~ Appointment

Member Heppner moved and Member Miller seconded his motion to approve the appointment of Justin Sisul to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction effective July 1, 2017.

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

A moment was taken to recognize Justin Sisul and he was given an opportunity to say a few words.

5. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

A. Middle School Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Update

Herrick Eighth Grade Science Teacher Jill Henry presented on the District's middle school science curriculum. Both Herrick and O'Neill middle schools introduced the State's new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into their science classrooms last school year. These new standards, when put into practice, teach students real-world science applications and encourage them to analyze and explain natural phenomena. District 58 middle school science teachers recently received in-district and out-of-district professional

development on NGSS. Going forward, middle school science teachers will continue grade-level and district-level collaborations, receive additional NGSS training and continue to participate on the District Science Collaborative, a consortium of 26 Illinois school districts that work together to prepare NGSS curriculum.

B. Preschool Social-Emotional Learning

Preschool Teacher Alecia Probst and District 58 Social Worker Maggie Michels provided the Board an update on the Grove Children's Preschool social-emotional learning curriculum. For the past two years, the preschool has used the Second Step Curriculum to teach students age-appropriate social-emotional skills, such as how to listen, show respect and share feelings. Second Step provides teachers with a clear scope and sequence for instructing these skills and building the students' social-emotional vocabulary.

C. LRC Curriculum Work Update

Learning Resource Center (LRC) Teachers Gwen Box, Rebekah Sorensen and Tasha Squires updated the Board on the District's LRC curriculum. The LRC team has met with administrators monthly to collaboratively review the LRC curriculum. They developed a draft LRC curriculum blueprint with common instructional objectives for each grade level to ensure instructional continuity across all schools. Each preschool student has 20 minutes of weekly LRC time, and every kindergarten through sixth grade student has a 30 minute weekly lesson provided by the LRC teacher, plus a 15 minute weekly checkout time with the LRC and classroom teachers. Middle school LRC teachers teach and co-teach regular LRC lessons to seventh and eighth grade students. LRC teachers incorporated the Illinois Standards-Aligned Instruction for Libraries (I-SAIL) into their instruction. These standards align with the Common Core State Standards and other best practices for school LRC teachers. LRC teachers and District administrators collaboratively created a draft Roles and Responsibilities guide. When finalized, this guide will better define the LRC teacher role and help ensure the job description is consistent among all schools.

D. Physical Education Update

District 58's physical education (PE) teachers shared PE curriculum updates with the Board. PE teachers use Fitness Gram to assess student fitness, including strength, flexibility and aerobic capacity. The State now requires school districts to report Fitness Gram assessment results. District 58 will not share student names; reports will indicate the numbers of students who met, exceeded and did not meet fitness expectations. In alignment with the Common Core State Standards, PE teachers have increased movement skills, physical fitness and team-building skills in their instruction. The District also provides adapted PE programs for learners with disabilities.

E. Winter Data Presentation

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 fourth year for District 58 using MAP assessment, Dr. Rich was able to share year over year

MAP comparisons. For the first time ever, District 58's winter median Reading MAP scores exceeded the 70th percentile at every grade level. The national median percentile is 50. Median scores above the 70th percentile indicate that not only are many District 58 students exceeding national norms, more than half of all students in District 58 are scoring above the 70th percentile nationally. Also, for the first time ever, District 58's winter median Math MAP scores reached the 60th percentile or higher at every grade level, with more than half of grade levels also exceeding the 70th percentile. In Reading, seven of the District's nine grade levels achieved their highest-ever median winter MAP score, and in Math, six of nine grade levels also earned their highest median winter MAP score. The District's median scores have increased since first administering the assessment in the 2013-2014 school year.

The District also evaluates academic performance on the MAP assessment through students' projected growth goals. District 58 students attained tremendous growth in Reading relative to their projected growth, with each grade level exceeding their expected growth for fall to winter. Eighth grade students completed more than a full school year's worth of learning in just the fall semester alone. Dr. Rich reported that while median scores in Math increased in most grade levels, students' Math growth relative to their projected fall to winter growth goals lagged in some grade levels, as compared to previous years. In winter 2017, the percent of students meeting their projected growth goals exceeded the national average in grades kindergarten, first, sixth, seventh and eighth, but was closer to the national average in second through fifth grades. This may be due, in part, to the students' exceptionally strong Math performance in the fall. The District will again review student achievement and growth on the MAP assessment in June, following the spring assessment.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment and the State's Illinois Science Assessment will soon be administered. The District follows guidance from the Board, community and staff to not emphasize these assessments or teach to the assessment. The State's contract with PARCC will expire this year. Should the State choose to renew the contract, District 58 will revisit this discussion.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – with extended opportunity for Board of Education and Community Communications

Beth Taylor, Pierce Downer resident, had questions and expressed concern over some of the data reported on test scores.

Greg Harris, Lester resident, shared a comment and analogy regarding growth scores.

Tracy Weiner, Henry Puffer parent, asked for reasoning behind switching between median and mean and commented on the LRC presentation and future LRC staffing.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Doug Purcell, Vice President

Pamela A. Osika, Secretary