

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a curriculum workshop on Monday, October 28, 2019, at Whittier School.

**1. STAFF MEET & GREET**

The Board met informally with District 58 staff at 6:15 p.m. in the Whittier Library.

**2. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The President called the curriculum workshop to order at 7:02 p.m. Members present: President Darren Hughes; Vice President Greg Harris; and Members Doshi, Hanus, Samonte, and Weiner. Members absent: Steve Olczyk. Also in attendance were Kevin Russell, Superintendent; Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services; Justin Sisul, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Todd Drafall, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Kevin Barto, Director of Buildings and Grounds; James Eichmiller, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning; Megan Hewitt, Coordinator of Community Relations; and Melissa Jerves, Board Secretary. Attending this meeting were at least 4 visitors. (Visitors' Roster attached to official minutes.)

**3. CURRICULUM WORKSHOP**

Mia Churma and Peggy Delaney gave a brief presentation about Building Bridges, a parent/teacher group that works to help families of children with special needs to build bridges with the school community. The group maintains a robust Facebook page to share resources, information on District 58 programs, local events and organizations, and awareness of advocacy days and events. Recent and upcoming presentations hosted by the Building Bridges include topics such as inclusive literature, partnering with your education team, a parent panel, and a community resource fair.

COMMITTEE WORK

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul introduced teachers and administrators to give a brief update on the work of each curriculum committee.

- English/Language Arts: Mel Sawisch and Sue Anderson reported that Benchmark and StudySync have been fully implemented district-wide. Professional development to support implementation has continued, and the committee continued to work on solidifying the scope and sequence of ELA curriculum across all grade levels. Committee goals for 2019-20 include a focus on defining a writing curriculum and expectations, along with grammar and vocabulary; considering common assessments; and

expanding professional learning for writing and assessments.

- Math: Carin Novak and Carrie Murphy reported that over the past few years, the committee has compiled the District's Math Blueprint, but over time concluded that a new core resource would better serve students. The committee selected pilot resources, and continued ongoing discussion of best practices in math instruction. Committee goals for this year are review of the pilot process and teacher/student feedback, and selection of a core resource for implementation in Fall 2020; review of math acceleration processes; and ensuring that struggling math learners have a consistent support structure.
- Science/STEM: Matt Durbala reported that last year the committee completed its pilot and selection of resources for adoption, developed professional learning experiences for teachers, and prepared for full implementation of the new science resources. This year's goals include ongoing professional learning to give teachers the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in other buildings and share District-developed resources and training. The committee will also continue to reflect and assess the resources and their implementation, making adjustments and seeking additional training when necessary. The committee will vigilantly ensure NGSS alignment and commitment to the inquiry-based model of science instruction.
- Social Studies: Christine Collins reported that last year the committee completed a thorough review of guiding principles in social studies instruction with respect to the Illinois Learning Standards, C3 framework, and the inquiry model of instruction. They considered current instruction, noting where current materials are meeting the standards and where there are gaps. They also discussed how to address current events in the classroom. Committee goals in 2019-20 involve setting a path toward curricular adoption, beginning with a review of materials presented by a variety of vendors, as well as meeting with Woodridge District 68, who curated their own curricular resources.
- Biliteracy/Dual Language: Mr. Sisul summarized the committee's work last year, which included building background around the current program, discussing best practices in dual language instruction, and thoroughly reviewing current procedures. The committee also visited dual language programs in other districts, resulting in the desire to explore two-way dual language instruction for District 58. EL Coordinator Rozana Qirjaqi reported that this year's goals include a thorough needs assessment; defining the program's mission, vision and goals; exploring and considering a two-way program; and "telling our story," which began with a movie project highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Innovative Learning and Technology: Mark White and Ashley Austin reported that last year the committee worked on integrating 1:1 use with the ELA resource adoption, developed and piloted Benchmark Inquiry Projects, introduced teachers to the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards, and selected a new teacher technology survey. Goals for this year include developing professional learning experiences, introducing teachers to the Benchmark Inquiry Projects, and selecting a

device for the faculty device refresh.

- Middle School Health: Mr. Sisul reported that this committee, comprised of Herrick and O'Neill staff, wrote a two-year scope and sequence based on the Illinois Health Standards. They developed and implemented a 30-lesson plan for the first year. The committee also developed the second year 30-lesson plan, and continued to revise the first year's lessons to best meet the needs of students. This year, the committee will continue to review and revise the lessons, which are presented on early release Mondays throughout the year during students' shortened P.E. time. The committee intends to sunset in Spring 2020 provided all revisions are complete.

Curriculum Coordinator Christine Priester reported on how she supports the math pilot process. In her role, she provides logistical coordination and communication with vendors, collaborates with teachers, observes classrooms using the pilot resources, co-teaches the recommended resources, and will create and facilitate a professional learning plan for District math adoption.

Curriculum Coordinator Matt Jewell highlighted his support of the science resource implementation process. Mr. Jewell teams with teachers for fidelity and consistency in implementing NGSS standards with the new resources. He coordinates and supports investigations and technology by insuring that teachers have the supplies they need and building communication channels for teachers to share knowledge. He gathers feedback that is used to define needs for professional development, supplementation, revision, or improvement of materials. Finally, he is working on telling the story of the District's young scientists and what they are learning to the community.

#### ESSA SUMMATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mr. Sisul reviewed the framework of Illinois' Every Student Succeeds Act plan, which is based on educative, equitable, and non-punitive principles, and is designed to identify and provide support to schools in need. The summative designations for elementary schools are defined as follows:

- Tier 4 (Lowest Performing): lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools;
- Tier 3 (Underperforming): one or more subgroups is performing at or below the level of the "all students" group in the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools;
- Tier 2 (Commendable): no underperforming subgroups;
- and Tier 1 (Exemplary): no underperforming subgroups and performance is in the top 10 percent of schools statewide.

Mr. Sisul also reviewed the student demographic groups, official core academic indicators, official school quality indicators, and the data points that make up the 2019 summative designations. All academic performance data, both proficiency and growth, is based solely on performance on the mandated state assessments. In 2019, these were the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA), and the Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) assessments. Proficiency in each area is calculated against ISBE established targets, which increase each year moving toward the goal of 90% proficiency by 2032.

Preliminary assessment data and summative designations have been shared with districts, but all data is under embargo until 12 p.m. on October 30th and cannot be shared with the community or at Board of Education meetings before then. At that time, the report cards will be publicly available and published on the district website. A parent forum regarding school-specific data will be held at each school in November. Mr. Sisul noted that last year District 58 students demonstrated a 9% jump in growth following the District's shift in approach toward the mandated state assessment. This year, the results are likely to show a more typical pattern of growth. New this year on the Illinois School Report Cards are science proficiency data, achievement reporting by subgroup, site-based expenditure reporting, and civil rights data collection (this data is from 2015-16). Performance data, as well as data from school environment surveys, is used by District 58 schools to set school improvement goals in reading, math and communication. The District plans an ongoing deeper review of the IAR. Action steps include continued student preparation for the assessment platform, examination of which specific standards and skills need additional attention, and consideration of how often students are asked to demonstrate their knowledge in the ways that IAR asks.

Board members asked that the District consider scheduling next year's Curriculum Workshop after October 30 so that ESSA designations will be available.

#### **4. RECEPTION OF VISITORS**

There were no comments from the audience.

#### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Hughes announced the following dates:

- November 8th, 7:00 a.m. – Financial Advisory Committee – ASC
- November 11th, 6:30 p.m. – Community Coffee with the Board – Village Hall
- November 11th, 7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting – Village Hall

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOICE VOTE

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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Darren Hughes, President

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Melissa Jerves, Secretary