

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, DuPage County, Illinois met for a curriculum workshop on Monday, March 7, 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, Emily Hanus, Steve Olczyk, and Tracy Weiner. Members absent: Melissa Ellis. 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 Drafall, 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 began the workshop with an update on professional learning in District 58. Curriculum Coordinator Christine Priester explained how the District is supporting implementation of the math curriculum, which is a school improvement goal in every school. The math curriculum has been a topic at fall and winter grade level meetings, where teachers have focused on in-depth exploration of various components of the math resource. Instructional coaches provide individual and team coaching in how to use these resources in the classroom.

Mr. Sisul reported that feedback from teacher surveys on Professional Learning Mondays has been very positive. Teachers have also appreciated the two district-wide grade level meetings, which provide collaboration opportunities to discuss instructional practices, and build consistency across the District.

Curriculum Coordinator Eleni Gajewski and teachers Bob Luciano and Heather Howland gave an update from the K-5 Social Studies Committee. The committee had hoped to implement a new social studies resource in 2020, but it was put on hold to prioritize the implementation of the new math resources in fall 2020. After a pause in the process due to the pandemic, the committee selected two resources to pilot, both of which use an inquiry process for social studies. Each resource was used for a full trimester, after which students and staff were surveyed. The committee recommends Savvas as a new K-5 social studies resource. Samples will be on display at the District Office and the public library for 30 days, and will be

presented to the Board for approval in April.

An update on the elementary general music curriculum was presented by all the general music teachers in District 58. Students currently receive 30 minutes of music instruction weekly. The Illinois Arts Learning Standards were adopted in 2014, but the current resource in District 58 was published in 2008.

During remote learning, music teachers began initial explorations of the Quaver music curriculum, and found it engaging, well-adapted to remote learning, and highly customizable. The online platform is interactive, multisensory, allows students to extend their music learning beyond the classroom, works well with other curricular resources that music teachers are already comfortable with, and is regularly updated. The annual subscription cost is much lower than the cost of adopting a traditional resource. It will be presented to the Board for approval at the March 14 meeting.

Mr. Sisul and Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart shared an update on the SEL Curriculum Committee. In 2018, the committee performed an audit of the current SEL curriculum, Second Step, and found that it was well-aligned to state instructional standards and meets the District's needs as a core resource. The District uses Second Step as its core SEL resource for grades K through 8; it also includes the required Erin's Law instruction for grades K-6.

The pandemic has had an impact on a range of SEL competencies in District 58 students, but the District has no way of assessing these competencies. An effective SEL assessment would help to inform instruction; allow a consistent proactive view of student growth; measure skills and competencies (not behavior or mental health); and show how effectively the core SEL instruction is being implemented. The SEL Committee reviewed a variety of assessments over the past few years, and did a short pilot of two: DESSA and Panorama. They concluded that DESSA was too clinical and its report was confusing to parents. The Panorama assessment met the majority of the committee's criteria, although there have been some data privacy concerns reported in the media. If adopted, the assessment takes about 5-10 minutes and would be administered three times a year.

Board members expressed a desire to review some sample questions from the assessment and the data that came out of the pilot before moving forward. Dr. Russell noted that there has been some controversy around Panorama, and the District will seek out information from other districts that have implemented it.

Mr. Sisul reported that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) adopted a strategic plan in 2020 that provides that equity data will be included on the Illinois Report Card beginning in the 2022-23 school year. Each district will be rated in three areas: student learning, learning conditions, and educator background. The District will work to align its subgroup data across ESSA, the state Equity Continuum, and local data monitoring.

Finally, Mr. Sisul gave a history of how student assessment data has been

presented to the Board and community, as well as what data is analyzed and how it is used at the District, building and individual classroom levels. At the Board level, data will continue to be presented three times a year, aligned with the KPI and goal setting process. The Board will review districtwide and school level aggregate data, districtwide aggregate data by grade level, and consistently identified subgroups. Board members or administration may identify specific areas to analyze further and report back. Mr. Sisul will meet individually with Board members to share possible data templates and presentation options, which the Board will discuss at the May board meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hughes announced the following date:

Monday, March 14, 2022, 7 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting
O'Neill Middle School

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Members Doshi, Hanus, Harris, Hughes, Olczyk,
and Weiner

NAYS: None Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Darren Hughes, President

Melissa Jerves, Secretary