

DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 30, 2021

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. at O'Neill Middle School.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:53 p.m.

Present

Co-Chairs Kirat Doshi and Tracy Weiner, Todd Drafall, Matt Durbala, Katie Hurckes, Melissa Jerves, Jason Lynde, Erin Menet, Kevin Russell, Justin Sisul, Craig Young, Jayne Yudzentis.

Absent

Michael Cassa, Megan Hewitt, Emily Honn, Angie Rybarczyk, Jason Suchy.

Approval of Minutes

Kirat Doshi moved and Craig Young seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Goal 1: Focusing on Learning

Justin Sisul reported that much of the curriculum work that informs the progress on the District's strategic goals and objectives was paused over the summer. However, the Key Performance Indicator working group met twice to consider appropriate indicators, such as achievement and growth, SEL competencies, perseverance and grit. The group discussed the possibility of bring in a consultant to help frame the conversation, particularly regarding setting targets and how to measure certain indicators.

The current strategic plan is expiring in 2022; the DLT discussed the need to address the direction for the next strategic plan.

Goal 2: Connecting the Community

Dr. Kevin Russell briefly reported on the communication feedback survey that was administered in May/June 2021. Megan Hewitt will give a more detailed review at the November DLT meeting in advance of the December board meeting. While there was a dip in the results, the overall ratings are still higher than when this work began. Many comments were irrelevant to the

topic of communication, but instead focused on pandemic-related issues, which may have negatively impacted the survey results. The overall takeaway was that school communications are important to families; the District will continue to be mindful of the data and explore what tools work best for efficient and effective communication.

Regarding Objective 2.2: Collaboration, the District continues to seek community feedback from several groups, including the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council, the Citizen Task Force, and board committees such as the Financial Advisory Committee. These groups do not just passively receive information; they provide valuable feedback that shapes the decision-making process.

Goal 3: Securing the Future

Dr. Russell reported that, after a long pause due to the pandemic, long range facility planning has resumed, with a new timeline set to end with a possible referendum in November 2022. The Citizen Task Force met in the summer and reviewed the impact of the pandemic on the original plan. The task force considered the tax impact of a potential \$178 million bond referendum, reviewed the priority list of facility needs, and discussed the pros and cons of a June versus November ballot. The majority favored the November 2022 date.

Todd Drafall reported that the Board approved a five-year financial plan in April 2021, which contributed to the creation of a balanced budget for FY21. The District will receive a considerable amount of federal ESSER funding, which creates an expenditure that triggers the 35% fund balance policy. Because ESSER funds cannot be withheld to add to the fund balance, money would have to be pulled from existing programs to fund 35% of those expenditures. The District will continue to plan other ways to have sufficient cash on hand for the low cash point of the year, even if it cannot meet the 35% target of total expenditures under these circumstances.

The District has continued to get its financial house in order through passing the fund balance policy, restructuring debt, selling assets that no longer give value and can provide revenue to offset the increased taxes sought in a referendum, and seeking out partnerships that can reduce facility costs.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjourn

Craig Young moved and Katie Hurckes seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.