

## **DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58**

### **DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 27, 2019**

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at Longfellow Center.

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

#### **Present**

Co-Chairs Darren Hughes and Tracy Weiner, Michael Cassa, Todd Drafall, Matt Durbala, Erin Guth, Katie Hurckes, Melissa Jerves (*Secretary*), Jason Lynde, Kevin Russell, Justin Sisul, Craig Young, Jayne Yudzentis.

#### **Absent**

Megan Hewitt (*Ex Officio*), Emily Honn, Angie Rybarczyk.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Jayne Yudzentis moved and Tracy Weiner seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

#### **Review of Committee Charge**

The committee reviewed the committee charge. There were no comments or revisions.

#### **Committee Membership**

The DLT has one open seat for a District 58 parent (formerly held by Board Member Tracy Weiner). There will be a district-wide call for committee volunteers the week after Labor Day via multiple platforms and some targeted group communications. It was suggested that committee meeting schedules be included in the communication.

#### **Review Goals Progress**

##### *Goal 1*

Goal 1 Chair Justin Sisul reported that although most of the committees and councils dedicated to Goal 1 work did not meet over the summer, there were two highlights to note:

(1) Key Performance Indicators on the 2019 Spring MAP assessment showed that, on average, the District met its goal of 75% MAP growth this year (some grade levels exceeded the target, while some were a few points behind). Data from the 2019 Illinois Assessment of Readiness is not yet available. Targets regarding subgroup conditional growth were met by 24 out of 36 groups in reading and 29 out of 26 groups in math.

(2) The response to the first early release Monday was overwhelmingly positive from staff.

Dr. Russell also shared that implementation of the new science curriculum is going well with initial positive feedback from teachers. Math curriculum pilots are in progress, with the goal of Board approval of a new curriculum in early 2020.

### *Goal 2*

Dr. Jayne Yudzentis reported that the Annual Report was recently sent out to all households in the District. Megan Hewitt worked with the new printer to update the format. DLT members gave positive feedback, noting that the document looked more contemporary, more readable, and more attractive than in the past. District administrators have made a concerted effort to provide meaningful data in the report. A Communications Satisfaction and Preferences Survey received 630 initial responses. The survey was opened up again to reach the wider community. It will be closed after September 13; results will be compiled and reviewed by the Communications Feedback Council.

The Resources Review Council will meet again in September after a summer break. As a result of the staffing targets the council set last year, the Board approved additional staff to help reduce class sizes. In Kindergarten and grades 3-6, class size targets were met. In grades 1 and 2, the District was slightly below the target. In those grade levels, principals have communicated with parents about their strategies to continue delivering small group instruction in larger classes (such as pulling in additional certified staff and instructional assistants). The current neighborhood school model with inflexible attendance boundaries contributes to fluctuating class sizes. The District will continue to examine all possible options to address this issue in the future.

Regarding internal communications, all principals have begun to send out weekly communications to parents. Efforts regarding onboarding of new families and updating the website should continue.

The DLT discussed the importance of District 58 making connections within the wider community. It was suggested that staff and Board members could be more consistent about wearing District 58 gear to identify themselves at community events.

### *Goal 3*

Dr. Russell provided a brief history of the facility planning process thus far. Four categories of facility goals were developed after engaging the community in both strategic planning and facility needs: 1) General maintenance; 2) Safety and security; 3) Feasibility of 6-8 middle schools; and 4) 21st century learning spaces. With the help of District architects Wight & Co., a draft master facility plan with cost estimates was presented to the Board in August 2019. The total draft cost estimate came to approximately \$245 million. Wight recommended that the next phase of facility planning involve community engagement, with the help of a third-party consultant, to prioritize facility needs and options. A consultant contract will be presented to the Board at the September Board meeting. To accommodate the community engagement process, the original very aggressive timeline must be adjusted.

**Progress Report Format Discussion**

The consensus of the DLT was that the current dashboard format with the most current status, what's next, and links to archived progress updates, is preferable. The longer, complete document with all progress updates should still be available in some format as a working document for the administration and DLT.

**Reception of Visitors**

No visitors attended the meeting.

**Adjourn**

Craig Young moved to adjourn and Katie Hurckes seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.