

DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 3:45 p.m. at O’Neill Middle School.

Call to Order

Tracy Weiner called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

Present

Co-Chairs Kirat Doshi, Tracy Weiner, Todd Drafall, Faith Behr, Liz Ehrhart, Emily Honn, Katie Hurckes, Melissa Jerves, Ami Johanson, Jason Lynde, Lisa Niforatos, Kevin Russell, Justin Sisul, Jessica Stewart, Craig Young.

Approval of Minutes

Justin Sisul moved and Todd Drafall seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

Update on Future Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Dr. Russell reported that the Board outlined five key areas of focus for the new strategic plan, keeping the three existing areas and adding two more. In May 2023, staff and community members gathered to establish priorities for each focus area, and later in the summer/fall 2023 the development teams created draft action plans.

The key areas of focus and their respective priorities and draft action plans were shared with the committee.

Focus on Learning (Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction)

- Systematic review of data to inform transparent instructional decision making
 - Evaluate existing systems of data collection, common assessments
 - Increase administrator and staff capacity in understanding assessments
 - Review parent communication of student progress to ensure timely and consistent practices

Connecting with the Community

- Build and enhance two-way communication that is equitable, inclusive and culturally responsive
 - Ensure all families have access to district communications, inclusive of language, ability, access levels
 - Ensure all schools and offices use consistent platforms and resources to engage community
 - Provide modern and accessible communication channels that allow two-way communication between families and District, considering non-digital resources when necessary
- Foster strong relationships with all families and extended community
 - Create consistent program to welcome and support new families, mentoring and access to specific supports and resources
 - Develop consistent outreach plan to incoming families, including partnerships with hospitals, realtors and other groups
 - Continue to establish trust by enhancing external communications with timely and consistent information on District planning, decisions, improvements and celebrations

Building for Success

- District will work to ensure smooth transitions to a 6-8 middle school model
 - Create steering committee to review various middle school philosophies and determine course of action
 - Create subcommittees focused on:
 - Scheduling and needed staff
 - Student supports
 - Transition from 5th/6th to 6th/7th
 - Elementary school liaisons
 - Middle school liaisons
 - Identify areas of support and provide staff development for future middle school staff
 - Communicate early and often about processes and transitions; involve school PTAs
- To ensure equitable access to curricular, programmatic and instructional resources, District should examine school boundaries based on building utilization
 - Secure student of enrollment projections and demographics by building and analyze direct effect on elementary buildings of 6th grade transition to middle schools
 - Employ a committee to study elementary building utilization across the district and establish model of equitable use
 - Based on outcomes of above, determine need to examine boundaries

Securing the Future (Finance and Facilities)

- District shall oversee and ensure referendum resources with an eye on timely and efficient project completion.
 - All referendum projects are completed on time and within budget
- District shall continually plan to make sure resources are available to support district initiatives
 - Review use of resources in an effective and efficient manner
 - Prioritize resources and communicate with community
 - Allocate resources to staff recruitment and retention
 - Create sustainability of things that are changed or added
- District shall create and implement a capital policy
 - Explore feasibility of a capital expense policy
 - How much money should be set aside for capital expenditures?
 - Resource expenditure is based on needs
 - Use operating funds to bridge gap between referendum and master facility plan
 - Protect assets and limit liabilities
 - How to update buildings within this framework

Cultivating Talent (Maximizing the Potential of Students, Staff and Families)

- District will analyze and explore existing and potential staffing practices to achieve more equitable experiences for all students
 - Analyze current practices for alignment with best practices
 - Ensure equitable instructional opportunities for all students
 - Determine short- and long-term effectiveness of staffing practices
- District will review, expand, and support equitable opportunities for students to explore and develop their individual talents
 - Enhance student access to current academic programming districtwide
 - Realign student access to extracurricular activities (athletics and clubs) to align with K-5 and 6-8 models
 - Determine funding goals of outside organizations (PTA, Education Foundation)

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjourn

Katie Hurckes moved and Craig Young seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.