

DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING
November 27, 2018

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at Longfellow Center.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:51 p.m.

Present

Darren Hughes, Kari Cremascoli, Matt Durbala, Erin Guth, Megan Hewitt (*Ex Officio*), Emily Honn, Katie Hurckes, Melissa Jerves (*Secretary*), Jason Lynde, Angie Rybarczyk, Justin Sisul, Tracy Weiner, Craig Young, Jayne Yudzentis.

Absent

Michael Cassa, Todd Drafall.

Approval of Minutes

Matt Durbala moved and Jayne Yudzentis seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2018 meeting. Craig Young abstained. Motion carried.

Review and Discussion of First Quarter Progress

Goal 1

Learning Development Team Chair Justin Sisul reviewed the progress made toward Goal 1. The Curriculum Council has met twice (two ½-day meetings) and has reviewed the state of curriculum in District 58. It also discussed curriculum design and reviewed when the Illinois Learning Standards were last updated versus when District curriculum was last updated. The goal is to establish a time and pace for resource adoption and review. The council concluded that there are no ideal solutions, so that priorities will have to be set. To begin to determine those priorities, the council has surveyed several groups of teachers. At its next meeting in December, the council will outline the next short-term steps, and work toward a definition of “rigor.”

The Professional Learning Council met and reflected on the current structure of professional learning in the District as well as nationally. The members brainstormed various methods, and emphasized the need for dedicated time for professional learning.

With regard to Objective 1.2b, evaluating implementation and outcomes of instructional programming and delivery models (such as 6-8 middle schools), the teams recognized the need to discuss and come to a consensus about the District’s philosophy regarding middle school instruction and delivery before going further in facility visioning. A Middle School Model Review Council will meet four times to research and discuss

options. Craig Young will help recruit members for this council at the DGEEA Governing Board.

Goal 2

Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt reported on the Communications Feedback Council, which includes parents, teachers, administrators and support staff, has met twice to discuss different ways the District currently receives feedback from stakeholders. The council compiled a list identifying ways each audience receives feedback, and identified some gaps. The Joint Communications Team, made up of two administrators, two board members, and two DGEEA members, will monitor feedback that comes into the District and give recommendations for improvement.

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli reported on the Superintendent's Staff Communication Council, which is made up of faculty and staff. DGEEA will help to recruit additional teachers to achieve better representation from all buildings. The council reviewed exemplars from outside the District, identified gaps in communication, and made a couple of immediate recommendations: create an easy-to-reference communications tool, and provide a regular, coordinated and succinct communication from the Superintendent's office to faculty.

The Superintendent's Community Advisory Council identified four primary areas for improvement: 1) communications to parents; 2) board transparency and board to community communication; 3) communications staffing; and 4) parent on-boarding/orientation. Smaller working groups are collecting and reviewing exemplars and identifying gaps.

Communications Development Team Chair Jayne Yudzentis reported on the Resources Review Council, which will address issues of consistency and equity in allocating resources across schools. The council has begun its work by focusing on staffing, investing significant time getting educated on how staffing decisions are currently made. The council has asked for more information on social worker staffing and the number of students with IEPs. The District has not been public about staffing decisions, so there is an opportunity to provide more information about processes as well as consider whether those decisions are equitable. Upcoming meetings will address possible metrics and a better structure for decision making related to staffing allocations.

Elizabeth Sigale noted that the Board is willing to support outside professional consulting if any of the teams feel it would be necessary to further their work.

Goal 3

Kari Cremascoli reported on behalf of Todd Drafall. The draft timeline toward a master facilities plan is aggressive, and may need to be adjusted in response to circumstances (i.e. this week's snow day cancelled the faculty visioning sessions). The Facility Planning Council will be including staff and faculty in the community visioning events planned for January. Architects are making good progress on a facility needs assessment. Building walkthroughs with architects, principals and Buildings & Grounds staff are progressing.

Preview Online Dashboard Tool

Megan Hewitt gave a brief preview of the online dashboard tool. The full content is the same as the progress update document, but in a simple and concise format. Objectives and strategies are color coded to indicate progress, and content can be expanded by clicking on embedded links. The committee agreed that the progress update for Objective 2.1b, “provide regular Strategic Plan updates” be revised from “Goal Met” to “Making Expected Progress.” The online dashboard and the Strategic Plan website pages will be presented to the Board and community at the December board meeting.

Proposed Future Meeting Dates

The next two meetings will be February 25th and May 21st. Meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. at Longfellow.

Reception of Visitors

No visitors attended the meeting.

Adjourn

Darren Hughes moved to adjourn and Justin Sisul seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.