

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Mar. 22, 2016
7:35 pm – 10:35 pm

Board Member Collins absent
Public: 100+ Staff: 9 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. for employment of employee and approval of closed session minutes from 1/26/16, 2/23/16 and 3/8/16.

President Ebner called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Before the Public Comment, the following was announced:

- Dr. Moyer read a statement about York staffing, which will now include 2.6 FTE (full time equivalent) teachers. No world language classes will be discontinued. He apologized for any student who was inconvenienced by the thought that their world language class had been canceled.
- School board President Ebner read a communication that the Board had received a letter about the transition center's lack of space. She said that Focus 205 will address this and Dr. Moyer will be visiting the area in the next few weeks.

Public Comment: Twenty-one individuals spoke. About 7 spoke about divisiveness going on in the community. They were concerned about mudslinging and "trial by social media." Some of these individuals appeared to be representing the PTA. Many York teachers and some parents spoke about staffing and increasing class sizes at York. Apparently, the incoming freshman class has an additional 100 students more than the outgoing senior class. Many classes have been cut and individual class sizes are increasing. The ACP (Advanced College Program) classes through Indiana University has a 24 student maximum class size, of which there are 25 sections, which is increasing the other class sizes to over 30. These dual credit classes are "widening the gap between the haves and have-nots", for those who have the \$150 to pay will be in classes with fewer students. Science classes could become a safety issue, as 28 should be the maximum class size for laboratory experiments.

After the public comments, Dr. Moyer announced that Indiana University had issued an exception to allow for 26 students per class for the ACP.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: The Board accepted the minutes of 2/23/16 & 3/8/16.

Superintendent's Agenda: The Board approved the following Consent agenda:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Reports

Superintendent's Agenda-Action Items: The Board approved the following:

- K-12 English Language Arts Curriculum – This was presented and discussed at the last school board meeting. The Board approved the curriculum, but will approve the resources (budget amount for books) in April.
- Donation (Conrad Fischer School) – Whole Foods School Garden Grant for \$2,000 to plan a learning garden. This grant will be moved through the Conrad Fischer PTA, a 501C3 organization.
- Donation (Lincoln School) – The Lincoln School Dads' Club is donating a playground Buddy Bench not to exceed \$1,500.

Superintendent Communications:

Freedom of Information Act Requests: One request concerning a lease agreement was granted.

District Management Council Report: DMC representative, Diane Ullman, gave the presentation on their middle school study, titled, “Strengthening Middle Schools in the Spirit of Continuous Improvement.” She started out with some strengths on which to build upon, comparisons of PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) testing results for D205 and neighboring districts. D205 PARCC results showed lower results than in Naperville, St. Charles, Indian Prairie, Geneva and Barrington school districts. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing within the D205 among IEP (Individual Education Program) and non-IEP students was also compared. There was a significant achievement gap between these groups.

DMC's recommendation to the middle school task force to raise achievement for all students:

1. Consider providing coaches to general education teachers to support continued professional development in lesson planning and differentiated instruction.
 - One coach should work with no more than 20 teachers. Six reading specialists spend time on coaching, which is equivalent to 1.2 FTE (full time equivalent) coaches. To provide each core content teacher with a coach, D205 would need to invest in 3.6 additional FTE of coaching support.
2. Consider refining support services to ensure that all students, regardless of IEP status, access support from staff with content expertise in the relevant subject.
 - Shift the academic support role from educational assistants to reading specialists, math interventionists, classroom teachers, and special education teachers with content expertise.
3. Consider creating an intervention/enrichment block of time in order to provide dedicated time for struggling students to gain grade-level mastery, as well as opportunities for increased enrichment for students at or above grade-level.
 - Formalize the teachers’ support period that would allow teachers dedicated time to connect with students.
4. Consider providing more social-emotional support to students by better leveraging the district’s existing resources.
 - Maximize the time that social workers, guidance counselors and psychologists are able to spend directly supporting students.

The next steps will be for D205 to conduct a (middle school) parent survey (not yet completely developed), for DMC to work with D205 to incorporate feedback from all stakeholders and prioritize opportunities and for D205 to develop detailed plans for implementation over the next several years.

Board Communications: Board member Chris Blum made his own “public comment,” which stated that public education is being pulled in many different directions. The Board is open-minded and members are asking questions at this point, not making decisions.

Mr. McDonough stated that a Stormwater communications committee meeting is scheduled when neither he nor Ms. Bastedo is available to attend. He will notify the city that no D205 representative is able to attend this meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meetings are Apr. 12 and Apr. 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm. All meetings are at the District 205 Center, second floor.

- Tuesday, Apr. 5th – Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm