

Dist. 205 Board of Education

June 14, 2016

7:30 pm – 10:30 pm

All Bd member present

Public: 15 Staff: 9 Press: 1

Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:00 p.m. for employment of employee, litigation, purchase or lease of real property, setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District, semi-annual review of closed session minutes and approval of closed session minutes of 5/24/16.

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

Public Comment:

Carol Landou asked some questions concerning the possibility of hiring additional staff as instructional coaches. She was concerned about the amount of money expended annually (\$1,000,000), when the Board has been so worried about possible moves in the state that would reduce the amount of state funds D205 would receive.

Ken Ross, a vice president of the Elmhurst Teachers' Council expressed concerns with the hiring of 12 new instructional coaches. He gave the Board a letter with a list of possible alternative uses of the money that would be used to hire the instructional coaches. Some of the items on the list:

- Early childhood bus monitors
- Math interventionist(s)
- Overcrowding at the middle schools, especially in the social studies and science classes
- Stipend issues at the high school
- More students in science classes than lab spaces available
- Tech coaches for the elementary schools introducing 1:1 chromebooks in 5th grade and 2:1 in 4th grade

Mr. Ross questioned why the rush into this instructional coach program being instituted.

Presentation:

A. Student Achievement Objectives Annual Report – The two student achievement objectives for this past school year were to:

- Develop a balanced assessment system and improve assessment literacy throughout the district.
 - Embedding assessment work.
 - Most of the late start days at the Elementary and middle school levels were dedicated to building/developing assessments.
 - Common assessments were designed to measure student growth.
 - Data warehouse will organize and generate reports on achievement and mastery. Seven years of data is in the warehouse. All staff rollout in fall.
 - Revision of District Performance Indicators to coincide with changes in state law.
- Increase student engagement in all grades EC-12.
 - 1: 1 Chromebooks in Grades 6 -12 completed one year.
 - Piloted Chromebooks in grades 4-5.
 - Ensuring future ready skills in creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.
 - Dynamic resources explored
 - Lucy Calkins writing system implemented.

Dr. Moyer stated, "Everything we said we were going to do at the beginning of the year, we did." The 2016-17 student achievement objectives will be presented for board approval at the July 19th meeting. A District Improvement Plan (DIP) advisory team has been formed. The DIP will come to the Board in October.

B. Finance and Operations Committee Meeting Report:

- April 2016 financials were reported. Revenue receipts are 5.5% over the prior year.
- Four state categorical payments were received this year while three were budgeted. (One payment is about \$1.2 million.)
- Operation expenditures are 2.7% less than last year.
- Salaries are 2.2% more and benefits are 9.3% more than last year.

- Discussion of building stakeholder understanding and support for leveraging the limited financial resources to make the biggest impact on student achievement.
- The committee asked the administration to bring plans/ideas to the full board to increase student outcomes.

Mrs. Bastedo asked if this is appropriate since we do not know about a possible state formula change, a possible pension shift or a property tax freeze.

Mr. Blum replied that the current fund balance is \$21.6 million and this is the lowest point of the year for the district's finances. A million dollars, the cost of one year of instructional coaches, amounts to less than 1% of the district's budget.

C. Learning and Teaching Committee Report:

- Discussed grading scale for Grades 4 – 12 of 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, 70-79 is a C, 60-69 is a D and anything under 60 is an F.
- Discussed update of key performance indicators (KPI).
- Discussed adding an additional 12 instructional coaches (IC) to embed professional learning for teachers. Most of this presentation, given by Dr. Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, was the same as at the Learning and Teaching committee meeting from 6/10/16. (See <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/observerschool060916LTComm.pdf>) Several Board members asked questions, some the same as last Thursday night.
 - Should this be approved as quickly as possible or put off for a year? Will better candidates apply if we wait? Who will be replacing an internal candidate that becomes an IC? Dr. Fitzgerald answered that she expected many internal candidates (“rock star” teachers) and the District receives many applications for teachers. The best of both worlds is a rock star coach and a new teacher.
 - What are the pros and cons for waiting? Dr. Fitzgerald said that the biggest con is that teachers will be needing help this year with the new ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum, student growth assessment work and introduction of chromebooks at the 4th and 5th grade levels.

Board members Bastedo, Blum, Ebner, McDonough, Stuefen and Collins all professed support of this plan with implementation this year. Dr. Harrell expressed concern and requested a possible graduated introduction. This was not embraced by any other Board member. Dr. Harrell stated that these positions are new roles with a new reporting system. These are tenuous times and “bringing in big” might not be better than slowing down. She is worried about the timeline implementation of this program without piloting first and will be voting no.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of 5/24/16.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda The Board approved:

- Personnel Report
- Financial Report
- York Instructional Resources – these instructional materials have been on display for 30 days in the district office.
- Lease of Konica Minolta MFP (multi-functional printer) Equipment – originally was approved with Wintrust Financial. Legal fees would be high, so financing switched to Providence Capital Network. Four year lease, not to exceed \$73,000 annually from 2017 through 2020.
- Authorization of destruction of verbatim recordings of closed sessions
- Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) Policy Manual Updates (second reading and approval):
 - 2:150 Committees (added a comment to illustrate some committees report to the Board)
 - 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings (include legislative change)
 - 4:170 Safety (add carbon monoxide alarms)
 - 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting (“certified” was changed to “licensed”)
 - 5:100 Staff Development Program (“certified” was changed to “licensed”)

- 6:15 School Accountability (include legislative change)
- 6:50 School Wellness (include legislative change)
- 6:60 Curriculum Content (include legislative change) (one semester of Civics added to HS requirements)
- 6:160 English Language Learners (changed name to English Learner)
- 6:300 Graduation Requirements (language clarified)
- 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8 (include legislative change)
- 6:320 High School Credit for Proficiency (pieces moved to 6:315 & include legislative change)
- 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusions of Students (include legislative change)
- 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities (include legislative change)
- 7:140 Search and Seizure (include legislative change)
- 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews updates need to develop procedures for implementing this policy
- 7:190 Student Discipline (include legislative change encouraging “positive interventions and support)
- 7:200 Suspension Procedures (include legislative change)
- 7:210 Expulsion Procedures (include legislative change)
- 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities (include legislative change)
- 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics (establishes basic requirements)
- 7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries (include legislative change – Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act)
- 7:340 Student Records (include legislative change)
- 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property (to align with 5:50 Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace)
- New Policy 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention (to comply with Ann Marie’s law) (second reading and approval).

Superintendent’s Action Item Agenda: The Board approved:

- Resolution approving bank depositories
- Purchase of Cisco Smartnet Support – support for certain Cisco hardware and software \$195,000 to cover three years.
- ThoughtExchange Services Agreement – To gather public opinion research for Phase II of Focus205. \$8,000
- Donation for Sandburg – from PTA for new basketball hoops. \$41,221.61.
- Instructional Coaches – As discussed above under the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting. (Motion carried 6-1, with Dr. Harrell voting no.)

Action on Closed Session Item: The Board approved the extension of the custodial contract with a 1% increase for one year.

The Board also approved the open designation of some closed session minutes.

Superintendent’s Communications:

A. Illinois State Board of Education: The district received a letter from the DuPage Regional Office of Education stating that D205 be placed on full recognition since all noncompliance findings have been corrected. (There were only 3 minor noncompliance findings.)

B. LUDA (Large Unit District Association) Conference Recap: Four administrators attended the conference in Itasca. Governor Rauner and Lt. Gov. Sanguinetti spoke about lack of a state budget and reduction of state mandates and governmental units. Other speakers and several breakout sessions touching on various issues were available.

Board Communications: Mr. McDonough spoke about the stormwater issue. The Board has repeatedly stated

that their core business is education. There is a Madison intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in place and an IGA for the Bryan gravel lot that is close to being complete. The administration has notified the City that D205 will no longer take part in the stormwater communications committee meetings.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 19th at 7:30 pm. All committee meetings as well as the regularly scheduled Board meetings are held at the D205 Center:

- Thursday, June 23, Special Board of Education meeting, 6:00 pm. Closed Session, Superintendent Evaluation