

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Jan. 12, 2016
7:35 pm – 11:50 pm

All Bd members present
Public: 150+ Staff: 10 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

The Board was in closed session from 6:45 p.m. for student residency and employment and employee.

President Ebner called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance. President Ebner suggested that the three recognitions go before public comment.

Presentations:

A. York Cross Country – Boy’s Individual: The Board recognized York Sophomore Charlie Kern Jr., who finished second in the state cross country meet.

B. Shining Star Recognition: Bryan Middle School Social Worker, Denise Gulotta, was recognized for making a positive impact on the students and staff of D205.

C. Nationally Board Certified Psychologists: Hawthorne and Emerson School Psychologist Julie Rogers and Madison and Jackson School Psychologist Emily Wesley were acknowledged for becoming Nationally Certified School Psychologists.

Public Comment: 29 members of the public gave public comment.

- 16 people spoke about the impact of moving the instructional classrooms (2 special education) from Field to Emerson next year. Many were educational professionals, social workers, and psychologists that were concerned about a vulnerable population being moved so quickly without adequate time for transition, including the receiving staff and student body. Many parents of general education students spoke of how wonderful the peer buddy program was at Field and how that will be missed as well. Most suggested a gradual transition of this program to another elementary school due to Field’s current need for more space.
- One man was originally going to speak about the Field to Emerson transfer and since others had spoken so eloquently on this, he spoke about transparency and communication, or lack thereof at this level.
- 8 individuals spoke about the York math lab closing after school. With the new teacher’s contract, the math lab was put under the “club” area and the stipend was cut in half. There were no teachers willing to staff the math lab afterschool for so little pay.
- There were two people who spoke about the Middle School Task Force and the District Management Council middle school study. DMC will report their study results to the MSTF, which is made up of the 3 middle school Principals, 18 middle school teachers, the Superintendent and the Asst Superintendent for Student Services.
- A York teacher spoke about the lowering of morale, starting with the Superintendent’s opening day speech being offensive to teachers because York was rated in the top 10 high schools in Illinois and not number one. He gave many other examples.
- A parent insisted that the chromebooks that every York student is required to have can get access to pornography.

President Ebner read a statement that the math lab pay was established during teacher contract negotiations and is contractual. The Board hopes that this will be resolved soon.

Reports and Presentations:

D. Student Achievement Objectives:

- Grade 4 & 5 Chromebook Pilot: Each elementary building received a cart of class set of Chromebooks for 4th and 5th grade the 1st week in November. This pilot program will continue through this school year, with teachers being surveyed about their use, what features they liked and disliked and whether student engagement increased. One survey has already been conducted, with teachers in favor of moving the 1:1 Chromebook environment.
- Assessment: PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) was administered last spring. This was online in English Language Arts and Math for grades 3 -8 and English 9/9H. Algebra AB was taken using paper tests. PARCC performance levels are listed below, with 4 & 5 indicating students are on track for college & career readiness.
 - Level 1 – Did not meet expectations
 - Level 2 – Partially met expectations
 - Level 3 – Approached expectations
 - Level 4 – Met expectations
 - Level 5 – Exceeded expectations

<u>Level 4 & 5 for English Language Arts</u>		<u>Math</u>
Elementary	57.4%	55.5%
Middle School	60.8%	53.2%
High School	49.4%	29.2%

D205 has been using internal measure of college and career readiness for the past 5 years. In Grades 3-8, the PARCC results were higher for English and lower for Math. For High School, the PARCC was lower than both the English and the Math.

Comparison to other districts is not possible due to differences in test format, technology capabilities and High School courses tested.

The state has said a new science test will be given in 5th, 8th, and 9th grades.

It appears certain that the state will switch from ACT to SAT. State funding of ACT will not happen. State funding of SAT may be possible. IF D205 wants to test all D205 juniors with the ACT, it will cost about \$36,700. The administration recommends that D205 commit to funding the ACT for all D205 juniors. Board member Collins spoke in support of having D205 pay for ACT tests for this year's juniors.

School reports cards will be released, since PARCC results are now available. Check the D205 website: http://www.elmhurst205.org/State_RCards

Superintendent Communications:

A. As.Is Statement: Superintendent Moyer read a statement explaining that he had asked for the York As.Is Club's announcements in October, celebrating LGBT awareness month, to be stopped halfway through the month based on a parent's complaint. Dr. Moyer stated that he has worked with the High School to come up with a more defined announcement approval procedure and once these procedures are complete, the remainder of the announcements will be presented, if they meet the new guidelines.

Board member John McDonough stated that he appreciated the Superintendent efforts to heal the crisis of confidence and trust, but all he heard was about process. He asked the Superintendent multiple times what was wrong with the announcements? Initially, Dr. Moyer answered that he was

not prepared to answer that question, but after being asked the same question again, Dr. Moyer replied that some were a “little bit more provocative and less informational and that they may have a greater chance to be misrepresented....”

Board member Margaret Harrell asked about the procedures that were being written and what exactly were they doing? Dr. Moyer said they were clarifying.

To watch the complete 15-minute statement and exchange, see the League of Women Voters of Elmhurst, IL facebook page or click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp-AkSsoe3I#t=18>.

Board Communications:

A. Field Instructional Classrooms: Dr. Moyer read another statement about how the facilities at Field Elementary School are inadequate to meet the instructional needs of all students and how the District has decided to “fix” the issue – by moving two instructional classrooms (special education) from Field to Emerson.

In early November of 2015, the Superintendent approved the move beginning at the start of the 2016-2017 school term in August of 2016. Parents of the affected students were notified by a letter dated November 20, 2015. The letter was sealed and sent home with the students, which the District recognizes in hindsight was not the best way to communicate this news to parents and for which the District apologizes.

In deciding that the move should take place at the start of the 2016-2017 school term, the administration considered the number of students, their ages and their home schools in determining that this was the best time to make the transition. The administration also considered a phased transition approach in which some students would remain at Field School while others would transfer to Emerson. This would require hiring an additional teacher at a potential expense of approximately \$80,000 per year, and could require hiring additional support staff, which is contrary to expectations articulated by the Board with respect to hiring additional staff. Operating two programs at a reduced scale in each building would also diminish the value of the program to its participants in the host schools from an instructional standpoint. The previous administration recognized that the functional capacity problems of Field School could be resolved through changes in attendance boundaries, but both the former administration and the current administration view that option as even more disruptive and difficult to manage than moving the two instructional classrooms.

Based on parent and community input, the Board made the decision at this meeting to adopt a phased-in approach to the transition of the instructional classrooms from Field to Emerson Elementary School. Options for the phase-in will be brought to the Board at a future meeting. Several Board members apologized for how the letter informing the parents of the imminent move was delivered. After the Board’s request to receive some possible options from the administration, Dr. Moyer stated that it wasn’t a good idea to “drag it out.” And that this is not the best idea for Field Elementary School.

To watch the complete 30-minute statement and exchange, see the League of Women Voters of Elmhurst, IL facebook page or click on <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersElmhurstIL/?ref=hl>.

B. District Management Council: President Ebner, with help from other Board members replied/corrected some rumors circulating through the district:

1. Success across all 3 middle schools has not been achieved despite concerns of parents, teachers and administrators over a decade. During teacher contract negotiations, it was

agreed to establish a middle school task force. To supplement and assist this work, District Management Council was contracted.

2. D205 joined DMC for \$3500 annually and signed a 3 year contract for \$225,000.
3. No staff member has any financial interest in DMC.
4. BWP, the search firm used for the Superintendent and York Principal search has no connections with DMC.
5. The contract with DMC was not bid because this is considered under “professional services.”
6. There is no agenda by the Board or by DMC to reduce special education services or to increase class sizes.
7. DMC is only studying the middle school.
8. The Board supports DMC’s concept of Academic Return on Investment.
9. The Middle School Task Force is made up of 18 middle school teachers (selected by the Elmhurst Teachers’ Council), the three middle school Principals, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel.
10. Focus group interviews representing a variety of constituents, including parents were conducted by DMC.
11. The Board expects transparency with ample opportunity for the school community to provide input.

C. Joint Conference Report – tabled due to lateness of the hour.

Action on Closed Session Item: The Board approved the disenrollment of non-resident student “F.” \$6,546.29 will be charged for tuition for this student since the start of this school year. It should be noted that both Board members Bastedo and McDonough expressed distaste in taking this action.

Upcoming Meetings: The next regularly scheduled meeting is Jan. 26th at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are at the District 205 Center, second floor:

- Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016 – Finance and Operations Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2016 – Special Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 p.m. (This was stated as the Superintendent’s mid-year review. It appears to be a closed session meeting.)
- Thursday, February 11, 2016 – Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m.