

Dist. 205 Learning and Teaching Comm Meeting

June 9, 2016
6:15 pm – 8:45 pm

Collins, Harrell, Ebner present
Bastedo by phone
Public: 2 Staff: 9 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

Committee Chair Collins called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: None

Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the 4/5/16 meeting were approved as presented.

Learning and Teaching Committee Discussion Topics:

A. Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Revisions – Charles Sprandel, Director of Research, Assessment and Quality Analysis, reviewed the current Key Performance Indicators and commented on their “usefulness.” Since the state has moved from ACT to SAT testing, many of the KPIs will not be able to continue as written. Under Academic Achievement, “ACT” will be replaced with SAT, since all students will not take the ACT starting with class of 2018. ELL (English Language Learners) Progress will be changed to a college and career readiness and a 3rd grade reading measurement.

ACT has discontinued the Explore and Plan tests. The new standardized test schedule will be:

Fall 8 th grade	SAT 8
Fall 9 th grade	SAT 9
Fall 10 th grade	PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit)
Fall 11 th grade	PSAT/NMSQT

Academic growth at the High School will not be available until the 2019-2020 school year.

Under College and Career Readiness, the goal number will have to be re-normed within the 2018-19 school year.

Both Fine Arts Participation and New Century Participation will be dropped and the administration is currently looking for a more quantitative measure for these areas.

B. Grades 4-12 Grading Scale – Dr. Fitzgerald stated that all grades from 4th through 12th grade will use the 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.

C. Instructional Coaches – Dr. Moyer started the discussion by stating that at the 5/23/16 Finance and Operations Committee Meeting, he was asked what he would do with \$1,000,000 to increase student outcomes. His answer was instructional coaches. Dr. Moyer also said that the district is \$3,000,000 ahead of where the original supposition for the budget was. D205 also received an additional payment from the state that was not expected. Dr. Fitzgerald prepared a presentation to hire 12 new instructional coaches (IC).

- Based on 1 coach for every 500 students, every school will receive 1.0 IC, except for Edison and Madison who will receive 0.5 IC each.
- All current ITC (Instructional Technology Coaches) will be “converted” to Instructional Coaches.
- Dr. Fitzgerald’s proposal included that these individuals should be on the teacher’s contract plus 10 days (5 days for a July retreat and 5 days in August for the New Educator Academy).

- Deb Lee and Dr. Fitzgerald are also working on a plan to have these staff members act as mentors for new teachers. (But not for the next year.)
- The timeline is very tight. The proposal, which will be coming out of closed session (per Dr. Moyer), will theoretically, be approved at the 6/14 school board meeting and the jobs will be posted on 6/15. Principals and Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching will interview candidates. The plan would be to have all hired for a mid-July retreat. Both Dr. Moyer and Dr. Fitzgerald mentioned that they would have preferred to be talking about this several months ago.
- The ICs will report to both their Principal and to the Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching. The ICs will meet every other Friday afternoon with the Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching to encourage “job embedded” professional learning.
- Jim Knight is the expert on this and he will be in the Chicago area this upcoming year. The hope is to have him come to D205 for his input.
- A job description, as well as further information on this proposal, were on the private side of BoardDocs.
- The finance committee did make a multi-year commitment to this program.

Several questions were asked by Board members present. Among them and the answers given by Dr. Moyer (in blue, if given).

- What happens if the state comes up with a new funding formula or other state issues that would reduce funding for D205? *We will find other things to cut, not ICs.* (No specific “other thing” was suggested.)
- Why were Instructional Coaches suggested rather than Assistant Principals? *These two positions are different and it was thought that teachers would appreciate and get more out of instructional coaches.*
- Why do this rather than slow down? *Why should we slow down so that we can be further behind?*
- We had hard teacher negotiations. What will the teachers think about this “found” \$3 million? (No answer was given.)
- What about a parent who is concerned about their child being in a large class and would prefer that the money be spent on smaller class sizes? *There are parents who don’t understand the research. This is operational efficiency. What we need to talk about is quality teachers, not class sizes. It would be nice if people opened their minds to something different.*

This Observer asked if this information would be moved to the public side of Board Docs. Dr. Fitzgerald said that it was up to the Board, who did not give an answer. Dr. Fitzgerald also said that she did not want the current ITC’s to learn of their possible title change on BoardDocs. This observer stated that this was an open meeting, as was the 5/23 Finance and Operations meeting. Dr. Moyer’s plan to take this information into a closed session discussion because it is a “personnel issue” is wrong. This discussion is a budget issue – whether to add \$1,000,000 to the budget for 12 more FTE. Several Board members present agreed.

Note that the current posted agenda for the 6/14/16 School Board meeting has this program coming out of closed session.