

Dist. 205 Special Board of Education
July 13, 2017
6:05 pm – 8:55 pm

All Bd members present, Blum late
Public: 4 Staff: 9 Press: 1
Observer: J. Dorner

The group was set up in a square, with Board members and administrators around the square. There were no microphones used and many (especially Board members) could not be heard by those in the audience. This was the Board’s retreat.

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

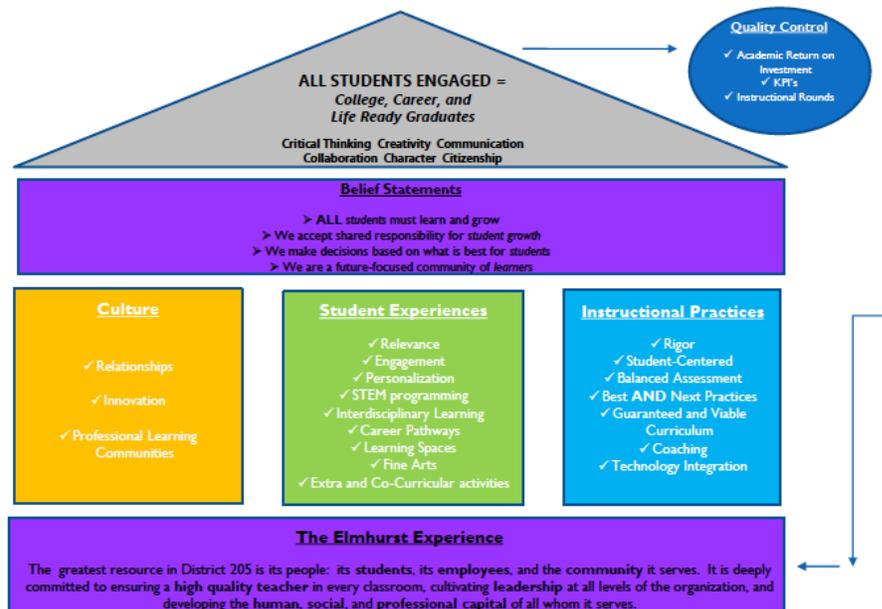
Public Comment: Michelle Reedy spoke as a parent, community member and as an alumna of D205. She said that she was worried that the Board was losing touch with the community. She was disappointed that the MOA (memo of understanding) that was not approved by the teachers (concerning the new schedule at the middle school) was still pushed through. She said she thought that the Board needed to function more as a liaison rather than an extension of the administration. She continued by asking if the Board was trying to be union busters, since some of the teachers transferred during the last days of school were building reps from which they were transferred. She concluded by saying that she knew they were coming up to a big ask and without trust, we will all be disappointed in the outcome.

A. Draft Operational Plan 2017-2020: Dr. Moyer presented the power point, which can be found at

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/elmhurst/Board.nsf/files/AP6SBA71560A/\\$file/Board%20Retreat%20OOP%20Presentaion.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/elmhurst/Board.nsf/files/AP6SBA71560A/$file/Board%20Retreat%20OOP%20Presentaion.pdf). This is a culmination of Phase 1 of Focus 205 and includes a vision, plan for continued community engagement, student achievement objectives 2017-18 and anticipated priorities. Focus 205, Phase 1 was recapped.

Vision: All students engaged = College, career and life ready graduates.

As a national leader in future ready learning, Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 promotes a culture of innovation. It is committed to accelerating learning for all students and ensuring that all students graduate from high school college, career, and life ready. D205 values its partnership with the community to ensure appropriate resources and quality facilities support this vision for student achievement.



The 4 “C”s have been expanded to 6 “C”s.

- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Character
- Citizenship

The District’s Belief Statements:

- All students must learn and *grow*
- We accept shared responsibility for *student growth*
- We make decisions based on what is best for *students*
- We are a future focused community of *learners*

Innovation was defined as “Achievement of pattern-breaking performance that can be scaled and sustained.” (District Management Group, 2017)

Innovation will be approached....

- Best practices allow D205 to refine and improve what it is already doing.
- Next practices make it possible to do something one has never done before.
- Successful organizations do both simultaneously.

A tentative outline of future community Engagement Opportunities was presented; with the statement that this is allowing people to weigh in on Phase 1 of Focus 205.

- July 18 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- July-September, All-Day Kindergarten Study
- July-December and beyond, Board presentations and extensive community input on Operational Plan priorities
- August 8, Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- August 14 Dr. Bill Daggett: *Why the Future of Education is Now*, York Commons, 7:00 p.m.
- August 22, Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- August-December, social media, focus groups, phone surveys, small group meetings, etc. (pending coordination with communications consultant)
- September 18 State of the Schools Address, York Commons, 7:00 p.m.
- September 21-November, Thought Exchange Survey
- September-December, community input on Design Concepts for potential future facility enhancements and continued consideration of community input from variety of sources

Focus 205 instructional priority areas were identified as:

- All Day Kindergarten
- Project Lead the Way
- Dual Language Immersion
- Instructional Coaches
- Systematic Interventions and Enrichment

Student Achievement Objectives were identified as

- Ensure student growth drives a balanced assessment system
- Increase student engagement in all grades EC-12

Dr. Moyer concluded the presentation by saying that this is a very affordable plan.

B. Board Meeting Review and Enhancements

Dr. Harrell took the lead on this agenda item. A two-part survey of the Board was conducted. The first part was open-ended with two questions. The first was “List 3 things which occur in our meetings which make the meeting effective. Include a short statement of why the identified item improves effectiveness.

The items identified most frequently were

- Respect for each other
- Variety of people involved
- Recognition of students and staff
- Focus on student learning

The second question was to list two things which occur in our meetings we need to change in order to make the meetings more effective. Include a short statement on why the identified item can improve effectiveness.

The items identified most frequently were

- Better management of recognitions (make them MORE valuable)
- Shorter meetings with shorter, fewer presentations, less discussion
- Setting guidelines for public comments

It was decided to move the recognitions BEFORE public comment, if the Board engages more with the community, public comment will go away, and “learning targets” should be posted for each presentation so the Board knows if it is for information, a decision is needed, etc.

The second part of the survey was a closed-ended rating of timeliness, effectiveness and outcomes of Closed Session, consent agenda, action items, superintendent communication and Board Communications. Receiving information concerning closed session items was the main reason for unhappiness with that section of the agenda. A decision to make one motion for all donations and then to thank all donors was made.

C. Pro-Active Strategic Communications Discussions

Melea Smith, Executive Director of Communications/Public Relations presented all the pieces of information that go out of her office on a regular basis. Mrs. Ebner asked if there were any pieces that could be deleted from her list. Dr. Moyer said he felt that Board Highlights was very time-consuming for Ms. Smith and was really not needed since all meetings were recorded and available to the community.

There was a brief discussion about an additional marketing firm to be hired to bring the Focus 205 information front and center and to continue that initiative.

Ms Smith shared something she had heard at a recent conference she had attended. Millennials want to be involved in everything. BUT, Millennials will accept boundaries, if they are given in advance.

The Board spoke about really appreciating the set up and discussion they shared at this meeting. They wondered if they would be able to have more of these types of interactions.