

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

Title: Education Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Time: 8:15 a.m.
Location: West Campus, Seminar A
Participants: Beth Clemmensen, Suzanne Sands, Rebecca Jenkins, Susan Milsk, Judy Epcke, Tara Eggers, Carolyn Moore
Administration present: Michael Simeck
Staff Present: None
Approval of Minutes: Motion by Suzanne Sands, Second by Tara Eggers

Public Comment: None

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met on Oct. 5 and was called to order at 8:18am. The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the January meeting, with Suzanne Sands making the motion and Carolyn Moore making the second.

Annual Committee Goals – Beth Clemmensen

Susan Milsk and Beth Clemmensen recently met to develop annual goals for the Committee. Goals included more fully engaging all members in the committee discussions, keeping discussions at a more strategic level with connection to the Mission/Vision/Milestones work, and developing a flexible annual calendar to ensure coverage of all academic areas. The Committee reviewed the items presented and provided feedback on additional areas that should be addressed.

Re-Imagined Spaces – Judi Epcke

Judi Epcke provided an update on both the Haskins project and classroom transformations. On Haskins, the administration was still waiting for updated cost breaks from Perkins and Will. It is hoped that once this information is received the board and administration can determine how to prioritize aspects within the project as well as relative to other district priorities. Judi reminded us that the space is 11,443sf and therefore renovations on such a large area will have a sizable cost.

Judi also provided an update on learning spaces, showing classroom photos from around the district. In some cases the school furniture being used is outdated or inadequate. Some teachers have tried to make updates with limited resources, finding unused furniture and/or investing their own funds. It will be important to survey both teachers and students about their needs and to take an inventory of exactly what furniture the district has and where it resides. Then the Learning Spaces Committee can work with vendors to gain prototypes. Judi will be updating the Ed Committee again once a timeline is developed.

Inquiry Update – Susan Milsk

Susan Milsk presented the Committee with an overview on where the team is on Inquiry Learning across the district. There have been multiple training sessions for teachers since last spring. To date, approximately 118 teachers have attended inquiry sessions, including 12 teachers from Cherokee who attended a more advanced session to build their skills. There are also 3 inquiry committees that have formed: one for overall K-8 Inquiry, one for K-4 social studies and one for DPM Science.

Reading & Writing Workshop Implementation -- Susan Milsk

Significant professional development was conducted against the reading and writing initiatives. A 4-day homegrown reading institute was offered and attended by 73 teachers. Normally teachers would have 1-2 days of training, but this extended time gave teachers a chance to flesh out their plans and see how the program would work in their classrooms. There was also an advanced writing day with 68 participants.

Overall, teacher feedback has been very positive regarding the reading and writing curricula. The reading implementation is going more smoothly because of the experience with writing the year prior. Teachers report that they are seeing strong performance from their students.

To support the implementation, a kit has been developed that houses all of the key information (FAQs, links, pacing calendars, etc.). This is to improve instructional alignment across the district.

Motion to adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am. Suzanne Sands made the motion and Tara Eggers seconded it.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 at 8:15am in Seminar A, West Campus.