

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

Title: Education Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2016
Time: 8:15 a.m.
Location: West Campus, Seminar A
Participants: Beth Clemmensen, Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands,
Susan Milsk, Tara Eggers, Carolyn Moore
Administration present: None
Staff Present: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Jeff Folker, Second by Carolyn Moore

Public Comment: None

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met on December 7 and was called to order at 8:25am. The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the October meeting, with Jeff Folker making the motion and Carolyn Moore making the second.

As a follow-up to the last Education Committee report on Re-Imagined Spaces, members of the Board went on a “field trip” the day prior to the Education Committee meeting on Dec. 6. Five board members visited four area schools with Judy Epcke and Rebecca Jenkins to view recent changes and renovations the schools have made to their learning environments, including classrooms, furniture, science labs, and library spaces. This gave the board some valuable insight into what other schools are doing and what might be possible. It was a great chance to talk with the educators about what improvements have had the biggest impact on student engagement and satisfaction and will be invaluable as we develop the plans for Haskins and classroom transformations.

Solar Panel Project – Students from LFHS

A team of three students from Lake Forest High School came to present findings from a research project they have been working for a year and a half on under the direction of Mrs. Davenport, one of the Environmental Science teachers. Several students, parents, and faculty from DPM also joined the meeting to hear the presentation. The students have been analyzing what it would take to install solar panels on both D115 and D67 buildings. Because of the design, position, and newness of the DPM roof, it is a strong candidate for effectively using solar panels. Each panel costs between \$650-\$750 and would last for about 25-30 years. The students explained that the cost of the panels could be partially offset by the energy savings they would generate and that having panels on a roof extends the roof life because they protect it. The students estimate that the investment payback would be about 13 years.

Currently, there is no longer state grant money available to fund solar panels and schools, as government entities, do not get tax credits for using solar energy. The students’ idea for funding the significant investment is to have community members sponsor a panel as a fundraiser or to engage in a public-private partnership with a local business.

The team was very impressed with the students work and was excited about the prospect of investigating the idea further. The educational opportunities are certainly apparent. The challenge is to work through the financials and make a compelling business case for moving forward.

World Language Update – Susan Milsk

Susan Milsk provided an update on the World Language program. The work on WL has been to determine what the education goals and expectations are for each stage in the program. The team has been working on writing curriculum, particularly for the elementary Spanish program. They are also planning stronger assessments across grades 5-8 and determining the testing timeline across the Spanish, French and Mandarin languages. The team still needs to determine what the goals and assessments are for Latin, since it does not fit into the same world readiness standards as the other languages. Latin continues to be the second most popular language choice at DPM (about 21% of students take Latin), so it is important to determine the appropriate standards for this group.

Assessment Report – Susan Milsk

Susan Milsk presented the Committee with a draft of the Assessment Report that will be presented at the Board meeting. There were a few key takeaways the Committee had from the report:

- The district and each grade level received “green light” criteria for student growth, which is based on multiple tests and criteria.
- There is a portion of students, as there always are, who are in the “low growth” category. It will be important to understand who those students are – are they proficient, but not growing OR are they not proficient and not growing.
- Last year’s PARCC results show that the district is slightly under-performing vs. peer districts, particularly in ELA. This was part of the reason for making the recent curriculum changes, but it will take time for these to show up in the testing.
- Comparing 2016 PARCC results to 2015 shows that student performance was not as strong as prior year. It will be important to understand potential drivers behind this (role of test prep, changes to the test, etc.).
- The district MAP results continue to be very strong across both math and ELA.

Motion to adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 11:35am. Tara Eggers made the motion and Jeff Folker seconded it.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017 at 8:15am in Seminar A, West Campus.