

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

Title: Education Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Time: 8:15 a.m.
Location: West Campus, Seminar A
Participants: Beth Clemmensen, Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands,
Barry Rodgers, Susan Milsk, Tara Eggers, Carolyn Moore
Administration present: Mike Simeck
Staff Present: Judi Epke
Approval of Minutes: Motion by Jeff Folker, Second by Suzanne Sands
Public Comment: Mike Borkowski, Lorene Grieve

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met on November 18th and called to order at 8:21am. A motion was made by Mr. Folker and seconded by Mrs. Sands to approve the September minutes.

Tablets in K-1 Classrooms – Judi Epke

Ms. Epke presented the Committee with a proposal to conduct a trial of tablets in our K-1 classrooms. Ms. Epke believes the tablets will provide these young students with an opportunity for enhanced project creation and documentation, as well as engagement with innovative learning experiences. Currently, all students in grades 2-8 have chromebooks as their 1:1 device and there are also 300-400 iPads being used in classrooms across the district.

Ms. Epke is budgeting for up to 100 tablets for the trial and is exploring alternate manufacturers for these new tablets. The proposal is to work with the K-1 teachers to determine their needs and plan from there. The measures for success outlined are:

- 1) Is a tablet the best device for the K-1 age group?
- 2) Is greater access to technology of benefit to this student group?
- 3) Is 1:1 access needed?
- 4) Were outcomes achieved?

Teachers, parents and students will be surveyed to gain feedback on the trial.

Questions and concerns expressed by the Committee were:

- 1) The cost of managing dual technology across tablets?
- 2) Can a true experimental design be developed to assess the productivity of these devices, taking out the variable of the tech-savvy teacher skewing the results?
- 3) Given everything these young learners and their teachers are trying to accomplish in these early years, are 1:1 devices really needed?
- 4) While technology provides many advantages, is the District foregoing some opportunities for student socialization and collaboration, which are developmentally important in these early years?

Assessment Update – Barry Rodgers

Mr. Rodgers provided a brief overview of the assessment data that will be looked at in more detail next month. The data will include both MAP scores and PARCC data. Overall, the MAP data shows that D67 is outperforming the national averages, which is consistent with prior years. The PARCC data was not available. The Committee asked that when Mr. Rodgers presents the findings that attempts are made to look longitudinally to help understand the impact of changes to the curriculum and instruction, understanding that this is challenging given that there have been changes to the MAP test in terms of its alignment to Common Core standards and that this is a baseline year for PARCC.

Push-In Capacity – Barry Rodgers

Mr. Rodgers highlighted that whenever possible it is important to educate children in the least restrictive environment. Given this, he confirmed that the district's plan is to move as quickly as possible to a push-in model of support for special education vs. the pull out model the district has traditionally used. It is important to ensure the capacity is in place to support all students and our teachers. The IEP will, however, continue to drive the services for each special education student. A member of the community later asked during public comment that the district consider the impact this change may have on the other students in the classroom, stressing that it is important to evaluate the experience for not only the IEP student, but also for the teacher and other students.

New Math/Writing Curriculum Update – Susan Milsk

The Writing curriculum has received positive feedback from teachers in that it allows for opportunity to differentiate in the classroom. While all students in a grade may be doing the same writing assignment, there are significant differences in the output and expectations for each student. There have been regular training sessions with teachers to help them use the new curriculum more effectively.

On the Math curriculum, there have been some growing pains, but the teachers say they like what they are seeing. The homework is different – students need to take more ownership of the homework. It builds greater accountability. The Committee talked about the importance of continuing to support the implementation with teacher training.

Executive Functioning

This topic was on the agenda, but tabled until the next meeting due to time.

A member of the public asked that the Committee consider the importance of desks in the classroom and looking at updating them for increased functionality and mentioned that the Spirit could be part of a broader D67 initiative in this area. The Committee agreed to follow-up with Mr. Rodgers who is heading a task force on re-imagined learning spaces across the district.

Motion to adjourn:

Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Mr. Folker that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 8:15 a.m. West Campus Seminar A