

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

Title: Education Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 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: N/A

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Jeff Folker, Second by Suzanne Sands

Public Comment: Katie Andersen

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met for its first meeting of the new school year on September 9th. The first item on the agenda was Public Comment. A member of the public addressed the committee on the importance of restoring penmanship in the curriculum. The parent advised that given the general shift from teaching cursive writing skills to keyboarding skills in the elementary schools, there are now high school students who have significant challenges formulating their signature and reading and writing in cursive. While she acknowledged the practicality of keyboarding skills in the digital age, she urged the committee to consider the importance of writing/penmanship for ACT and Advanced Placement exams, reading historical documents that are written in cursive, and signing one's name to legal documents. The Committee acknowledged that this was a topic that surfaces from time and time and it is important to find the right balance.

From Public Comment, the Committee welcomed its newest members, Dr. Tara Eggers and Mrs. Carolyn Moore. As previously announced, these ladies will be serving a 2-year term as community representatives on the Committee.

Ed Committee Charter

The Committee began its work by reviewing and discussing the Committee Charter. This charter was revised last year, but it was important to take a fresh look at it with the start of the school

year and determine if it still reflected the mission of the group. Specifically, the 3 purposes of the Committee are to:

1. Provide a forum for vetting and discussing major educational initiatives.
2. Provide representative Board and community feedback, insight, and direction to D67 Administration relative to curriculum, instruction, technology, assessment, and goals.
3. Provide feedback, insight, and direction to the D67 Board as a whole regarding current and future educational initiatives.

It is important to note that the Committee does not take action in Committee and that is reserved for the Board as a whole. The Charter was reaffirmed without revision, with Ms. Sands making the motion and Mr. Folker making the second.

2015 Summer Review

The Committee discussed the considerable work that took place over the summer. Consistent with the Vision outlined by the Board around the commitment to professional development for teachers, there was significant professional learning taking place all summer. Ms. Milsk estimated that nearly 2000 hours of PD were completed, across multiple disciplines, and most particularly around the new Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop. In addition to the Writing Workshop there was the Lucy Calkins summer institute attendance, a Number Sense boot camp, Bridges conference, DPM math course planning around the new Connected Math curriculum, Inspiration Block planning and Atlas Curriculum writing across all curricular areas.

2015-2016 Curriculum Goals

1. English Language Arts:
 - Implement Lucy Calkins Writing units of study for the current year
 - Initiate the planning and development for Lucy Calkins Reading for next year

The Committee discussed the excitement the teachers are finding with the new curriculum, which is encouraging. In addition to the Lucy Calkins materials, there is also work around using the Greek and Latin root word lists. Ms. Milsk has been working with the Latin teachers at the high school regarding the best roots for use at the K-8 level. In addition, grammar will be infused into the writing instruction, and there is work to develop a set of grammar standards for all grades K-8. The Committee discussed the idea of developing a District writing handbook that would outline all of these standards for parents, students and the community – something many districts use. Completing this in concert with the high school was seen as particularly important by the Committee for a more seamless articulation, similar to what was recently established in math.

2. Math:
 - Continued implementation and improvement of the K-5 Bridges program
 - Implementation of the new 5-8 Connected Math curriculum

The math teams have made a lot of progress in both the articulation and curriculum materials across the grades. The team is working towards consistent utilization of the new materials, leading to hopefully demonstrated student growth in math.

3. Science:
 - Complete alignment to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
 - Identify the materials necessary to accomplish alignment to these standards
 - Articulate the assessment tools
4. Social Studies:
 - Ensure K-4 alignment with the C3 Framework for State Standards. (C3 stands for College, Career, and Civic Life, and the standards are a guide across K-12 for civics, economics, geography and history).
 - Develop 5-8 course sequencing using the “understanding by design” framework.
5. Multi-Tiered System of Supports:
 - Ensure MTSS Coordinators at each campus.
 - Develop systems to regularly review data at each campus.

Inspiration Block

The pilot program at Cherokee was expanded to all grades this year based on overall positive feedback on the program in K, 3, and 4 grades last year. The Committee discussed that opportunity for the program is to identify clearly articulated goals and success measures, and determine how best to proceed beyond the 2-year pilot. Mr. Rodgers will be undertaking the task of taking a holistic review of the Inspiration Block program and making a recommendation to the Board. The Ed Committee will continue to be in discussions in the coming months on this important matter.

Executive Functioning

The Committee discussed the opportunity to provide more executive functioning coaching for students in middle school. Whether that coaching is embedded into teacher training for use with students day to day in the classroom or is a Brainstormers class for students and parents is still TBD. Some on the Committee felt this training would be helpful as students first transition to the middle school in 5th grade and others thought it would be beneficial as students move to the west side of DPM and begin preparation for high school. More research and identification of resources is being done.

That concludes the Education Committee report.

Motion to adjourn:

Suzanne Sands made the motion and Tara Eggers seconded it.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, November 18, 8:15 a.m. West Campus Seminar A