

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
February 24, 2016

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the School Service Center, 130 W. Park Avenue, Wheaton, IL, by Board President Jim Vroman, on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 7:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members: Jim Vroman
 Brad Paulsen
 Chris Crabtree
 Joann Coghill (arrived at 8:00)
 Jim Gambaiani
 Barbara Intihar

Absent: Jim Mathieson

Also in Attendance: Dr. Jeff Schuler
 Mrs. Faith Dahlquist
 Mr. Bill Farley
 Mrs. Erica Loiacono
 Mr. Rodney Mack
 Mrs. Joanne Panopoulos
 Dr. Robert Rammer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Robert Rammer led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION

Member Crabtree moved, Member Paulsen seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn to workshop setting. Upon a roll call vote being taken the vote was: AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Instruction

Update on Future of Instruction and Technology (FIT)

Dr. Schuler introduced Mrs. Faith Dahlquist. Mrs. Dahlquist used a PowerPoint presentation to share information on the following:

- Preparing students for a future we can't predict
- Our students will
- A new age
- From Information to conceptual
- "The real act of discovery consists not in finding new lands but in seeing with new eyes."
(Marcel Proust)

- FIT – future of instruction and technology
- Knowledge is not enough..., it's what one can do with it that counts.
- FIT Committee members
- District 200 learning environment
- Today's learners
- Vision 2018 Learning Environment Reflection Guide
- Highlight of FIT work this year
- Three District 200 teachers shared things going on in the classrooms related to FIT
 - John Kubilius – Johnson School, talked about Plicker and formative assessments
 - Jen Wolfe – Hubble MS, talked about iSearch
 - Jason Nowaczyk – WWSHS, talked about FLIP Classes and Kagan Method
- Traditional vs. FIT
- Imagine doing this with 26 students
- Preliminary FIT survey results
- Universal Access
- Having access to information and to others, demands...
- How many devices are needed?
- Devices are not enough... it's what one can do with them that counts

Discussion focused on the following:

- How does the district test in these creative settings?
 - Creative projects but also some traditional test methods in certain areas like math
- Collaborative work seems to be creating a love of learning for kids
- How do we address the kids that aren't carrying their weight in group work? How do we deal with the kids knowing how everyone is progressing?
 - Report grades cannot be one grade for all. Teachers need to be able to assess what they learned and what they contributed. This can be done by having students write about their work or require all members of the group to speak about the project. Report cards are aligned to the standards and are individual. Yes, students will know who speaks well in class, writing will demonstrate who is good at writing and who is not but there will be other ways to test for understanding and show knowledge.
- This is one of the most exciting things the district has been doing. This is not so much about devices but about working together and allowing students to be in charge of their own learning. How can the Board do more to help get this in every classroom? How can we celebrate this more in the community so people can see what is going on and where the district is heading?
- How often does the FIT guide need to be revised?
 - Staff is still working on making this happen but do not see this document as outdated. It is a long range plan; an evolving document.
- It is frustrating that the district's success is measured by test scores. How do we use this information to convey that our students are learning communication skills and readiness skills and how readiness is measured?
 - Dr. Schuler stated that the district has begun to do this through the Dashboard and is looking at areas other than just test scores. It will be necessary to make sure that FIT is in the language of monitoring. The Board has a goal around FIT and now the action items will come in different pieces that will tie into it. The Board will continue to see more brought to them with the embedded language to tie it all together.

- Is there any pushback from parents about the FLIP classes?
 - There have been some questions, but not really pushback.

Technology

Master Tech Plan Presentation

Dr. Schuler introduced Mr. Rodney Mack. Mr. Mack used a PowerPoint to provide information on the following:

- Accomplishments
- Why a Master Technology Plan?
- Vision 2018 – sustain the District 200 Technology Infrastructure
- Infrastructure and Access
- Universal Access to Devices
- Classroom Needs for Instruction
- Operational Technology Systems
- Systems Support
- Financing the Plan as Presented

Discussion focused on the following:

- Staff met with members of the Wheaton Chamber to discuss and brainstorm ways to get Internet access available across the district. This will include working with apartment complexes, stores and businesses, and asking partners to have a common service available to patrons using a common Wi-Fi broadcast name like “I Support Learning”. When people login they would see that as a possible login at that facility. District 200 IT staff would be available to work with the businesses to secure their Internet
- The ratio of devices to students will be shared with the Board soon
- Will there be a loss of functionality when laptops are replaced with Chromebooks?
 - No, and the computers that are being replaced will be put somewhere else so that they are reused in some way.
- Internet at the apartment complexes would likely be in their community room/clubhouse areas.
- The average cost for the Chromebooks is \$250.00
- The \$1600 to purchase laptops will come from the end of the current leases
- The spike in work tickets in January is usually the result of forgotten passwords or things that were unplugged over the break not getting reconnected properly
- One benefit of Chromebooks is the ease of use and because of that there has been no need to add IT staff for support
- The district has come a long way in technology since the first Tech Plan was presented
- What is the status of the Business/HR solution and can the study of new software be moved up to 2016-17?
 - The current system is reliable even though it cannot do everything the district would like it to do. Because of this the decision was made to push that out and do other things. The evaluation can be moved to 2016-17.
- The goal plan says that in April the Tech Master Plan and the Facility Master Plan will be merged together. Another category will be added to the Tech Plan to add libraries.
- The implementation of Synergy is going better than it was previously. Some state reporting still causes problems. Staff runs quarterly reports to make sure the data is good and the information is accurate along the way.

- If 67% of our high school teachers report that the number of devices is a barrier for them, should the number of devices at that level be increased?
 - The Board could allocate more from the budget but the FIT group feels the current allocation is effective for meeting the goals. This is a question that will have to be continually reevaluated. The Board made a wise decision to deploy technology in this way to make sure that technology is aligned to the educational needs. In future years a different ratio may be needed and that will be determined based on where the implementation is at that time.

Business Services

Summer Projects Update

Dr. Schuler introduced Mr. Bill Farley and Mr. John Robinson. Mr. Farley and Mr. Robinson summarized a handout that listed the 2016 Summer Work, as Prioritized by the Facility Committee. The proposed capital needs are condition 1 items and total approximately \$2.4 million. Mr. Farley reviewed how this work can be funded from budget dollars. In April the Board will receive the final list prioritized by needs.

Discussion centered on the following:

- Which of the projects would be handled through construction management and which ones would be handled through architects?
 - The architects would handle the 2 roofing jobs and the bleachers. Performance Services would handle the controls work and Mr. Robinson will direct all of the other work.
- A Board member asked if it was possible to put skylights in at the buildings that will have roof work since the district knows that lighting has an impact on learning. It was reported that the work being done at one of the buildings is over classrooms that have full windows and the other building the multi-purpose room already has them.

Mr. Robinson also reported that it is time for the district to complete the ten year life safety study at all buildings except Jefferson and Johnson. Those two buildings are on separate schedules for the safety study. Staff asked for bids from architects and Legat was the lowest price. At the March Board meeting, a plan will be brought forward for approval. It was suggested that any work that would be part of the Master Facility Plan be delayed through extensions from the state.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

None

Dr. Schuler thanked the Board for the direction regarding FIT, the tech plan and the facility needs. This enables staff to begin the work to accomplish these things.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Intihar moved, Member Coghill seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice call vote being taken, all were in favor and the motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Chris Crabtree, Secretary

Jim Vroman, President