

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
February 22, 2017

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 22, 2017, 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
 Jim Gambaiani
 Barbara Intihar

Absent: Jim Mathieson

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Dahlquist led the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION

Member Crabtree moved, Member Intihar seconded to suspend the rules and adjourn to workshop setting. Upon a roll call vote being taken the vote was: AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Dr. Schuler shared two items with the Board:

- Mawi Asgedom, a product of District 200 and founder of Mawi Learning, featured in his 2016 Impact Report a photo from the IASB Joint Annual Conference last November presenting Dr. Schuler and the district with a Powerful Educator Award.

- The 2017 local Lions Club “A Celebration of Peace” calendar features winners from their peace poster contest, which includes artwork from Pauline, an Edison Middle School student.

Instruction

D200 Learning Environments: The Future of Instruction and Technology (FIT)

Dr. Schuler introduced Mrs. Faith Dahlquist, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services to provide an update on the progress toward the D200 Vision for Learning Environments.

“What Is Different About Our Learning Environments? A Focus on Fit” presentation included the following:

- A Focus on FIT
- A New Age (from Agricultural, Industrial, Information to Conceptual 21st Century)
- The Conceptual Age
 - Using right-brained intelligences to master a left-brained matrix
- D200 Vision for Learning
- Topics for Tonight
 - Staff Survey on Impact of FIT
 - Examples from District and Schools
 - Data from use of Google Tools
 - Data on Universal Access
- Staff Survey Comments included: feedback is more immediate and effective, students are able to take more ownership for their learning, focus is on students’ creating and collaborating
- District Wide Examples on Collaboration and Creation, Standards Mastery, Universal Access, and Contextualized Learning
- Data from Universal Access Staff Survey
- Fun Facts from February First (detailing Google Use in the District)
- Individual School Examples on Collaboration and Creation, Knowledge Construction, Time and Location, Higher Order Thinking Skills, Contextualized Learning, Differentiation, Personalization & Individualization and Standards Mastery
- Interviews with Students
- Questions?

There were additional comments on the following:

- Staff survey on impact of FIT shows 91.7% indicate staff has been working on designing learning environments as described in the district’s FIT Vision.
- Designing learning environments as described in FIT shows increased student engagement, collaboration, critical thinking, ownership for learning, as well as other areas.
- Identification of the areas of FIT which additional professional development is requested by staff.
- Cannot have collaboration without SEL.
- Rethinking of teacher grading practices.
- FREE Google Classroom has been used by staff.
- Buildings organize and distribute devices in different manners.
- Plan to meet with staff at buildings to determine if there are devices at some buildings that are not being utilized that can be redistributed to other buildings.

- Student interviews were conducted at WWSHS to inquire how the learning environment has changed, are the students learning more, do they talk more, what classes are the students seeing the changes in and what classes do they need to see changes in, etc.
- The comments received from the student interviews definitely mirrored the perception of staff for the staff survey.
- The plan is to conduct student interviews at all buildings.

There were additional questions and/or discussion on the following:

- A high school student that was home sick for the day was able sign on and participate in a class from home.
- How can we share these ideas with other buildings? It was noted that both elementary and middle school principals collaborate and share ideas at their respective monthly meetings. The curriculum and educational services department also share information between the directors and the buildings. The FIT committee is made up of building principals and staff members to share information. Reading and math coaches also share information and ideas. Staff at buildings share information through PLCs.
- Is there a plan in place for the 8.3% of staff that have not been working on designing learning environments?
- The change in the middle school grading practices and how this change will be communicated to parents.
- Middle school class development similar to Incubator at high school level.
- FIT initiative and any effect it may have on assessments or performance.
- Higher learning institutions and the use of FIT.
- The business world of today is looking for these type of skills.
- “Failure” and the importance of learning the skills necessary to deal with this.
- The path to success is not the same for every child or every student. The reality to readiness is that the path could be different for different kids.
- Incorporating FIT into the early childhood level of learning.
- A recent article in the Washington Post highlights corporate leaders wanting candidates that possess innovation, creativity and collaborative problem solving skills.
- The role of the LLC and how FIT will play a part in that development.
- Utilizing Google Classroom and the savings to the district by using this vs. a learning management system.

Technology

Master Tech Plan Presentation

Dr. Schuler talked of the necessity of pairing the FIT presentation with the master tech presentation. Technology is not a stand-alone area. The technology infrastructure has grown exponentially in these last years, this year alone deploying over 5000 devices. Dr. Schuler thanked everyone that has had a part in building this technology network.

Mr. Rodney Mack, Executive Director of Technology was introduced to look at what the Master Tech Plan has accomplished this year, while looking forward to the next couple of years.

The Master Tech Plan Update presentation included the following:

- Accomplishments
- Why a Master Technology Plan?

- Infrastructure and Access
- Universal Access to Devices
- Classroom Needs for Instruction
- Operational Technology Systems
- Systems Support
- Financing the Plan as Presented
- Questions?

The update also included the Vision 2018 Commitment Areas for Infrastructure and Access, Universal Access, Classroom Infrastructure, Operational Technology System, and Reliability and Stability.

There were additional comments on the following:

- Cited specific examples of the accomplishments in the year including the middle school wireless refresh and elementary access points, adding 4700 Chromebooks to total 7640, implementing middle school and high school copier/printer solutions, and deploying staff laptop/docking stations at the middle and high school levels.
- The printing/copying solution at the buildings has been a major accomplishment.
- FIT is driving the Master Technology Plan.
- As we add more to the district plan, upgrading the network storage solution and internal LAN connections at the high schools ensures that things can happen at a good pace.
- Universal access continues to provide opportunities for student use at home.
- The classroom needs for instruction - specifically projectors, document cameras and sound options are frequently evaluated room by room within the individual buildings.
- Student Information System (SIS) update – have had some bumps in the road. Currently down to two companies (Power School bought E-School Plus) and the district is in discussion with both companies.
- Windows 10 upgrade – want to transition and be ready for it.
- The future of the Business Financial/Human Resource System is not yet determined and is the unknown piece in the financing plan.
- The total tickets by month and average open time of the tickets was shown for comparison purposes as it has been shown for the last 5 years.
- The funds reallocation from the Technology budget.

There were questions and/or discussion on the following:

- Document cameras, how they are used for learning, how they have changed and how inexpensive they have become.
- The difference between SIS and Learning Management Systems.
- Clarification on the network storage solution.
- How reallocating of funds, with no additional funds can finance the master tech plan.
- The stability of the technology budget.
- The investment the district has made in this infrastructure.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Items

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Crabtree 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 9:03 PM.

Chris Crabtree, Secretary

Jim Vroman, President