

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

Title:	Education Committee Meeting
Date:	Friday, January 12, 2018
Time:	8:35 am
Location:	West Campus, Seminar A
Committee Members present:	Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands, Alice LeVert, Paul Best, Umang Singh, Julie Eglite
Administration present:	Susan Milsk, Mike Simeck, Ingrid Wiemer, Renee Fitzsimmons
Staff Present:	None
Approval of Minutes:	Motion by Suzanne Sands, Seconded by Alice LeVert
Public Comment:	None

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met on January 18th and was called to order at 8:35 am. Minutes from the December meeting were approved, with Suzanne Sands making the motion and Alice LeVert making the second.

1st Public Participation

None

Advanced Learners – Susan Milsk, Ingrid Wiemer

Susan brought the committee up-to-speed on what is being done relative to identifying and appropriately engaging advanced/gifted learners in the District. There has historically been a committee in place focused on identifying gifted students in K-8 grades. This committee was called the “Quest Review Committee.” Recently, the committee’s responsibilities were expanded to include, not only the identification of gifted learners, but also the oversight of how well the District’s curriculum/programming is meeting the needs of gifted learners. As a result, the committee’s name changed to the “K-8 Advanced Learner Committee.”

This committee is currently focused on the District’s service delivery as it relates to ELA instruction understanding how well our current model is serving advanced learners, and what can be done to improve outcomes for these (and all?) students. While gifted students still have some individual instruction in ELA in grades K-4, the District has been moving to a more inclusive and flexible model of instruction, in line with the District’s vision.

In terms of work-to-date, the committee has already talked with peer districts to understand “what works” in their classrooms, and is looking at a variety of best practices. Going forward, the District is beginning to engage with Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development (CTD) to review our program, seek input from the community, and make recommendations for improvement. This work will begin in the spring, with any changes at Grades 5-8 most likely to be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year. The driver of this timing is tied to the likely need for professional development and training as a result of changes in programming.

Susan then fielded a variety of questions from the Education Committee members:

- “How many other peer districts has CTD worked with?” We know that Lake Bluff District 65 has worked with CTD, and we will find out who else has going forward. We do know that a lot of local families have utilized many of the CTD’s offerings.
- “Will we need additional resources/costs to implement potential changes?” While it’s too early to know for sure, District 67 is fortunate that we have many dedicated advanced learner resources already in place. On top of that, declining enrollment has helped with managing the size of our advanced population.

- “Is anything being done to differentiate or identify advanced learners in science or social studies?” Yes, and the District will be providing professional development to those teachers to help them differentiate curriculum for advanced learners. The work in the area of inquiry-based instruction over the past couple of years greatly helps to provide students the opportunity to experience student-driven opportunities which differentiate instruction.
- “Will 5th/6th grade programming look the same as 7th/8th grade programming?” We don’t know yet, but they certainly could look different. We will also want to engage LFHS in this work to insure alignment with their programming/expectations.

Lastly, it should be noted that District 67’s current ELA curriculum (i.e., Reading Workshop or Lucy Calkins) and instructional model provides an excellent opportunity for differentiation. The same can be said for science and social studies. Math is already differentiated by both by course as well as within courses to meet the needs of a variety of learners.

Kindergarten Update – Susan Milsk

At the December 2017 BOE meeting, the Board approved tuition-free, full-day Kindergarten starting with the 2018-19 school year. This change will allow the District to provide more play-based instruction in the ½ day program. Work is underway to develop an updated Kindergarten curriculum that takes advantage of this change. Here are the next steps:

- December 16, 2017: Board approves tuition-free, full-day Kindergarten
- January 16, 2018: Kindergarten team discussion of next steps & sub-group identified to continue work
- January 17, 23 & February 1st: Sub-group to review play-based practices/research & current minutes of instruction with the intent of developing a talking piece for Kindergarten Information Night (Feb. 8th)
- February: Continued planning for curricular minutes of instruction and play-based instruction

Curriculum Development/Documentation – Susan Milsk, Renee Fitzsimmons

Susan and Renee showed the committee a document entitled “The Roadmap to Success” which is available to all teachers. There is a Grades K-4 version, as well as a Grades 5-8 version, which serve as a “hub” of information for teachers regarding curricular content by linking curricular calendars and other resources within one central place, thus insuring grade-level instruction is consistent across teachers and school buildings.

The District is also creating curriculum documentation for parents. “Curriculum Highlights” documents that detail each core instruction area were created for each K-4 grade-level back in 2016-17. These documents are now being expanded to include “specials” (e.g., music, art, wellness) curriculum, too. At the same time, “Curriculum Highlights” are being created for grades 5-8. These should be completed by February 23rd with the intent of making all “Curriculum Highlights” documents available to parents later this spring.

2nd Public Participation

None

Committee Member Input - All

This is a new agenda item that will be included in all future meetings. The intent of “Committee Member Input” is to provide a way for committee members to communicate issues/ideas that may not be on the agenda, suggest future agenda topics, and provide feedback from the community. There will be no discussion on any items brought up during this time, as that would violate the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Items brought forth from committee members during this meeting were:

- Do we have money management/financial literacy in our curriculum anywhere? If so, where is it?
- How/when does the District address civics in our curriculum?
- It would be great to have a review of our social studies standards at a future meeting.

- Can we discuss/learn more about the District's philosophy regarding giving grades in 5th/6th grades at a future meeting?

Motion to adjourn:

Julie Eglite moved, seconded by Paul Best that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the District 67 Education Committee is scheduled for Friday, March 16th at 8:30 am. in West Campus, Seminar A.