

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67

Title: Education Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Time: 12:00 pm
Location: West Campus, Seminar C
Participants: Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands, Alice LeVert, Rebecca Jenkins, Susan Milsk, Paul Best, Umang Singh, Julie Eglite
Administration present: Michael Simeck, Renee Fitzsimmons, Judi Epke, Ingrid Wiemer
Staff Present: None
Approval of Minutes: Motion by Paul Best, Seconded by Alice LeVert
Public Comment: None

DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Education Committee met on November 7 and was called to order at 12:10 p.m. Minutes from the September meeting were approved, with Paul Best making the motion and Alice LeVert making the second.

Public Participation:

None

Social Emotional Learning – Renee Fitzsimmons, Rebecca Jenkins, Susan Milsk

The Illinois Social Emotional Learning (SEL) standards are being addressed by the 28-member D67 SEL committee, which is made up of Administrators, K-4 teachers from each elementary building, 5-8 teachers, specialists, psychologists, and social workers. In January, the committee “unpacked” the standards, and worked to determine the meaning of each standard. In March, the committee “powered” the standards, which was an exercise in prioritizing the standards and figuring out which ones are the most important. The committee also worked to align and integrate these standards with existing curriculum. Lastly, the committee met in September to “scale” the standards, which entailed creating a rubric and scaling resource (or curriculum) to help teachers guide the instruction as well as assess student progress against each standard.

Going forward, the SEL committee will be meeting on November 29 to continue gathering information and feedback on SEL resources with the goal of piloting a resource between January – February, and then providing a recommendation on an on-going resource to the Board in March. Then, in 2018-19, time during the school day will be dedicated to ensuring that the SEL standards are being effectively addressed/taught. In 2019-20, the plan is to implement an SEL assessment tool that will allow the District to track student success vs. standards.

Science Resource/Curriculum – Renee Fitzsimmons

With the introduction of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the District has customized our science curriculum over the past couple of years in such a way that there is no longer a single resource that will meet all of our curricular needs in grades 6-8. Plus, NGSS has changed the way we teach science. So, while we will continue to utilize our current textbooks (which were purchased in 2007 – well before the advent of NGSS), the District is looking for another resource to help us more effectively align with the demands of the new science standards.

This school year, the District is piloting with “Discovery Ed Techbook” to provide science teachers with a resource that helps them go beyond the textbooks, and provide students with access to information and

inquiry via technology. Renee was able to negotiate an initial 6-week trial, and then further negotiated 6-months of free access (in exchange for only two days of paid professional development), so that the District should be able to utilize Discovery Ed Techbook for the remainder of the school year free of charge. It is then hoped that the District will come to the Board with a recommendation on a resource in May or June.

Personalized Student Portrait – Mike Simeck

Mike shared a mock-up of the proposed “Personalized Student Portrait” (PSP) that now includes tiles/sections dedicated to “Community Service Hours” and “Extracurricular Activities,” along with sections tracking “Assessment (or standardized test results),” “Grades,” and “Attendance.” Students will be asked to self-report their community service and extracurricular activities during homeroom on Friday, November 10 and that information is what will be included initially in the PSP.

As was done earlier, the District will be asking for parental input/feedback on the new PSP in early December. The current plan is to offer two focus group sessions – one on December 6, and another shortly thereafter (TBD). There will also be a letter sent home to parents later in November outlining the PSP and the plan for rolling this out to all students.

Gallup polling of students – Ingrid Wiemer

Ingrid detailed how the District will be utilizing Gallup to administer two different surveys at Deer Path Middle School in support of assessing student social-emotional wellness. One poll – the National Student Poll – was taken by 5th and 7th graders back in October. The second poll – Student Strength-Finder – will be given to 6th and 8th graders in November.

The National Student Poll is intended to assess what matters most in student success, build positive school climates, and add our students’ voices to the collective whole. It is a series of questions that attempts to measure engagement, hope, entrepreneurial aspirations, and financial/career literacy.

The Clifton Student Strength-Finder is intended to help students discover and cultivate their gifts and talents, show students how to apply their strengths to maximize benefits, help parents and teachers understand the filter through which a child sees the world, and assist teachers in gaining a greater understanding of the “whole child.” The survey assesses 10 student strength areas: Achieving (goals/accomplishments), Caring (helps others), Competing (winning), Confidence (believes in self), Dependability (responsible/trustworthy), Discoverer (explorer/learner), Future Thinker (dreamer/possibilities), Organizer (scheduler/planner), Presence (leader/presenter), Relating (strong friendships/loyal).

Learning Management Systems – Judi Epcke

After 6 years with Edmodo as the District’s learning management system, it is time to investigate other products for features to enhance functionality for students, teachers, and parents. To that end, the District is undertaking a review of various learning management systems and asking the question *“are there features of LMS products that would be of benefit to our students, teachers, and parents beyond what we currently provide?”*

This exercise will trial three different learning management systems – Edmodo, Google Classroom, and Schoology – and will be focused on grades 5-8. Initial focus will be on training teachers on the appropriate LMS, as well as creating a rubric to evaluate and compare the different platforms.

The trial will take place between January – March, with a recommendation being presented to the Board in April.

Student E-mail – Judi Epcke

The District is working to determine if student access to an email account will strengthen communication between students and teachers. In January, all 8th graders will be given access to a District-controlled e-mail account. Prior to that (in December), all 8th graders will participate in a “Digital Citizenship” training session, all 8th grader teachers will receive training regarding the e-mail accounts, and a communication will be sent out to all 8th grader parents detailing the e-mail account implementation.

It should be noted that all student e-mail accounts will be for internal use only - student-to-teacher (& vice versa) and student-to-student – and all communication will be archived for future reference. The District will be able to control student access to insure their safety.

K-1 iPad Trial – Judi Epcke

Back in 2016-17, the District piloted the use of Android tablets in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Unfortunately, Android tablets are no longer available. So the District is going to trial the use of iPads in Kindergarten and 1st grade to build on the success of the Android tablet trial, and confirm if usage of this technology at these grade levels truly enhances the learning opportunities for our K-1 students.

The District believes that the use of technology helps document learning, facilitate differentiation, and amplify learning for our youngest students. It also strengthens home communication via apps such as SeeSaw. The trial will look at using iPads in a 1-to-1 environment, and a 2 or 3-to-1 environment, and will be applied across both grades.

The trial will begin in January, and the District will be gathering data from teachers, observing classrooms, and surveying parents to determine next steps. A recommendation on how to move forward will be presented to the Board in April.

Public Participation:

None

Motion to adjourn:

Paul Best moved, seconded by Suzanne Sands that the meeting be adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the District 67 Education Committee is scheduled for December 1, at 1:00 p.m. in West Campus, Seminar A.