

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, OCTOBER 12, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at Hometown School, 8870 S. Duffy Avenue, Hometown, IL 60456.

Members Present: Peter DeRousse, Jennifer Fortier, Jackie Lichter, Adriana Sebek, Jay Lurquin, Julie Misner and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Riha, Mrs. Goetz, Dr. Spreitzer, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Bencik and Mrs. Fuller

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mr. Nichols read the Mission Statement.

Public Comment President Nichols stated that citizen comments were allowed to address the Board. Public comment would be limited to 30 minutes with each person being limited to five minutes.

- There were no comments at this time.

Discussion I:

Student Achievement

Dr. Gavin and Dr. Macchia discussed student achievement. It was stated that the answer to the question “are better today than yesterday” is a complicated one. We are better because students are in school full time vs. the hybrid/remote model last year. We are not better because our student achievement is lower than in years past due to the pandemic. Three categories are used for progress monitoring: mounting evidence, stories of success and data metrics. Data metrics include growth (student growth targets), readiness (MAP data), mastery (Spring trimester 3 grades), and Social Emotional Learning (risk screenings).

Dr. Macchia discussed the Pandemic Impact as presented in an ECRA workshop. There was some student progress during the pandemic but students did not grow at the same rates as prior years. The unfinished learning gap was greater for Black, Hispanic, Low-Income and EL students. It is projected that there will be approximately a 4.9 month learning recovery for math and a 4.3 month learning recovery for reading. It is recommended to compare pre-pandemic student growth trajectory vs. current growth rate on an individualized basis.

Dr. Gavin reviewed areas for improvement and the strategic response for improvement. Preliminary 2021 IAR data shows 21% of students (statewide) met or exceeded state standards in math and 24% of students (statewide) met or exceeded state standards in ELA. IAR data from 2019 show achievement gap in math and ELA for Hispanic and Black subgroups. IEP and LEP subgroups are least ready to access grade level standards. It is recommended to ensure quality in local assessments and consistent grading practices.

Mr. Nichols left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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Discussion II:

Early Childhood Program

Mrs. Fuller gave a presentation on the D123 Early Childhood program. The vision for the Oak Lawn – Hometown preschool is to provide high quality preschool for ALL children in an inclusive community where each child and family belongs and flourishes. Young children with disabilities have both the need and the right to participate in and benefit from the same experiences as their peers without disabilities. An Early Childhood program is defined as a program that includes children with disabilities and the majority of the children in the program are non-disabled children. A typical day in preschool is about 2.5 hours (150 minutes). There are a total of 156 students with 10 sessions and 5 teachers. All preschool students attend school five days a week Monday through Friday and the preschools are housed at Kolmar, Covington and Hometown. D123 uses the Creative Curriculum and follows the Illinois Early Learning Standards as the framework. Family involvement is prioritized through school and family enrichment activities. We have a partnership with Oak Lawn Children’s Museum which allows every preschool family the opportunity to visit the museum.

Discussion III:

Capital Projects Update

Leo Cassidy reviewed the current and upcoming capital projects.

- Districtwide HVAC Project – Mr. Cassidy reviewed the HVAC Vendor Analysis/Independent Engineer Analysis. The vendor prioritization was based on effective useful life cycle expectations, failure/repair rate and the engineer prioritization was based on effective useful life cycle expectations. The vendor noted the uninvent and other HVAC controls in all buildings are a high priority for replacement. The engineer agreed the controllers and sensors should be replaced. The vendor recommended to downsize the amount of JACE’s while upgrading the technology and moving away from proprietary equipment installed by the previous vendor (Honeywell). The engineer recommended that if JACE’s are performance issue, then they should be reconfigured but replacement may not be necessary. The vendor and the engineer had different cost estimates for this project. The expectation is the cost estimates are high. An alternative bid process is being considered. The goal is to get the bidding process moving in order to prepare for potential supply chain issues. Mr. Cassidy reviewed the potential project timeline.
- Media Center Upgrade – Mr. Cassidy reviewed the Media Center Upgrade focus group data. The focus groups included students (OLHMS and Hometown), staff (OLHMS and Hometown), parents (OLHMS PTSA and Hometown PTA and other volunteer parents), media specialists and community members. Mr. Cassidy reviewed the questions posed and responses from specific focus groups. The community member focus group is currently in the process of being scheduled. Mr. Cassidy reviewed the potential timeline for this project. The bid for furniture may come to the board ahead of the projected timeline in order to expedite delivery.
- Gaddis School (District Office /PRIDE School) Tuckpointing Project and OLHMS Tuckpointing Project– This project was on hold. The

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subcommittee determined that the OLHMS tuckpointing can be funded as part of the School Maintenance Project Grant. The Gaddis School cannot be included in the School Maintenance Project Grant because this building does not house D123 students.

- Kolmar School Tile Replacement – The project proposal is to complete removal and replacement of existing floor tile in select areas that has been compromised by products previously used to abate the flooring adhesive. The subcommittee determined this project can be funded as part of the School Maintenance Grant. The School Maintenance Grant is a dollar for dollar state matching grant program providing awards up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. The project could go to bid soon and work would be completed summer 2022.
- LED Bulb Conversion OLHMS and Kolmar School – Subcommittee determined this project can move ahead and potentially be partially completed during the school year. Kolmar could be completed during winter break or spring break. OLHMS could be completed in stages in order to not interrupt learning spaces usage. For example, 1st floor during spring break, 2nd floor before summer school begins, 3rd floor during summer school.
- District Wide Security Camera Improvement Project – Phase 1 of this project was completed summer of 2021. The plan called for additional camera upgrades at three buildings in the summer 2022. We may be able to engage the vendor to complete the planned summer work during the breaks from classes. It was recommended that this be a higher priority project.
- Floor Replacement District Office – The need for replacement of flooring was established following a discussion between administration and JMA Architects. This project will need a budget and understanding of budget implications. Vendors will be engaged to determine costs of replacement and scope of work to perform the replace flooring at district office despite no specific break in attendance by DO staff.

Board Comments:

It was confirmed that the Special Meeting of the Board of Education on October 19, 2021 will begin at 6:00 p.m.

At 9:14 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Fortier, seconded by Mr. DeRousse, to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing: the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).

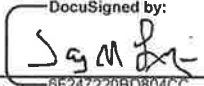
Closed session discussions were completed at 9:51 p.m. and it was unanimously agreed to return to open session.

Adjourned – 9:52 p.m.

The next special meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 19, 2021 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 25, 2021 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345

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W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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Secretary

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President