

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, OCTOBER 10, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at Hometown Elementary School, 8870 S. Duffy, Hometown, IL 60453.

Members Present: Carly Bishop, Peter DeRousse, Adriana Sebek, Ed Smykowski, Jay Lurquin and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: Jennifer Fortier

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Blissett, Dr. Spreitzer, Dr. Gonzalez and Mr. Cassidy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mrs. Misner 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: Strategic Planning process  
Dr. Bob Madonia, of RJM Consulting, gave a presentation regarding his strategic plan consulting. Dr. Madonia helps the Board to create a strategic plan that will be a five-year plan and has accountability at all levels. Dr. Madonia reviewed current trends in strategic long-range planning which include a stronger partnership between the district/the stakeholders/the community; a respect for past strategic plans; an infusion of technology in the process; portrait of a graduate; and a 12-month benchmark for outcomes. Development/Refinement of the mission statement, vision statement and core values is optional. The Board and superintendent will determine the focus areas to plan with a two-hour workshop facilitated by Dr. Madonia. His evaluation components include a survey to collect input; evaluation results ready for committees; and an annual evaluation of the final plan. The survey will be created and tailored to D123. Once finalized it would be placed on the website for easy accessibility. Paper surveys will be made available for those who are not comfortable with technology. Committees will be created comprised of community members, parents, teachers, administrators, and school board members. Committee members are assigned to the focus areas of their potential area of expertise. Committees will meet for two days (Friday 6-9pm/Saturday 8am-noon or two consecutive weekday evenings 6-9:30 pm). Board members and administration will receive committee training. It is recommended that one board member and one administrator be at every focus area table. Dr. Madonia reviewed the committee process and provided samples of strategic plans he has facilitated.

Dr. Madonia confirmed that the 12-month benchmark would be the committees revisiting the strategic plan 12 months later and reviewing the progress.

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Discussion II:

Debt Restructuring – Dr. Loftin and Bob Lewis, PMA

This is a follow-up presentation to weigh the benefits of extending debt payments out one year vs. extending debt payments out two years. In a comparison, extending the debt payments out two years would add a cost of \$400,000 but would keep payments fairly flat and allow for borrowing, should the district need it, without affecting the taxpayers. The CPI is also an unknown factor which could have a strong effect in the one-year scenario. Administration recommends using the two-year debt restructuring model.

Dr. Loftin reviewed the draft financing schedule which shows the Board will vote on the debt restructuring at the October Business Meeting.

Discussion III:

Fall 2023 Teaching and Learning Update – Dr. Kathy Gavin, Dr. Katy Spreitzer, Dr. Patty Gonzalez and Mrs. Sheleah Blisstt

Dr. Gavin discussed the focus on curriculum efficacy, which is the ability of our curriculum to produce the desired results. This includes the curriculum revision cycle, the current K-8 math pilot, PLC time, IPI, and assessment practices and OTUS platform. Dr. Gavin reviewed the preliminary results of the Spring Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Sward and Kolmar received the highest designation known as the Exemplary Summative Designation. All other schools in our district received the next level known as the Commendable Designation. Administration uses these test results to dive into where the district needs improvement. Dr. Gavin also reviewed the Fall 2023 MAP results.

Math scores all over the state usually fall behind ELA scores. D123 is in our fifth and last year of the partnership with UIC's CASPIR project. They are coaching grade level staff, especially 6<sup>th</sup> grade staff to help in improving math.

Dr. Spreitzer discussed literacy and interventions. The new K-5 ELA curriculum, Amplify CKLA, has been implemented. Intentional professional development opportunities for all K-8 staff includes new teacher training in Foundations, Orton-Gillingham training for all K-8 resource teachers and OLHMS's LST. Dr. Spreitzer discussed the data driven conversations surrounding Tiers 1-3 supports. Attendance is an issue for some families, and they are working with those families to ensure the students are in school. It was noted that many of the students who are receiving interventions are students who are new to the district.

Dr. Gonzalez reviewed the English Learning program. There are currently approximately 760 EL students in the district with 19 different languages. 18 shelter classrooms have been created for grades K-2. Shelter classrooms have an EL teacher as the classroom teacher. The Imagine Learning program is in the second year of use. Students come to the classroom with a wide range of abilities. Imagine Language & Literacy helps build an equitable learning environment for a diverse body of students so everyone can succeed.

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Mrs. Blissett discussed the special education program. The goal of the special education department is to increase the continuum of services. One way they are doing this is beginning co-teaching practices at OLHMS, a Covington 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and CASE – Hometown. D123 has partnered with D218 for training and virtual co-teaching training will take place in November. The special education department has also begun to audit the district's current list of interventions used with students with disabilities. A district committee comprised of PTP and LD resource teachers is being formed and will meet once per month. Special Education leadership is currently reviewing data regarding the upcoming pre-k move to their new learning space. It was confirmed that approximately 14% of our student population has an IEP.

Discussion IV:

Early Learning Center Construction Bid  
Leo Cassidy and Dr. Loftin reviewed the project budget worksheet. Administration determined the "must haves" for the Early Learning Center which would total an estimated \$4,560,000.00. JMA Architects then created alternate bid proposals for things that could be done at a later date such as the entrance canopy and vestibule addition, family resource room with furnishings, upper windows to the existing gymnasium and the addition of a district training center with furnishings. If the main bids come in at a lower than projected cost, items from the alternate bid list can be added. Administration will look to see if there are any other grants that can be used to offset some of the cost of the driveway for pick-up / drop-off.


Board Comments:

There were no comments at this time.

Adjourned -9:57 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 23, 2023 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

  
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President

  
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Secretary