

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

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 virtually at www.d123.org.

Members Present: Peter DeRousse, Jennifer Fortier, Jackie Lichter, Julie Misner, Theresa Roche and Brian Nichols. Jay Lurquin joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Riha and Mr. Cassidy

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Ms. Roche 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: 1st Trimester Mastery Data
Due to the pandemic, the district was not able to administer MAP testing or the IAR test last spring. The district was also not able to administer Map testing this fall. Dr. Gavin discussed information sent from ISBE regarding best practices during the pandemic. Educators were advised to refrain from doing formal assessments at the beginning of the year. Educators were encouraged to prioritize assessments closest to classroom learning. Educators were reminded that qualitative data is most important at this time. Attendance data should be carefully monitored. Administrators were cautioned from using data results for accountability purposes at this time. Lastly, Axis testing has been postponed.

Dr. Gavin reviewed ELA and Math mastery by grade level. When comparing hybrid and remote learners, there were some similar trends. Dr. Gavin reviewed the anomalies between hybrid and remote learners.

Mr. Nichols asked how the current data compares to previous years' data. Dr. Gavin showed further information comparing fall 2019 to fall 2020. This showed that the current year is shows similar results to fall 2019.

Mr. Nichols asked if there was a way to identify student who had major changes in performance and ways to identify changes in strategies for those learners. Dr. Gavin stated that the principals, interventionists and teachers meet to progress monitor and review data.

Dr. Gavin presented charts which showed mastery data for students last year and compared to where they are now (K 2019 to 1st grade 2020, etc.). This showed some decrease in performance in ELA for students who were in the group of 2019 7th grade/2020 8th grade. There was also some decrease in performance in math for the students who were in the group of 2019 2nd grade/2020 3rd grade.

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Mr. DeRousse asked if the teachers are using the same curriculum. Dr. Gavin felt hybrid and remote teachers were pretty much aligned but will review in further detail and report her findings to the board.

Mr. Lurquin asked if the administration was pleased with these results. Both Dr. Gavin and Dr. Enderle felt that student progress during this challenging year has been something to be proud of.

Discussion II:

Adaptive Pause Progress and Return to Hybrid In-Person Learning
Dr. Enderle stated that the district has seen a successful 6 weeks of full remote learning. The resurgence in last fall hit and impacted student and staff attendance which helped lead to the decision to shift temporarily to full remote. Strong levels of learning and achievement continued throughout the district. At the present time, the virus load has flattened out and continues to fall. Isolation and quarantine numbers have reduced in the last few weeks. Administration is confident that the district is in a secure position to re-open. The administration is continuing to get updates regarding access to the vaccine and hopes to have positive information to share soon.

Discussion III:

Capital Projects Update

Leo Cassidy reviewed the capital projects update. The first project is the Districtwide HVAC Mechanical Upgrade. There has not been much changed to the status of this since last month. JMA is working to calculate the district's return on investment for this project. JMA also talked about the potential for more government grants that might become available to help alleviate the cost of this project. JMA is researching this possibility and will update the district once they gain more information.

The district received final drawings and project manuals for the Hometown School Parking Lot project. Mr. Cassidy reviewed the bid timeline. The drawings still have to go to the city of Chicago for approval at a cost of \$1,000 each time the drawings are considered. JMA has been in touch with representatives from Chicago and feels confident that the drawings will be approved in the first review.

JMA is in the process of completing drawings and the project manual for the Gaddis School/Pride tuckpointing project. Research is being done to determine if this project could benefit from some grant money. This project may be put on pause until it is determined if grant money will be available to offset some costs.

Not much has happened with the Covington LED Bulb Conversion project. The district is engaging with some vendors who may be able to help with the management of the project and assist in the ComEd grant application.

Mr. Cassidy is currently researching the best practices with school security for the Districtwide Security Camera Improvement project. He is also in communication with the current FOB access vendor who stated the FOB

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equipment is becoming outdated and should be replaced. The IT department has been part of the subcommittee and has been very insightful. They are working to put together a budget for this. There has been no timeline set for this project yet.

Discussion IV:

District Budgetary Assumptions

Dr. Loftin stated that the pandemic will have fiscal implications for the district. This may force the district to plan on making some tough decisions. Dr. Loftin created budget assumptions using two different scenarios. Scenario A shows a V-shaped recovery where we bounce back. Scenario B shows a slower recovery. Both scenarios show budget deficits beginning in FY2023. Dr. Loftin expressed that he feels the recovery will fall between scenario A and scenario B.

The next steps would be to look at possible workforce reductions and further analysis which would go before the board at the January business meeting. Administration will also be reviewing contracts and current contracts which expire this year.


Dr. Loftin stated that he does not expect to know the tax collection rates until June due to extensions from the government. Dr. Enderle requested that Dr. Loftin build out further assumptions for the January business meeting using the CPI rate which will be released on Friday, January 15th. Other alternatives will also be presented to the Board.

Board Comments:

There were no comments at this time.

Adjourned – 8:34 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on January 25, 2020 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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Secretary

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President