

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, APRIL 11, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at Sward School, 9830 S. Brandt, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

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

Members Absent: Jackie Lichter

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Macchia, Dr. Spreitzer 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.

- Kristen McAfee, substitute, addressed the Board regarding a book that he wrote as a way to engage with the community. He stated he feels that the district needs to be more vocal in encouraging kids to consider the teaching profession in order to alleviate the teacher shortage.

Discussion I:

District 123 Future Preschool Planning

Christine Fuller and Erica Parus came before the Board to discuss the future preschool planning. It is planned to have the Gaddis building house the preschool program starting in the 2024/2025 school year. D123 received the Early Childhood Construction Grant, one of only eight districts statewide to receive this grant. Funds from this grant will go toward renovations needed. A survey was sent out to preschool families regarding the future preschool planning and there were 28 responses. At this point, there are approximately 277 preschool students with 57 students on the waitlist. Children can be screened for preschool any time after 2.6 years of age. D123 received the Preschool for All grant for the first time since 2017/2018.

Mrs. Fuller clarified the definition of an Early Childhood program. Our students work towards becoming independent learners and problem solvers who are actively engaged in learning. Our students experience field trips in the community and become prepared for kindergarten. A typical day in preschool is 2.5 hours. Each teacher holds a Professional Educator License certified by the Illinois State Board of Education with an Early Childhood Special Education Approval and an EL Endorsement. All classrooms are supported by one teacher and a teacher's assistant. An extra paraprofessional is available in four of our eight classrooms to support our students with high needs.

The preschool program offers monthly family engagement opportunities. The program has a partnership with the Oak Lawn Pavilion, Oak Lawn Library and Children's Museum.

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The next steps for the Preschool Program are: follow up meeting with parents in April; subgroups in April/May; no changes to current programs will be offered for the 2023/2024 school year; plan for the ability to give tours of the new preschool center next year.

It was noted that pick up and drop offs are a concern at the Gaddis building. The district is looking to work with the Oak Lawn Park District in order to install a road off of Keeler Avenue. This road will be to the south of the building and turn along the west side of the building to exit on to 93rd Street.

Discussion II:

District 123 Instructional Coaching Update

Michelle Gustafson-DeJong, Allison Olivarez and Colleen Koch presented to the Board. The Instructional Coaching team created goals which include Just-In-Time Support; New Teacher Coaching Sprints; and Connect the Dots. About 75% of the Instructional Coach's time is completing coaching sprints and 25% is just in time support and connecting the dots. Due to the high number of new teachers this year, there are approximately 61 cycles and 3 CASE cycles for first year teacher coaching cycles. The average length of a coaching cycle is 6 weeks. There are 10 cycles of second year teacher coaching cycles.

Connecting the dots include new staff orientation; supporting and co-planning; protégé presentation; service-learning day with OLHMS; and World Read Aloud Day.

Mrs. Gustafson-DeJong reviewed instructional coach/teacher interaction data.

Mrs. Koch discussed the challenges faced by the instructional coaching team, which include: traveling; balancing time with new staff and veteran staff; and schedules (grade levels teaching a subject at the same time).

Studies have shown that instructional coaching increases teacher retention.

Discussion III:

Capital Project Update

Leo Cassidy updated the Board on capital projects.

- The generator replacement project will replace the generators at Covington and Hometown. The equipment lead times vary by manufacturer but can take about 45 weeks. If ordered now, the generators will be expected by some time next winter. The district plans to continue preventative maintenance on the current generators. The maintenance grant will offset some of the cost.
- The OLHMS Tree Nursery Corner Landscaping Project will be in two phases. Phase I consists of the fencing and signage at the tree nursery corner. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$203,000. Phase II consists of the landscaping and outdoor classroom space. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$362,000. The district is discussing if the outdoor classroom space should have pavers or just grass. It was suggested to look into using benches similar to

those at Covington for a cost savings. It was confirmed that there are no shade requirements for this area since it is not considered a playground. The extra benches in the renderings were questioned as they appear to be too random. It was suggested to keep the phases as two separate action items. Phase 2 could be postponed to the May meeting.

- Hometown Gymnasium/Stage Ceiling Paint project is anticipated to cost approximately \$168,000. It was confirmed that the ceiling areas where the paint is failing are where screws were placed in the ceiling. It is being researched to determine if the screws should be replaced as they are showing signs of rust. Sherwin Williams is testing the paint chips. The ducts don't necessarily need to be painted. The project is estimated to take approximately 2-3 weeks. There is no sense of urgency to bring this before the Board for the April meeting but delaying it could be affected by availability of workers.
- The Tuckpointing Projects at Gaddis/Pride and OLHMS is to tuckpoint the main north stone entry walls, and a portion of the brick wall at Gaddis/Pride; and to tuckpoint and seal around windows at the southeast corner of OLHMS as two separate projects. It is estimated that this will cost a total of approximately \$40,330.
- Projects in the planning phase:
 - D123 Preschool Center Conversion
 - LED Light conversion – Covington, Hannum and Sward gymnasiums and multipurpose rooms
 - Landscaping at Hometown School
 - Concrete repair

Discussion IV:

April Board Meeting Agenda Review

In order to help onboard the new Board member, the format for the April agenda is slightly different than the standard business meeting agenda. The meeting will begin in open session at 6:00 and start with the public comment, administrative reports, and Board reorganization. Once the new Board member is seated and the reorganization is complete, the Board will go into closed session. Upon return from closed session, the Board will begin voting on the Board calendar, meeting times, legal counsel and move forward to all other items scheduled. It was also confirmed that the tentative Board training from IASB will take place on Monday, June 12th at 6:00. The goal setting meeting will be rescheduled. A Board listening tour will take place in each building and the dates will be announced shortly.

Board Comments:

There were no comments at this time.

Adjourned – 9:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on April 25, 2023 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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President



Secretary