

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Programs/Policy/Strategy Committee

BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

This form is used by all multimember committees established by the Board of Education. Before any meeting is held, be sure you have met the requirements of Chapter 1037 Laws of the 67th G.A., 1978 Session, Official Meetings Open to Public.

- I. Complete the Following Before Starting the Meeting
 - A. Date agenda was posted for meeting: March 2, 2016
 - B. Date media were faxed agenda: March 2, 2016
 - C. Media who were faxed an agenda: Telegraph Herald; Des Moines Register; KWWL; KCRG; KGAN; Radio Dubuque; Townsquare Media Group; and Chamber of Commerce.
 - D. Board Committee: **Educational Programs/Policy/Strategy Committee**
 - E. Date and Time of Meeting: **March 8, 2016, 2:00 p.m.**
 - F. Place of Meeting: The Forum
 - G. Attach agenda to this form. Verify that a copy of the agenda has been filed with the Secretary of the Board and the Administrator holding the Committee meeting.

If any of the above data does not comply with the open meeting law, do not begin the meeting.

Board members present: Tami Ryan, Jim Prochaska, Lisa Wittman, Mike Donohue. District representatives present: Stan Rheingans, David Olson, Lori Anderson.

Ms. Ryan called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Forum.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Special Education Update

Lori Anderson, transitions facilitator, provided an update on transitions programming. Dubuque was selected to be a model employment site (MET) through Iowa Department of Education to find better ways to assist youth with disabilities. A recent evaluation of the program praised district efforts with noted effective strategies in Consensus Planning, Marketing, Board of Education Support, Inclusion on the Strategic Plan, Flow of Services, Joint Job Development, Collaborative Structures and Clear Use of Data to Inform Process.

The district's School-to-Work Program currently has 83 students involved at Hempstead and 80 students at Senior. Current efforts are now focused on reconnecting graduated students about their career placements. 65 percent of students are in competitive placements. This is up from the total of 28 students involved in 2010, when only 18.5 percent were involved in competitive placements.

The Summit Program, designed for students in grades 12+, currently has 22 students involved in the program.

The HEART program, a partnership between the district, the City of Dubuque, Four Mounds and Dupaco Community Credit Union, is built around construction and has eight students involved. The financial literacy component of the program (called Bridge), in partnership with Dupaco, is in its first year.

The PAVE Program, a collaborative program with Northeast Iowa Community College has 23 students involved and is just at the step of looking at opportunities for competitive employment for these students.

Middle School Scheduling

David Olson, director of secondary education, provided information to the committee on middle school schedules. He shared that at the secondary level, there is no perfect solution for schedules or research showing a benefit to one schedule over another. During the school day, we work within the parameters set by Iowa Code. In middle school, there are some differences with sixth grade and eighth grade offerings specific to those grades. Washington Middle School currently has more block scheduling than the other schools, with Jefferson and Roosevelt being mostly period by period. The philosophical viewpoint is that scheduling by house best meets student needs.

Ms. Ryan inquired as to how schedules are evaluated for success, particularly the block scheduling at Washington. Mr. Olson shared that we do not have evidence that block schedules have raised or lowered achievement and there are varying opinions among teachers as to the preferred method. In both scheduling options, students have approximately the same amount of time in each class regardless of the schedule. Washington has used the block scheduling to facilitate more hands-on learning projects.

There are some areas in high school that are block schedules: Pre-Calculus/Physics, American Studies (US History and US Literature), and have done some world studies. In most cases, block scheduling is a more expensive delivery model.

Activities Council Update

Mr. Prochaska updated the group on conversations at the last activities council meeting. This item was deferred to the April meeting as Amy Hawkins, athletics and activities supervisor, was unable to attend the meeting.

Budget Update

Superintendent Rheingans provided an update on the district's budgeting work. Data and projections available (without knowing the actual amount of supplemental state aid the district will receive) continue to reinforce the district's need to reduce the budget by approximately \$3 million for next year.

As part of the planning, Mr. Rheingans shared his recommendation of a leadership consolidation plan that would consolidate the curriculum areas of the district, moving from three leadership positions (associate superintendent, director of elementary education and director of secondary education) into two positions (director of elementary education and director of secondary education). It will also consolidate the director of special education and director of student services positions into one director of student services/special education position. This will result in an approximate savings of \$300,000 in the budget. Next steps will be to look at the central office structure. The goal is to implement reductions of two-thirds before impacting the building/school level. Programming and non-personnel items are also being carefully considered simultaneously.

The organizational structure of the district exists in policy, which is why this item comes forward for approval.
Board 3/14/16

Policy #10101 – Community Use of District Facilities

Changes to this policy are designed to maximize facility usage. It appears, that page three should be updated to move the statement that Permit Fees will not be waived to the paragraph above regarding the City of Dubuque.

Policy #4608 – Employee Suspensions

No changes recommended. Board 3/14/16

Other Items

Mr. Prochaska shared that he hears very positive remarks about the program at Carver for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Mike Cyze, Secretary Pro-tem