



*...from the June 19, 2018 Board of Education Meeting*

## **RECOGNITION**

### **Euro Challenge Midwest Regional Competition**

In March 2018, the Euro Challenge Midwest Regional Competition took place at the Illini Center, hosted by the Illinois European Union Center, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and W!se, comprised of teams representing Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota, with teams comprised of students in either ninth or tenth grade.

The York team chose the challenge of presenting a 15-minute presentation on Italy's high unemployment rate using monetary policy in front of a panel of judges from the Federal Reserve of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago's Center of Economic Education.

The York team, consisting of high school sophomores Samantha Cruz, Emily Dow, Brian Kelley, Matthew Kentra, Emmet McGovern, Ally Splitstone and Matthew Splitstone emerged in first place in the Midwest Regional Challenge.

According to team coach Tamra Carl, "At the competition, we realized that there were multiple schools that had chosen Italy as their country but, our students' preparation and ability to confidently answer the follow-up questions made them stand above the other teams."

The Midwest win qualified the York team for the semifinal round of the National Challenge at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, competing against ten regions across the country, with a total of 24 teams competing.

### **Illinois Economics Challenge**

In April 2018, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, ten teams of four students advanced to the 2018 Illinois Economic Challenge State Finals, the championship event consisting of individual and team written tests, a critical thinking activity that required addressing an economic scenario and advising a finance sector volunteer judge on how to address the problems.

The team of Jason Kentra, Hannah Cronin, Courtney Jopes and Anshul Shah represented York Community High School in the State Finals, competing against finalists from Stevenson, Hinsdale South, Edwardsville and Neuqua Valley High Schools, as well as Saint Ignatius College Prep, Buffalo Grove, and even a second team from York.

The final "Quiz Bowl" round of competition against Buffalo Grove High School concluded with this York Community High School team advancing ahead of eight competing student teams to earn Second Place in the State competition. This York team, represented by teacher and Coach Tamra Carl, received a trophy and framed certificate to be displayed at the high school, individual medals and certificates, as well as a cash award.

## Science Olympiad State Competition – York High School

In April 2018, the York Community High School Science Olympiad Team finished in 8th place overall at the State Championship at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. The following York High School students earned top positions in the competition categories as noted:

- Dynamic Planet | 1st Place – Grant Hartlage and Peter Hartlage
- Fermi Questions | 2nd Place – Grant Hartlage and Peter Hartlage
- Write it Do it | 3rd Place – Eric Doberstein and Christian Glosner

Science teachers Jeff Drach, Elizabeth Ferhati and Jeremy Paschke serve as the York Science Olympiad coaches.

Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science, creating a technologically-literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

Science Olympiad has the goal of improving the quality of K-12 science education throughout the nation by changing the way science is perceived and the way it is taught with an emphasis on problem solving and hands-on, minds-on, constructivist learning practices while promoting partnerships among community, businesses, industry, government and education.

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

### Future Focused Community Engagement Report

Lesley Rogers and Marcia Sutter, communications consultants to District 205 representing Strategies 360 and Minding Your Business, respectively, presented the [Master Facility Plan Qualitative Research Findings](#), an overview of the May Future Focused meetings.

The District held 12 meetings in May. They were attended by 386 people, primarily parents of current and future students. Several themes were identified. Master Facility Plan options were reviewed and refined to address these concerns, many of which centered on the possibility of boundary adjustments.

Community input was received on the following themes:

1. Neighborhood schools are valued
2. Students who walk today should be able to walk tomorrow
3. Lower class sizes are important
4. Confirm middle school boundaries
5. Define grandfathering
6. Boundary adjustments may impact property values
7. Continue to gather community feedback

Margaret Harrell had questions about the meaning parity. Dr. Moyer answered that even though designs are different, every school would have safe and secure entrances, similar STEM and maker space opportunities, air conditioning at all schools.

Shannon Ebner mentioned some of the comments she is hearing from parents regarding the various boundary adjustment options. This led to a Board discussion about creating an option based on the feedback received in May. It was suggested the administration pursue boundary Option D or a variation thereof.

It was noted that the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the proposed Master Facility Plan are now posted [here](#). There is also a link on this webpage to submit a question that has not yet been asked or answered.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – CONSENT**

The Board voted 7-0 to approve the following items:

- Personnel Reports
- Financial Reports
- Open Designated Closed Session Minutes and Keep All Other Closed Session Minutes Closed
- Resolution Approving Bank Depositories
- Contract for Leadership Team Strengths and Opportunities Analysis
- Continuation of Student Records Document Scanning Service with Konica Minolta Business Systems
- Disposal of Surplus Computer Carts
- Purchase of 12 Months of Enterprise Management Service and 10 Hours of Keys to Ownership Services from PowerSchool

The Board tabled item C - Authorize Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – ACTION**

The Board voted 7-0 to approve/adopt the following items, one at a time:

- Resolution Directed the School Treasurer to Transfer Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in an amount of \$1,200,000 for Summer Maintenance Projects
- Athletic Trainer – Nova Care Rehabilitation – extension of the existing contract for five years with a 2% increase in the first two years; this also provides consistency in service
- Pay for Executive Director of Communications for Additional Days Worked
- Two-Year Extension of Contract for Regular Transportation Services with First Student
- Extension of Special Education Transportation with Cottage Hill
- Approval of Donation (Jackson, Lincoln, York)

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operation Chris Whelton presented further details on First Student's three-year contract with a two-year extension, which included a 2.5% increase. This was approved back in 2015. With a bus driver shortage, many school districts are seeing large increases, he explained.

The Cottage Hill contract has a 2.5% increase as part of a one-year contract extension. "As with First Student, we have received good service from Cottage Hill," said Mr. Whelton.

### **Jackson Elementary School**

The Jackson School PTA has generously offered to donate \$10,000 to help support robust classroom libraries for each teacher. The money will be used to buy additional texts for each classroom for independent reading. This purchase will enhance the selection of genres, reading levels and high interest text for students.

The PTA has also offered to make an additional \$3,000 donation to build a Gaga Pit for all students to play on at recess. Lincoln School had one installed last year and it has been fun for all students, even those that don't excel at sports. In addition, the art teacher will also get some items to use with all students including: two light boxes that are used by students to trace work onto paper; fourteen mannequins used for learning to draw the human figure; and large bulletin boards to display student artwork in the hallways.

### **Lincoln Elementary School**

The Lincoln School PTA has generously offered to donate \$1,011.75 for the purchase of a subscription to Pebblego Next. Pebblego Next is a database for 3rd-6th graders which covers: States and American Indians; Science; Social Studies; and Biographies. It provides grade level appropriate articles about a variety of topics that are covered in the curriculum. For example, their science database is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.

This provides students with a safe place to search for information and know that the information is accurate as opposed to Google searching. Pebblego Next also reads the articles to students in a natural voice, not a computerized one, which will help students that struggle with reading.

### **York Community High School**

A group of parents whose children play on the York High School football team would like to make a \$1,500 cash donation to the York football program. The funds would be used to cover the cost of summer camp t-shirts for the football program.

The Board of Education thanked the community for these gifts to the students of District 205.

## **ACTION OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

### **Approval of Administrative Reorganization**

By a vote of 5-2, with no votes from Karen Stuefen and Shannon Ebner, this item was approved.

As the senior leadership team continues to analyze operations, it is recommending that the Board authorize the addition of a Director of Human Resources position to the District Office staff and reorganize six existing positions; Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Leadership Development, EL Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Director of STEM, York World Language/EL Department Chair, and .5 FTE Administrative Assistant. This would be for the 2018-19 school year and be year one of a two-year reorganization. The second year would potentially involve reorganization related to student services, pending findings of the program analysis. Details on part two of this recommendation would be forthcoming early this fall.

Changes include:

- Addition of a Director of Human Resources
- Associate Superintendent for Learning and Leadership Development – Dr. Mary Henderson from Assistant Superintendent
- Director of Language Acquisition – Ariana Leonard from EL Coordinator

- Director of Curriculum – Deb Lee from Curriculum Coordinator, she will also picking up PE and Health supervision from Dave Beedy
- Addition of a .5 administrative assistant position to Research and Program Analysis

According to a memo to the Board from Dr. Moyer, the approximate cost of these changes (minus the .5 administrative assistant) is \$103,000. It is anticipated that the District will recover a portion of the total cost of reorganization in 2019-20 if part two of the recommendation is adopted in conjunction with the Special Education program review. The benefits of reorganization would be improved functionality in Human Resources and improved coherence in instructional programming for all students. Both of these changes will improve systems and operations that will positively impact the building principals.

It will also provide for appropriate compensation and allocation of responsibilities for Directors, which will improve the District's work to implement STEM programming, NGSS, and help retain high-performing employees. Finally, increased capacity in the Research and Program Analysis Department will result in a greater ability to student growth and program effectiveness across the District.

According to Mr. Whelton, District 205 ranks in the middle of the pack with its comparator group of unit school districts for both [average administrator salary](#) and [pupil-to-administrator ratio](#). According to a [list](#) compiled by the [Illinois State Board of Education](#), it ranks among the most leanly staffed administratively.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

### **Refunding on Debt Certificates**

Mr. Whelton noted that this is a small refunding involving [2008 LTGO debt certificates](#). Jim Collins added that these debt certificates were used to purchase the District 205 Administrative Center building, located at 162 S. York, and for renovations at the York High School Stadium.

"We're hoping to privately place these bonds and get bids ahead of the next Board meeting," said Elizabeth Hennessy of Raymond James & Associates. "If bids from the banks don't look as favorable, we will present a parameters resolution to the Board at its next meeting."

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

One Freedom of Information Act request was received requesting specific information on certain employees, which was partially granted and partially denied.

## **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Learning and Teaching Committee Report**

Dr. Mary Henderson reported that Dave Beedy presented an extensive review of math at the high school level at the June 6 [Learning and Teaching Committee meeting](#).

Dr. Henderson shared progress on the acceleration units and program at the middle schools. She stated that 18 staff members from the three D205 middle schools have come to agreement on this. Additional rigor has been implemented. "We're on the right track," she said. Mariann Lemke will present a final report in July.

There was also a discussion of revisiting the Unified Arts schedule/staffing at the elementary level.

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**June 28** – Special Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education – 6:00 PM – District 205 Center

**July 17** – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

**August 14** – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

**NOTE:** Video footage of all Board of Education regular meetings is usually posted on [205TV](#) within 48-72 hours. Audio is posted within 24 hours at [www.elmhurst205.org/Audio](http://www.elmhurst205.org/Audio) (please click on appropriate meeting date). Past editions of Board Highlights are posted/archived at [www.elmhurst205.org/BOE\\_highlights](http://www.elmhurst205.org/BOE_highlights).