



...from the January 10, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Thought Exchange Survey Results

Thoughtexchange Stakeholder Engagement Facilitator, Alan Miljkovic, along with Iain Hackett, the company's Service Team Leader, presented to the Board via phone the results of the Focus 205/Thoughtexchange survey which took place between October 3 and November 3, 2016. They unveiled a website which will be shared with the community. The results of the survey were broken down by 14 different processes (or conversations) taking place, which represented the 13 school conversations, plus one that was district-wide. Data was also divided into the following categories: parents/guardians, staff, community, students and others.

It was explained that the first two interactive steps (Share and Star) involved answering open-ended questions, then receiving the responses of others and starring them according to one's preferences. The third step, called Discovery, revealed there were 1,562 participants, who shared 2,417 thoughts and then assigned 118,056 stars. Participants were comprised of 84% parents and 12% staff. The remaining were students, community members and others.

Margaret Harrell asked when this data was going to go live. Dr. Moyer explained the results will be shared through a public-facing website once the Board and Focus 205 facilitating team have had an opportunity to review the data. Both Dr. Harrell and Chris Blum urged that the website be shared prior to the February 1 Focus 205 community engagement session, scheduled at York High School beginning at 7 PM in the Commons.

Results of the Thoughtexchange survey will be shared, along with facility scenarios to address District 205's needs for the next 50 years, including a discussion of Lincoln and Field elementary schools, all-day kindergarten and increased STEM opportunities for our students. [RSVPs appreciated](#), but not required. Childcare available for ages 3-12.

Instructional Coaches Mid-Year Update

Mary Baum, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching, presented the mid-year update on the implementation of instructional coaches this year. The results of the first semester have surpassed expectations. Creating and enhancing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), creating a culture of collaboration and building the coaching role are some of the outcomes of year one. The coaches' role includes a partnership between the coach and the building principal and ongoing professional learning. Partnerships with Learning Forward and Cindy Harrison helps to tailor training to the needs of District 205.

Breanne Kennedy-Brooks explained what coaching looks like, working with teachers at York, and assisting with classroom co-planning or co-teaching. More than 50% of the teaching staff has

worked with a coach at York during the first half of the year. She thanked the Board for their support of the program.

Fischer instructional coach Sharon Emmi-Iovinelli shared her experience at the elementary school level, noting that expanding instructional coaching to all elementary schools has helped to develop skills further and has had more direct impact on teachers. Planning, participating in and conducting professional development, depending on the needs of the teachers, is all part of any given week.

John McDonough asked for an example of a coaching cycle, instructional coach Carla Repelin-Schmidt, also from Fischer, explained that a coaching cycle in elementary school could last two weeks. It starts with creating a plan, then a follow-up meeting - to see if they are meeting the goals, then a gradual release. After the cycle is completed, the teacher and instructional coach debrief to see what they could do differently to be even more effective.

Annual Audit Review

Klein, Hall & Associates conducted the independent audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and found District 205's financials to be in good order, having found no material weaknesses, which is considered a good grade from an auditor.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance Chris Whelton introduced Scott Klein who explained the District's [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report](#) (CAFR), which has won an Award of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past seven years. Auditor Klein also said "This document is very comprehensive and gives people a good sense of the District and what's been going on, providing readers with a good picture of things to come."

Summer Facilities Projects

Mr. Whelton explained the history of the [capital projects fund](#), which is used to pay for summer maintenance projects performed on District 205 schools. Prior to the summer of 2015, the summer maintenance projects used funding made available from past referenda where construction costs came in under budget. Property taxes do not cover capital improvements and the capital projects fund, and all monies left from the 2006 referendum, were depleted in June 2015.

A plan was devised years ago to fund future school maintenance project costs from TIF surplus monies, which were projected by the City of Elmhurst to be paid to the District in an amount estimated to total approximately \$10 million for TIF 1. Thus far, only one small payment has been made by the City (\$120,000) and it looks like no more will be made. District 205 officials had expected to receive another \$1.3 million from TIF 1 surplus monies in the last year under a "double made whole" agreement.

To cover projects that were completed in the summer of 2015, a total of \$1.4 million was, therefore, transferred from the Operations & Maintenance (O & M) fund, along with interest income and the small TIF 1 payment. Those projects included a Building Automation System (BAS) at York High School, tuck pointing at Bryan and Madison middle schools and repairs to the Hawthorne Elementary School chiller.

Summer maintenance projects for 2016 included tuck pointing at Jefferson Elementary School, roofs at Jefferson and Bryan Middle School, and resurfacing of the York Stadium parking lot, Sandburg Middle School parking lot, and District Center parking lot. These costs were originally budgeted to come from the TIF 1 surplus distribution.

"We had expected to receive an additional TIF 1 surplus distribution (from the City of Elmhurst), which we do not have. That brings us to this undesignated fund balance, currently with a deficit of \$1,246,140," he noted. "Tonight we have a resolution to transfer money from the Operations and Maintenance fund to pay for the projects completed last summer."

This is rationale behind the resolution to transfer money from the O&M fund to pay for the projects from last summer (\$1.25M) and a second transfer resolution to fund the projects for next summer (\$1.48M).

Mr. Whelton also noted that impact fees in the amount of \$213K were received in 2016 from the Berteau/Nitti Development project and \$154K for 2017, which has been set aside for Field, Sandburg and York, the schools which students living in this area will attend.

District 205 Director of Facilities Frank Schuh reviewed necessary [2017 summer projects](#), including replacement of the 15-year-old York "A" (academic wing) building roof, the renovation of Sandburg Middle School restrooms/locker rooms. He also discussed the desired improvements of repaving the Churchville Middle School parking lot, air conditioning work at Jackson and Jefferson elementary schools and the addition of a secure entrance at Sandburg, which will not be completed this coming summer due to lack of funds.

Mr. Blum stated that, "We have been repeatedly told that we could count on this money from the City and built our financial model on this. Now they have decided, with a stroke of a pen, to take it away and do whatever they want with it."

He noted that the District also needs to include a contingency for continuing technology infrastructure and device upgrades/refreshes, none of which are on this particular list. "We need to plan for that too," said Mr. Blum. "These are all things we need to figure out, and we had time to do it until the City took the money away."

Shannon Ebner stated that each year, the District is delaying maintenance projects that need to be addressed – such as the Churchville Middle School parking lot – which means that the condition of some items are almost approaching un-usability. And, because of deferring these items, the to-do list just continues to grow. "So the \$1.5 million in maintenance costs per year, based on the industry standard of \$1 per square foot, is really approaching \$2 million."

Mr. McDonough asked Dr. Moyer if there had been any communication from the City, pointing out a section of the TIF 1 IGA Implementation Memorandum (step 3a) that calls for yearly communication between the City and District 205 "by January 1st to review the calculations supporting the determination of surplus for the make whole provision of the Intergovernmental Agreement."

He suggested "asking the community if they want a new train station or a new roof on York High School. Do they want more fountains or air conditioning so the kids can go to school in more functional learning spaces?"

Mr. Blum asked when it would be time to begin discussions of a referendum to be able to maintain our buildings. Some Board members, along with Dr. Moyer, expressed concern that a short-term fix would contradict the work that Focus 205 has done toward creating a long-term master facilities plan.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA - CONSENT

With two members missing, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Personnel Report
- Agreement Between the Board of Education and Marenem, Inc. for the use of instructional materials

SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS

With two members missing, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the following consent agenda items, each by separate vote:

- Resolution directing the School Treasurer to transfer funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in an amount of \$1,250,000 for Summer 2016 Maintenance Projects
- Resolution directing the School Treasurer to transfer funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in an amount of \$1,480,000 for Summer 2017 Maintenance Projects

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

Lincoln Elementary School Model Classroom Video

Dr. Dave Moyer showed a [two-minute video clip](#) of the new third grade model classroom at Lincoln School, created by Communications Coordinator Kathy Schroeder with help from teacher Cecilia Dunn and Lincoln Principal Kathleen Tomei. The [future ready model classroom project](#) is made possible by funding from the District 205 Foundation.

December Principal Professional Development

Superintendent Moyer also shared the following report on December Professional Development:

The December 15 principal professional development session included study of the Michael Fullan and Andy Hargraeves book *Professional Capital: Transforming Teaching in Every School* and the Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn book *Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems*.

Nikki Tammaru, Kathleen Tomei, Leslie Weber, Deb Lee, Arianna Leonard and Debi Wright facilitated work on chapter four of *Professional Capital*, entitled "Investing in Capability and Commitment." This chapter tied Hattie's research and the concepts of best and next practices to the career stages of teachers.

Erin DeLuga, Gina Pogue-Reeder, Melissa DeLaRosa, Tim Riordan, Rob Wagner and Jacquie Discipio facilitated work on chapter one of *Coherence* entitled "Coherence Making." The word coherence is deliberately used because it implies mindset. Its counterpart, alignment, which is more commonly used, implies structure. Policy makers typically focus on the wrong drivers in ignorance, in search of a quick fix, or, in some cases, due to ulterior motives. The District is placing its focus on the right drivers that lead to whole systems change: Focusing Direction, Cultivating Collaborative Cultures, Deepening Learning, and Securing Accountability.

District AP Honor Roll

Dr. Moyer shared that York Community High School and District 205 have been named to the College Board's 7th annual [AP District Honor Roll](#), which is based on increased access to AP classes and the percentage of students scoring 3 or higher. This Honor Roll recognizes 433 school districts in the US and Canada. Only 21 school districts in Illinois were so honored.

In addition, 33 York students and recent graduates earned National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar status this fall in recognition of their exceptional achievement on last May's AP Exams. An additional 163 were honored as an AP Scholar with Distinction, while another 52 were honored as an AP Scholar with Honors. In addition, 112 were named AP Scholars. A total of 327 Scholars earned an average score of 4.09 (out of a possible 5.0) on a total of 1,928 exams.

"It is always an honor to celebrate the accomplishments of our students," said Dr. David Moyer. "We have students who excel in a wide variety of ways, and we value them all. Receiving AP Scholar recognition is one especially challenging academic feat, and we are very proud of those who have earned this status."

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January 24 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

February 1 – Focus 205 Community Engagement Meeting #6 – 7 PM – York High School Commons

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

February 28 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

NOTE: Video footage of all Board of Education regular meetings are usually posted on [205TV](#) within 48-72 hours. Audio is posted within 24 hours at <http://www.elmhurst205.org/Audio> (please click on appropriate meeting date).