



*...from the September 12, 2017 Board of Education Meeting*

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **All Day Kindergarten Feasibility Study – Phase I Report**

Consultant Dr. Steve Cordogan presented a [summary of comparable districts](#), what the programs look like and the challenges they encountered in implementing All Day Kindergarten (ADK). Of Illinois' 800+ school districts, 12 are distinctly higher performing – of which 9 are in the western suburbs, including Elmhurst D205.

Districts he surveyed included: Barrington 220, Batavia 101, Geneva 304, Indian Prairie 204, Lake Zurich 95, Naperville 203, St. Charles 303 and Wheaton 200.

All but one of the comparable districts do have ADK and that district offers a paid enrichment program run by their park district. All districts have all day kindergarten for students identified as academically at-risk or ELL, including Elmhurst. All programs were begun in the last 11 years and most in the last nine years. Four districts charge no additional fee, while three charge an additional fee ranging from \$2,000 to \$4000, which does affect enrollment.

Findings from the spring survey of 500 parents registering their children for kindergarten this year:

IF all-day kindergarten was an option, would you have elected to enroll your child?

- 35.1% yes, if at no additional cost
- 52.5% yes, even with additional cost
- 12.4% had no interest

If all-day kindergarten were an option:

- 4.4% would participate at a central location.
- 48.4% would participate at a central location, but prefer it at home school.
- 47.2% would participate only at home school.

Dr. Cordogan noted that the biggest hurdles to implementing all-day kindergarten would be curricular challenges, facilities and the question of tuition versus making this part of the District's budget.

Superintendent Dr. David Moyer added that half-day kindergarten would still be an option, should District 205 decide to implement this in years to come. Currently, the District does not have the capacity to offer all-day kindergarten at all of its elementary schools. This will need to be considered in the Facility Master Plan discussion that is underway as part of Focus 205 Phase 2.

### **Recap of August Start-up Activities**

The opening administrator academy took place on August 2 and 3. "We took a look at Daniel Pink's new book *Drive* and watched his TED talk in the context of defining innovation. There was a Skype session with Harvard Professor Michael Tushman, author of *Lead and Disrupt*. We encouraged pilots of

innovation as part of our work to develop a culture of innovation. 'Ignite' presentations were given by our principals – 5-minute talks on innovative ideas that have worked for them," said Dr. Moyer.

Dr. Michelle Thompson, the new principal at Emerson, gave her Ignite presentation on [Repurposing Buddy Time](#). They are using Wednesday afternoons twice a month, when Emerson has no specials. The buddies have a year-long relationship. Personal skills they are focusing on throughout the year include: responsibility, contemplation, initiative, perseverance, optimism, courage, respect, compassion, adaptability, honesty, trustworthiness and loyalty. This was the list of future-ready personal skills presented by Dr. Bill Daggett at the Model Schools Conference she attended this summer.

Dr. Mary Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Leadership Development, gave a report on [professional learning at the start of the school year](#) and noted that August is one of the busiest months. "This year, there were 65 participants in the D205 New Educator Academy. The format was changed to provide more focused on instruction, led by our instructional coaches. One of the best ways to improve is through job-embedded learning," she noted. Coaches also led a session on integrating technology in the classroom.

Another focus was middle school leadership. Team leaders from all three middle schools met to plan the logistics of the new Acceleration period. The Acceleration Committee met to review the decisions and plan implementation. New educators also heard presentations from various departments of the District Office.

Dr. Henderson also reiterated that Standards Based Reporting is being piloted at Hawthorne and Field schools this year. About 75% of staff participated in an introductory meeting in August. They worked through the proficiency scales and standards, as well as identifying what was already in place to serve as a source of evidence for mastery of a standard.

August 14th was Institute Day and featured differentiated learning across the District that morning. Dr. Jim Woell, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, also introduced the new online evaluation system. In the afternoon, Dr. Bill Daggett presented to all faculty in the York Auditorium.

### **Project Lead the Way**

Dr. Mark Cohen, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Growth, presented an overview of [Project Lead the Way](#) (PLTW). He explained that PLTW is a series of STEM modules, units or courses available for elementary, middle and high schools, respectively. It is a non-profit organization with education and corporate partners and high-level retired CEOs. PLTW is in all 50 states with 10,500 schools; 37,000 teachers; and 2.4 million students enrolled.

Five programs are offered:

- PLTW Launch – for grades K-5
- PLTW Gateway for grades 6-8
- PLTW Computer Science for grades 9-12
- PLTW Engineering for grades 9-12
- PLTW Biomedical Science for grades 9-12

"By the year 2020, almost two-thirds of jobs, and nearly all high-paying jobs, will require postsecondary education or training. And by 2018, 92% of traditional science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) jobs will be for those with at least some postsecondary education and training. To ensure all students are ready to compete in the global workforce, we need to expand

access to challenging coursework and ensure students are prepared to thrive in college and beyond," he said.

In Illinois, PLTW's education partnerships are with Benedictine University and the University of Illinois (Chicago and Urbana-Champaign), both of which offer on-campus teacher training. PLTW works with AP and the College Board. There are pathways where students involved can earn AP credits.

Why Project Lead the Way? "It's hands-on (engaging) and is reflective of industry best practices. We're looking to implement two Gateway units per year (out of 10 modules) at the middle school level. At the high school, we're looking at Biomedical Science (\$25K each level), Engineering and Computer Science (\$18K)," said Dr. Cohen.

The fees are all inclusive (curriculum and materials) and cost about \$20,000 for middle school times the three levels (6-8). This will be an elective choice. Administrators will be conducting site visits to Gateway sites/schools in preparation for implementation.

The timeline is as follows:

- 2017-18 - planning and curriculum development for 2 units in year 1
- Summer of 2018 – teacher training
- 2018-19 - implementation of 2 Gateway units of in year 1, develop 2 more units for year 2

At York High School, the timeline is:

- 2019-20 - implementation of selected pathways of PLTW

Members of the Board expressed concern about adding even more elective offerings, especially at the middle school level. "This is becoming a standard part of the curriculum and people are figuring out how to include it," noted Dr. Moyer.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA - ACTION**

### **Adoption of a Resolution to Join ONCC**

In a vote of 6-0, the Board unanimously adopted a [Resolution](#) approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Elmhurst School District 205 and the City of Chicago for the District's membership and participation on the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC). Mr. McDonough recused himself, due to his work as an attorney with the City of Chicago.

Member Kara Caforio has volunteered to serve as the initial District 205 Board of Education representative (see [related News item](#) on the D205 homepage).

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

### **State Budget Update**

Dr. Moyer introduced Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Chris Whelton who [presented an update](#) on the recently signed legislation known as SB 1947 and its impact on Elmhurst District 205.

The Illinois State Board of Education will calculate the "adequacy target" for every district annually, based on 27 "essential elements." The total resources will then be compared to the adequacy

target to determine the percentage of adequacy. "Based on a May simulation, we will be a Tier 4 district and will receive \$1.22 more per student, or approximately \$10,000," said Mr. Whelton.

## **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

John McDonough reported that the City/Schools/Parks Committee was going to begin meeting again after a long hiatus. He and Shannon Ebner planned to attend on September 14 to represent the Board of Education.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**October 9** – Columbus Day Holiday, No School

**October 10** - Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 PM - District 205 Center

**October 24** - 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).

Past editions of Board Highlights are posted/archived at [www.elmhurst205.org/BOE\\_highlights](http://www.elmhurst205.org/BOE_highlights).