

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Jan. 14, 2008
6:30 pm – 7:20 pm

No Spaeth, Ostojic arr. 6:40
Public: 3 Staff: 8 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

President Davy called the special meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting is the first in the Board's discussion of governance issues, with tonight's topic of "governance."

Public Comment: none

Overview of Governance Issues:

Dr. Krizic had sent two articles, "Effective School Governance: A Look at Today's Practice and Tomorrow's Promise" by Michael Resnick and "Remaking Governance: The creator of 'Policy Governance' challenges school boards to change" by John Carver to all Board members. All Board members said that the articles were meaningful and valuable. The Superintendent said that if the Board would define the end or the expected results, then the administration would know in what direction to proceed. The Board appeared to agree with this.

A structure of future governance discussions was roughly established.

- Start with an assessment of the current state.
- Define future expectations.
- Discuss resource boundaries.
- Establish indicators of success.

Dist. 205 Board of Education
Jan. 14, 2008
7:30 pm – 10:05 pm

No Spaeth
Public: 5 Staff: 8 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

President Davy called the regular workshop meeting to order.

Public Comment:

A parent of a student from the Early Childhood program at Madison School spoke for Pete DiCianni against cutting the Speech requirement for graduation and also discussed a bill that has been introduced for insurance reform for coverage of autism interventions. SB 1900 has a \$36,000/year cap to the child's 21st birthday.

Three men who were coordinators for the YMCA High School Basketball program explained to the Board how the Principal, Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director for York High School helped this program find space to be held. Over 90 students participated in this activity. Diana Smith, Rob Wagner and Mark Bibel received signed basketballs from all the participants of this program in recognition and thanks for their help.

Workshop Discussion Topics:

High School Requirements – Diana Smith, Principal of York High School presented the recommendation from the York Instructional Advisory Council (IAC) for changes in graduation requirements.

- Freshmen – The final exam for the Computer Concepts and Skills test will be administered to incoming eighth graders and current high school students who have

- not taken the class to opt – out of the course. It is believed that many are already proficient in the software taught in this course.
- Sophomores – Speech will be continued to be offered as an elective, but will not be required for graduation. The IAC believes that all literacy skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening are interrelated and best learned when they are taught across the curriculum. American Government, a senior requirement will be moved to the sophomore year. Research indicates higher ACT scores for students who have completed three years of social studies prior to taking the exam.
 - Juniors/Seniors – More opportunity will be provided to meet the state mandated Consumer Education requirement by modifying some additional courses that will fulfill this graduation requirement.

Dance will be added to the P.E. curriculum. Also, alternative programs are being explored for the non-traditional student.

The Board, Ms Smith and Dr. Krzic primarily discussed the removal of the speech course as a graduation requirement. Mrs. Conroy stated that she was concerned about all students becoming competent with this skill. Mr. Thrall asked if the High School was embracing articulation of speech throughout the curriculum. Ms. Smith answered yes. Mrs. Davy was concerned about the level of accountability where every student will learn this skill. Ms. Smith answered that this would rest with the Department chairs. Mr. Carlquist asked if Dr. Krzic supported this recommendation. Dr. Krzic said that she wanted more information about how all Department chairs are going to implement this. Further discussion was held as to whether this specific issue should go to the Policy Committee or not. Since it was introduced to the full Board, it was decided that the first reading of the graduation requirement policy change would be brought before the full Board at the January 28th business meeting.

Madison Early Childhood Programming FY09 Dr. Krzic stated that the Facilities advisory task force was presenting short-term suggestions for short term housing of early childhood (for the next year and perhaps the year after that). This specifically addresses moving the early childhood classrooms from Conrad Fischer School. The committee presented the third suggestion.

- Renovate the gym at Madison into 4 classrooms. This would cost about \$350,000. There were several cons to this – loss of P. E. space, loss of library space. The pro was that the program would all be in one area.
- Purchase/lease 2 double wide mobile units and move some of the administration into these. This would cost \$1.1 million, \$300,000 of which would be electrical upgrade to the facility. The electrical upgrade alone would take 5 months. The task force did not support this suggestion.
- Look for space in other buildings. Dr. Krzic thinks that space could be found but did not want to say where until the staff and the parents of that building (or buildings) could be educated about the changes the facility would have to accept.

Dr. Krzic asked the Board for consensus to move ahead on the other building as well as asking Wight and Company to start designing concepts of what could be done at Madison. A Board member asked how much that would cost, but neither Dr. Krzic nor Pat Masterton (Assistant Superintendent for Finance) had a figure. Still, the Board decided that the space problem would not go away and told the Superintendent to contact Wight.

Board Communications: None