

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Programs/Policy 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: December 29, 2021
 - B. Date media was emailed agenda: December 29, 2021
 - C. Board Committee: **Educational Programs/Policy Committee**
 - D. Date and Time of Meeting: **January 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**
 - E. Place of Meeting: The Forum
 - F. 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: Anderson Sainci, Nancy Bradley, Lisa Wittman, Jim Prochaska, Katie Jones and Tami Ryan. District representatives present: Stan Rheingans, Mike Cyze, Lisa Tebockhorst, Tammy Duehr, Brooke Ludovissy, Brenda Duval, Julie Lange, Amy Hawkins and Mark Burns

Anderson Sainci called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The agenda was amended to have policy #6204 Acceleration, removed from the agenda until a future meeting.

Educational Programs

ELA Curricular Material Study Update

Lisa Tebockhorst and Tammy Duehr updated the committee on the curricular material study. The ELA study group is using Ed Reports instead of piloting materials in choosing curriculum. The committee has narrowed down four grade K-2 programs and four grade 3-5 programs. There will be three open house nights, January 19th, 20th, and 24th from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., that the board and educators involved with K-5 literacy can come and look at materials. Later on, there will be a parent and student focus group to provide feedback.

Project Rooted Pilot Program

Brooke Ludovissy presented to the committee about a pilot project starting with Project Rooted. The Rooted Box Program works to educate children about healthy, local foods and additional topics in relation to healthy bodies and minds. The pilot will start with 1st grade content leaders at nine schools this year and possibly expand to other grades in the future. Lessons will be taught during science and health one time a month. A Farm to School grant will be used to help launch the program.

Computer Science Update

Julie Lange updated the committee on computer science. Lange stated that there is a leadership team in place that meets regularly. Funding has been provided from the following institutions:

- John Deere global inspire program
- State of Iowa- two grants, one for \$10,000.00 for each level (elementary, middle and high school) and grant two is unlimited
- Amy Unmacht with the Foundation of Dubuque Public Schools
 - All tech coaches will attend the spring conference in Des Moines
 - Funding for robotics teams

At the elementary level, all 4th and 5th graders are receiving coding instruction. STEM books have been purchased for all schools. Middle schools added robotics in 8th grade with a request to see if they can get that in 7th grade as well. High school robotics teams will meet with 8th grade exploratory classes in January and February. Professional development will be provided for all exploratory teachers. High school robotics team have been on tour. They prepared four stations to deliver the robotic experience to elementary and 8th grade students. The student run help desk had been created into a graded class for the 22-23 school year.

Online School Update

Julie Lange updated the committee that about three-hundred students are online now. Of the three-hundred students, seventy are elementary students. The district is early in the process to explore an application for a fully online virtual program. There is a demand for this type of learning. Currently, the program is based on having a choice for families. The district is looking beyond our current software options and seeing if other programs could be brought in to support online learning.

Policy #2300–Meetings of the Board

Revised – Board 01.10.22

Policy #2311–Preparation of the Agenda

Revised – Board 01.10.22

COVID-19 Data Update

Superintendent Rheingans shared data points with the committee. Dubuque county is in a level of high transmission rate. The current vaccination rate for ages 12 plus with one dose is 75.5% and fully vaccinated for that same age group is 70.8%. Rheingans shared the dashboard data from schools that show active cases by date. As of January 3rd, seven schools have had the masking policy implemented in the district. Take home tests are being provided by the schools. Currently, students and staff have to stay out for 10 days if they have a positive test. There may be a change coming in the isolation period guidelines which may move from the current 10 days to 5 days. Federal vaccination mandate will be heard by the supreme court on January 7th.

The committee asked superintendent Rheingans to provide them with information on how other districts who have similar masking protocols are doing. They also asked that there be a COVID-19 data update on the Educational Programs Committee agenda each month.

Superintendent Search

Nothing to report at this time.

Other Items

The next meeting was scheduled for February 8, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Carolyn Mauss, Board Secretary
Board of Education