

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE
AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATION
CENTER, 203 W. HILLSIDE ROAD, NAPERVILLE, IL
JULY 19, 2013, AT 4:00 P.M.

- Call to Order President Jackie Romberg called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Board members present: Jackie Romberg, Donna Wandke, Suzyn Price, Mike Jaensch, Kristin Fitzgerald, Susan Crotty and Terry Fielden.
- Administrator present was: Dan Bridges, Superintendent
- Closed Session Crotty moved, seconded by Wandke to go into Closed Session at 4:00 p.m. for consideration of:
1. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Open Session Crotty moved, seconded by Fitzgerald to return to Open Session at 4:16 p.m. A voice vote was taken. Those voting Yes: Fielden, Price, Fitzgerald, Wandke, Crotty, Jaensch and Romberg. No: None. The motion carried unanimously.
- Roll Call Board Members present were: Jackie Romberg, Suzyn Price, Terry Fielden, Mike Jaensch, Donna Wandke, Kristin Fitzgerald and Susan Crotty.
- Administrator present: Dan Bridges, Superintendent
- Public Comment
Consent Agenda
None
- 1. Adoption of Personnel Report**
Price moved, seconded by Wandke to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Romberg, Crotty, Price, Wandke, Fitzgerald, Fielden and Jaensch. No: None. The motion carried.
- Discussion Without Action **2013 – 2014 Planning Discussion**
The Board of Education holds planning meetings each year. This is the first time one has been held in open session. The goal is to have seven voices speak to set priorities and identify district goals and the Superintendent’s goals. At the meeting on July 20, 2013, the Board will review and update the 2013-2014 planning calendar.
- The first action is going through the vignettes that our Future Focus groups already have. However, as a caution the Board cannot get ahead of the community prior to their report in December. The Board is respecting the Future Focus process, but still getting on with their work. This process will allow the Board to understand the community’s values to this point as they identify their priorities for the coming year. The Superintendent will develop goals for himself and his administrative team and report back to the Board.
- The Superintendent facilitated the process. He began by reviewing the District’s Beliefs, Mission & Vision. It doesn’t stop with our “Building a

Passion for Lifelong Learning”, but rather it is learning for all.

Review and Discuss Future Focus 203

The Superintendent reviewed the purpose of Future Focus. It is the framework for an ongoing process for strengthening trust, communication and collaborative efforts with the community.

The Future Focus facilitating team is made up of community members, staff representatives, district leadership, and Board of Education liaisons. All presentations are previewed by this team prior to presenting at the sessions.

All sessions have been an open invitation to the community. Attendance numbers have trickled down as the sessions progressed. We need to re-engage the community with the upcoming September meeting. The topic is facilities, which should, in and of itself, draw more participation.

The Future Focus facilitating team will review all reports and will develop a summary of consensus points to bring to the Board on December 16th. The summary will be a recommendation of values and priorities.

The Superintendent reviewed each of the sessions with the Board.

Future Focus Session 1 – State of the District – Promise & Opportunity – presented by the Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer and Chief Financial Officer

The context of the Superintendent’s presentation was opportunity, while celebrating successes. Some important points:

- Who we are is changing
- What is happening at our schools is changing
- The resources we will need are changing

Who we are:

- Schools identified
- Enrollment changes
- School capacity v enrollment
- High schools – NCHS enrollment is declining a bit, while NNHS is steady

Student demographics:

- Dramatic increase in free and reduced students from 1.2% in 2000 to 11.1% in 2012.
- In 2010 we had 60 homeless students. In 2013 we had 174. What has to happen so we can support our schools and how they provide everything to the students – breakfast, lunch and social workers, teacher.
- Families in the homeless category are not living on the streets, but with families and in shelters.
- Diversity action team is working to help address these concerns
- When we talk about low income we want to understand is who is

classified as free and reduced to be sure we are providing support.

- There was a surprised reaction by the Future Focus attendees to the growth of the Hispanic population.

At the same session the Chief Academic Officer gave an overview of the curriculum at all levels and provided an introduction to the Common Core. She also talked about testing – what we do, the results and trends.

The Chief Financial Officer gave an overview of expenses, as well as income as we look towards the future.

Small Group Activity - In the first small group activity participants were asked to list their top three surprises and concerns from the presentation. The community responded with:

- Trend of declining test scores and achievement gaps, hand-in-hand with the changing demographics and the increase of free and reduced lunch students.
- Financial stability for the future
- Facility Adequacy/Equity

The Board's top three surprises and concerns:

- Overall enrollment of high schools five years out. Our demographers have told us that new construction is what drives increase in student population. That focus isn't as strong, but more on empty nesters moving out and younger families moving in. It is a different economy with different perspectives.
- The Board itself was surprised at how the community views diversity in our schools. How do we continue to communicate an understanding that demographics are changing? Also, we have to engage the diverse population and continue to promote the excellence things we are doing. We should see this as an opportunity and not a problem. We need to reach out in a way to make all members of the school community feel comfortable and involved.
- Concern about achievement gaps and the concern for those gaps to widen with the implementation of a more rigorous academic program. We need to move beyond awareness and on to action.

Future Focus Session 2 – What is your definition of student success?

The Superintendent reviewed the District's beliefs, mission and vision. He then shared how we measure our success as a District, including state report cards and what information is required to be reported to the state. He explained Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and what targets we must meet for schools to attain satisfactory AYP according to state guidelines.

The Superintendent identified the Illinois Interactive Report Card which holds much information on trends in each district.

The State is moving to a new Illinois School Report card with clearer and more concise information which will also include information on progress attained

by each district.

He also reviewed how District 203 uses our student report cards to measure success at each level.

Small Group Activity – What is your definition of success?

In envelopes there are cards that have success indicators, as well as blank cards. The community participants were asked to rank success indicators.

Their ranking was as follows:

- College & Career Ready
- Demonstrated Academic Growth
- Self-Directed Learner\
- Personal Growth & Goal Setting
- Demonstrated Social-Emotional Growth
- Long-Term Success

When looking at the “wordle” developed from the priorities of the community, the bigger the word the more important it is to the community. Note that meets or exceeds standards on state tests is tiny. The community does not want the District teaching to the test to be a priority.

As a follow up our high school students were asked to rank their success indicators.

- Collaborative Worker
- Quality Producer
- Community Contributor
- Making Effective Choices
- Resilience
- Complex Thinker

For high school students the term “long term success” is not present on their “wordle” but all supporting features are. They call out all the strands of the mission statement. Meets or exceeds standards on state tests is not included as a priority to the students.

The Superintendent asked the Board to rank their success indicators.

- Long term success – as defined by our current mission statement – Educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors. All our students are aware of it, but do they see it every day and do the teachers teach it every day?
- Personal growth and goal setting
- Demonstrated academic growth

The Board discussed “what are our students getting that distinguishes them from everyone else”?

What is our emphasis? Grades are not, but they are the result of all things we

think are important. The Board passionately believes if we emphasize our Mission Statement our desired outcomes will all be met.

As we encourage our students we want them to grow academically, socially, emotionally. Students will succeed grade wise if we emphasize and incorporate all academic growth into the mission statement.

Our process has to be certain to meet mandate of law, but also the value of the community.

Future Focus Session 3 – Do Our Programs of Study Prepare Students for Success?

At Session 3, the Chief Academic Office talked about characteristics of a successful school. All students regardless of race, socio economic status, etc. will have the opportunity to learn. The personalization of schools is created through care and connection at each building where a climate and culture is cultivated so students and family feel valued and an important part of the school community.

Research has contended that teachers make a difference. The best teachers believe in ALL kids – every student can and will learn.

Strong leaders who are learning centered, have strategic vision, collaborative relationships, continuous improvement and high expectations.

There are multiple strategies for improvement. It is imperative to involve parents and community in the process. Additionally, the District must consider strategic use of its resources.

The District's future demands necessitate thinking differently to ensure success of all students and teachers.

- Proactive vs. reactive to rapid change
- Flexible vs. stable structures
- Responsive to new learning and responsive to increased diversity

This must be a collaborative effort with the community and District working together.

Small Group Activity - Consider opportunities for continuous improvement and student success – continue, refresh, stop, start.

Continue

- Science curriculum – number of girls who are participating in science
- Community engagement/involvement
- K-12 Articulation/Vertical alignment

Refresh

- Junior High School – rigor, reading, science, social science; junior high vs. middle school philosophy

- Science – junior high and high school
- Magnet gifted and enrichment programs across the board. Philosophically, we are taking too many kids out of a classroom at both ends. We need to provide a more rigorous high level education to all kids. How many kids go to magnet program because it is their home school? More important and pertinent issue is how many kids go to 6th grade and pull out before 7th because of the level of homework.
- Differentiation in the classroom. If we are able to improve there we will see the personal academic growth in the classroom.
- Summer school - we need to look at it as an extended school year.
- School/business partnerships
- With the implementation of all day Kindergarten are there programs in place that might not be needed i.e. K-Leap.
- Dual Language
- Use Board of Education work sessions for more robust conversations
- Better model for emerging sports and activities i.e. show choir, lacrosse

Stop

- Driver's Education
- DES

Start

- Diversity – action based
- College and career counseling; start sooner 8th grade?
- All day Kindergarten for all
- Master facility plan
- Digital learning
- Individual goal setting for each student
- Alternative staffing models
- Policy discussion/legislation discussion at Board of Education table

Future Focus Session #4 – Finances

At this session, the Chief Financial Officer presented. Highlights were:

- The bad – our taxpayers are paying more than the average in the state
- The good – the less dependent we are on state funding the better
- Ratings are the highest they can be.
- Project a balanced budget for next 6-7 years.

Small Group Activity – From a financial standpoint when we think about the budget – priorities. What should we consider as we look at projecting the budget?

- Being seen as a source of revenue by other units of government. Attitude of pushing things down to the district level rather than raise taxes at the city, county or state level.
- Communication of our finances to the community to aid in the understanding of how we spend the District's money. Keep in mind the 60% of the community that doesn't have anyone in school see our enrollment dropping, but taxes increasing. It's very difficult to have

tax decreases with different types of learners, more mandates and aging buildings.

- Review programs in terms of prioritization, trimming excess, phase in new programs as we phase out old programs.
- Stay ahead of the game

The Superintendent indicated the Board would reconvene on Saturday, July 20th at 8:00 a.m. We will recap today's activities and start to talk about priorities for 2013-2014 and beyond. Additionally, the Board will review the draft board calendar and revise as appropriate.

Price made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Crotty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Price, Romberg, Jaensch Fielden, Wandke, Fitzgerald and Crotty. No: None The motion carried.

Approved August 19, 2013

Jackie Romberg, President
Board of Education

Maureen Dvorak, Secretary Pro Tem
Board of Education