

Committee of the Whole Minutes  
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 4:30 PM

Harlem Administration Center  
8605 North Second St  
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### 12. **EDUCATION:** (Limited up to 60 minutes)

Administrator: Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction by  
Rebecca

12.A. Roll Call: Rebecca Carlson, Megan Hastings, Michelle Erb, Terrell Yarbrough, Kris  
Arduino, Becky Logan, Jake Hubert absent, Shannon Rice, Ana Luisa Dominguez,  
Union: Elana Schelling-Tufte/designee – Leah Krippner

E Team members:

Loves Park MV

Machesney AE

Maple EB

Marquette

Olson Park MN

Parker Center BS

Ralston Scott

Rock Cut Ryan

Windsor Kasie

High School Maria

Middle School Jerry

12.B. Meeting Minutes Consensus: October 9, 2024 unanimous

12.C. Public Comments (if any) None

12.D. Agenda Items:

12.D.1. a. School Report Card

Terrell Yarbrough presenting on behalf of Dr. Erb with Becky Logan

Becky – District data – Proficiency – looking at all assessments when IAR comes out the  
ELA goes up to 28% and Math 20%. There is greater proficiency with ELA across the  
State than Math. We have been engaged in work with Aspire training and the scores did  
increase over the last year. Math did increase as well, focusing in on problem solving at the  
elementary level. Some of the vocabulary and comprehensive seem to be the hang ups.

DLM data – certain students taken in place of IAR and also the growth for IAR compared to  
the next year, growth held steady and Math there was a slight increase.

Dark Green on the chart is the State. The growth percentile is broken up by buildings from  
year to year and will compare the students in the range breaking it down on a five level

scale and we can follow that student to see if they are all growing. The unit of measurement is percentile which gives the overall building score.

Kurt noted we need to know what we are expecting where would the best case be for Harlem with the student, what is the expectation. Becky noted when looking at individual student and if above 60% that is an excellent growth, anything drifting by the 40 line so we are between the two levels.

#### School Level Data

Summative designation – Breakdowns of components, including proficiency and growth rates and will share Five Essentials Data

Cumulative Score will be done on a 100 point scale, but they are worth different values when weighted together.

High School will show the graduation rate, followed by absenteeism.

You also see thresholds.

All schools are presented in this way. This is just not Harlem. Across the State there will be the same pieces.

Each building will report out on items they put in place last year or this year that improved scores.

#### Windsor -Kasie

Does not have a EL to proficiency rating, our proficiency and growth scores are weighted a bit more. Out of our overall rating we had a 52.44 commendable

We decreased the chronic absenteeism from 2022 to 19.5% rate cutting it in half.

Every staff meeting we are intentional that it relates back to our four SIP priorities

Academic scores show that proficiency is at 18% in ELA and 11% in Math

We want to implement as to each C day teachers can work one on one with our reading and math pd specialist. We also looked at scores and wanted to change up some MTSS to below expectation as well.

We had DLM Math scores that were phenomenal which is the alternative to IAR. Science is embedded in the DLM>

We had strong ratings, effective leaders and collaborative teachers.

Rock Cut – good growth in ELA and Math, percentiles show increased proficiency over prior year in both. We had a dip the year prior but now last year we were back up to pre covid levels or above. Growth in IAR aligns with iReady so we are assessing the right things.

The learning gaps for different groups are far smaller than the State average which shows we are doing good things for all students.

#### Key takeaways

Low in collaborative teachers and so we are having more meeting looking at assessments.

We put in place all students are tracking their growth progress in some way. Students are tangibly seeing their growth.

We implemented two intervention times for extra support to kids.

In looking back kids who saw somebody made growth

Growth scores aligned with iReady growth so assessments are being done correctly.

iReady projected scores aligns closely with these scores.

Student tracking has a high impact on student achievement and clear learning objectives and clear feedback with teacher collaboration and advocacy.

The ratings are done by the 5 Essentials Survey as it is required by the State. At elementary is only 4-6 grade level students. You need 20% of parents and 80% of students.

Ralston – Scott

Commendable rating – very close to Exemplary –

We need to improve on the growths which is good but we need to improve in order to get there.

Very ELA and MATH Science proficiency. Attendance is at 94% we are proud of this.

We are getting close and won't give up.

Ralston worked very hard on 5 Essentials Survey, building relationships with families and staff and we received strong ratings on all categories.

We have a strong focus on Math fluency. My personal belief is that when we work it we can get kids more fluid in math and they can be more successful. It is a high focus as well as vocabulary.

We are specific with pd, with 2 staff meetings per month, 1 for pd only.

We brought back PD planning so teachers can meet with pd specialist. Math tutoring also helped scores with 4 to 6 teachers every Tuesday and Thursday having after-school tutoring for kids. We lost the grant money to do that again.

Both 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers resigned at the end of last year – we felt that we needed strong ELA teachers and it was a focus in interviews and it helped our 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA scores and they are now at the middle school.

Olson Park – Marya –

Need to work on growth, but proud of our improved scores. We are having teachers one time per month to work with the pds. We also need to work on chronic absenteeism. 5 Essentials effective leadership, collaborative teachers, involving families and improving relationships with students and making students feel supported in the classroom.

We are very intentional with pd at staff meetings as well. We want more small group instruction. We need to differentiate the Tier 1 instruction.

Aaron asked about challenging and engaging question on the survey. These are coming from students and staff. 5 Essentials is a tricky tool but he has never seen an alignment with anything else with this Survey.

Student feedback can be very perplexed on the questions as well and ask for rephrasing and they answered it wrong so it can skew it as well. The survey is very long as well.

A large part of the student is also ALP at Olson Park and they always want more per Megan.

Scores are based on participation and not scores per Becky.

Marquette – Terrell

Commendable – Proficiency in ELA and MATH improved

Improved attendance and reduced absenteeism

Attend one of the long weekend event to see those

On-time rewards implemented

5 Essentials need improvement on school connectiveness, needed a parent resource center,

FB page is great, Back to School Bash, increase student collaboration time, and teacher collaboration time for them to meet with pds/MTSS.

Maple improved considerably

Large improvement in overall score and for all subgroups

Low Income had the highest improvement

Chronic absenteeism rate is improving

Growth scores are all up

Higher ELA than Math

5 Essentials – ambitious instruction improved is strong in this survey

Machesney

Commendable, we have supported students by teacher the underpinnings and staying on pace with the scope and sequence, We are continuing to work on fact fluency as well as math vocabulary

ELA and Science proficiency was the highest.

MTSS works very well with different groups. This allows us to have more students in MTSS receiving services.

5 Essentials – we continue to work on the culture and climate of the school. Different activities have been incorporated to elevate educators. Ana noted that she checks in with parents and teachers. They are all very happy and feel very welcome. During lunch being able to have conversations is very welcoming and it has been an easy transition for all.

We built trust with people for all the bussing.

HoLA is doing fabulous in the building.

Loves Park – Targeted this year. We are implementing new things trying to make some progress in growth in ELA and MATH. MTSS time has been for a set time utilizing all resources within the building and targeting intervention. Last year it was new and this year we are adjusting.

5 Essentials was the reason we were Targeted last year as no one took it. The Hispanic reading group was the largest growth area. Everybody took the 5 Essentials this year. We expect growth will continue as we are in the second year of everything. Each teacher has 45 minutes with the pds. They lead the pd. Teachers are asking them for help. We have targeted and brought in new intervention programs and we can reuse. We are also starting intervention times later as we share an interventionist with Maple and now only 1 grade level doesn't have the full. We are continuing with MyPath. Librarian does MTSS, art, music. Every staff meeting with a weekly update for the week and what is upcoming is sent out.

5 Essentials we are growing and bringing people together. Family involvement is growing, PTO dipped a bit due to some families going to Olson Park and Machesney. We are working on this and adjusting PTO meeting times earlier in the day. We have a Turkey Bingo next week and continue to build trust amongst the staff.

Megan – She is observing from elementary, the 5 Essentials is neutral or strong in the families but absenteeism is higher. Parental involvement is the piece we are missing for the chronic absenteeism. PTO's PTA's have had a big surge this year but how do we leverage the folks that want to be involved to reach out to others who are not. How to we leverage district-wide communication to show the importance of being involved. We need to determine how to bring the participation of families. The missing piece is where are the parents.

Terrell noted we need a true measure of the involvement.

Parker Center

Swenson

Noted that there was LETRS training for all teachers and it is working very well. Moved to Commendable. 37% chronic absenteeism.

Mike noted we need longer for something like this presentation. Not to rush through it.

HMS

Moved from comprehensive to commendable. Attendance plans have been created and we are planning on home visits to see if we can get those kids in the building. Science proficiency is up 7%, we continue to work with building relationships with students. Kids need to feel like they belong and we focused on trying to make kids feel like they belong. Overall discipline is down, Class of 2029 = 8<sup>th</sup> grade down by 38%. DLM scores increased, working with Illinois MtSS Network as a result of previous rating with focusing on Tier 1 interventions. Even with 6<sup>th</sup> grade up referrals are down. Megan noted the stigma is horrible so we need to make these good things known. 28% and adding a whole grade is amazing. We have to talk about our accomplishments.

Harlem High School

Maria presenting commendable rating, great improvements.

Four year graduation rate went to 85% from 79.5%, Freshman track rate has improved to 85%  
Class of 24 started with a 71%.

Class of 2027 was on track to graduate this year from 67% to be higher

Daily average attendance has improved

Chronic absenteeism is about 45% but is down 15% over the past two years and we have a strong focus on this.

5 Essential data has improved but our focus is building strategies and practices to improve community engagement. We feel like we will get more realistic data from students and how they feel about the school. We are working on ways to make kids feel included in their community and trying to put much on FB for all to see.

Slight decrease in ELA and Math.

Graduation rate for subgroups we are still focused on with black and students with two or more races are concerning with some increase but still lowest for graduation rate.

Freshman on track from 73% to 79%

We are trending in the right direction with good things happening.

12.D.2. b. New Courses Offered

New courses at Harlem High School

AP African American Studies - every other year cycle with AP History

Advanced Health Occupations

AP Seminar (replacing Honors English 10) Very excited about this as College Board is pushing this with an 83% success rate for college credit

Music courses:

Intermediate/Advanced Guitar to run concurrently with Beginning Guitar we will have 40 guitars

Beginning Piano – 20 pianos will be available - Fundraising got them to where they needed to be Offering these on an every other year cycle as well

Courses will run every other year opposite of each other unless course numbers dictate otherwise

12.E. Adjourned at 6:52 p.m. *Minutes taken by Kris Arduino*