

Committee of the Whole Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2025 4:30 PM

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

8. **EDUCATION:** (60 minutes or as needed) Began at 5:19 p.m. by Megan Hastings
Administrator: Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

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

Education Committee Team members:

Loves Park – Mike and Christy

Machesney - Abbi

Maple - Emily

Marquette - Brock

Olson Park - Marya

Parker Center - Erin

Ralston – Holly

Rock Cut - Ryan

Windsor - Kasie

High School – Jeremy Bois

Middle School – Jen Curless

8.B. Meeting Minutes Consensus – unanimous yes

8.C. Public Comments (if any) none

8.D. Agenda Items

I. HoLA Curriculum Adoption

- Dr. Erb noted that there are a number of items this evening on our programs. We are aligning our science to reading. *Ana Luisa – presenting on how we came about the ELA adoption.*

Harlem Language Academy mission statement was read

K-5 grade program has been Benchmark for Spanish Language Arts

Staff survey was done of all K-5 HoLA educators to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the existing SLA curriculum and key priorities were updated.

Priorities were set, with a balanced biliteracy approach incorporating listening, speaking reading and writing skills across the lessons.

Cultural diversity with 21 countries speaking Spanish. We have students that have roots from very different countries. Students can be from many areas. Students are also multicultural and blended families.

She reviewed the timeline which began evaluation of the current program in 2024, we paused with the move to Machesney and then picked it up again. FY 25 reinitiated the adoption process and determined key focus areas. The adoption committee met regularly and were presented access to all platforms online and during a SIP day all HoLA teachers were able to navigate all three programs with a final selection on March 11. This will be brought for Approval on April 14, at the Board meeting.

The three programs evaluated was Adelante 2023 by Benchmark, Caminos by Amplify and Arriba la Lectura 2020 by HMH. The program selected was Arriba la Lectura. Benefits include all elements in phonics, oral language and vocabulary development, engaging stories and text variety, Spanish literature from different cultures, writing units, assessment for instruction and differentiation, Tier 2 and 3 supports, audio supports, spiraled skills, lots of materials to support students and teachers, themed units, family room for home-school connections to support daily lessons, dual language implementation guide. Challenges include online platform changing, navigating new structures, familiarizing with the abundance of materials, length of some assessments, change in handwriting practices, time to create an SLA & ELA Biliteracy Framework pacing guide.

The cost went down \$23,000 to \$48,908.20 for five year which was based on the starting price of \$71,000 This program is more robust and is what faculty needs and is more cost effective.

She can get what we are currently paying to the Board. She noted the committee made the decision for the best program for Spanish speaking students.

Kurt asked about support of the program. Ana Luisa made sure that if a new updated version is coming what is the timeline. Right now they have not looked at updating at all so it will be years. If they were to make updates, because it is on the online platform it would be available to our teachers. The two states that drive changes are Florida and Massachusetts.

Next steps: Is to obtain board approval, purchase the materials, introduce the new curriculum, offer summer training and implement with ongoing support. Create a biliteracy framework. She will meet with the publisher and there is a plan to use SIP Days along with the PD day.

II. Secondary ELA Adoption

Jake presenting secondary curriculum adoption, thanking the team from the high school and middle school

Process: Held informational meetings last spring and surveyed staff to see who would like to be a part of the committee. Interested people were provided a copy of John Hattie's Teaching Literacy in the Visible Learning Classroom and created a shared google doc for committee to place standout points of researched based practices.

In the fall of 2024 student assessment data was reviewed with current curriculum to identify areas of strengths and need.

Created an evaluation tool

Used IIRC to identify schools of similar demographics who were having an impact on student learning

Created questions to ask schools identified about their literacy resources

Researched Edreports for aligned and easy to use curriculum.

Research educator social media groups

Identified no more than 5 companies to bring in to present to the committee.

CommonLit 360]Amplify ELA

Savvas – My Perspectives

Odell

McGrawHill – Springboard

Narrowed it down after bringing in reps for HMS – CommonLit 360 and Amplify ELA

HHS – CommonLit 360 and Odell Pilot

Compared the two CommonLit 360 to Odell, with CommonLit 360 not being as flexible and is completely online.

Odell has a choice of novels with material to support, teacher resources looked great

Errors in online resources that ended this pilot quickly.

We can pilot this for a year to get to have more knowledge about it and we would like to do this. Cost difference is \$750 for a multi-year to 1 year pilot.

HMS Pilot – CommonLit 360 and Amplify

If we do a program pilot for a year are teachers going to want to redo another pilot for another program next year and we need to consider this per Kurt.

Staff Data going through a process, surveys and at some point, the team chooses. Everyone had an opportunity on these pilots and decisions. Kurt asked before the Board meeting if Jake could look back and find out why the other program was not in the top. The Middle School wants five years and the High School is asking for a one year pilot.

Jake noted that a one year was decided at the high school as we only piloted one thing. At the very least we will not be out anything with a one year pilot. The pricing and funding available also presents some opportunities for the Middle School. Megan noted her only concern with CommonLit 360 was the engagement piece for the 6th grade students.

CommonLit favored by 7th and 8th grade and Amplify was favored by the 6th grade.

Pricing – Amplify five year blended \$32.30 per student

Amplify 5 year digital - \$19.66 per student

CommonLit 5 year digital \$432 per student

Jake reviewed the process and data – CommonLit 360 for the Middle School was chosen

III. District Improvement Plan

Dr. Erb noted that we need this as State look at every school and look at the exclusion data, overidentification by race, but we have been on the top 20% of the State for suspensions for multiple years in a row. We need to come up with this Plan. There are very few suspensions at the elementary level and not out of proportion. Danielle and Margaret are here to go through plan which will appear on the Board Agenda for approval on April 14.

We have really cleaned up the process of coding per Micki. At both levels they started with ranking and we were not on it the year of 2020. This is 2022, 2023, 2024. We are at 13% for OSS and jumped to 18.5% In 2024 we changed the tardy policy and consequences at the high school and it did some impact some but others it did not. We reached out to other districts over the summer. There has to be accountability. Some of the major disruptions have decreased significantly but not in assigned areas and drug use is up with a 10 day OSS, Our students with IEPs, are high numbers of OSS. Middle School is very similar to the high school.

Insubordination jumped, we looked at management expectations and how things are written. They reach out to families about disagreements that occur outside of school and some of that has happened but we still have issues. We tried to work with AP's working with families of kids that are in trouble multiple times. The Middle School has dropped in OSS's by a significant amount. The high school reaches out to the Middle School on problem kids and there is looping and getting relationships with the families is beneficial in reducing offenses which will then decrease when they get to high school.

Next steps: School-wide SEL Lessons, "Be Good People" is being used and seems to have a buy in by the students and fostered buy in from staff as well. They also implemented the point system which has had a great influence. We have also been talking about 10 day OSS for drug offense and if a student goes for an assessment it is reduced to 5 days because they can get outside supports but it is a lot of time out of school. We are talking about a mixture of ISS and OSS to keep them in the building and have an interventionist work with them. We want to start piloting this and looking at it. We are also doing 2 days OSS and 3 days ISS as a blend which has an a very positive experience with one student so far. The two positions at the middle school is covered by a grant and she is great. Mike noted he would like to keep the blended discipline up but bring back a recommendation to have policy changed to affect it overall. The matrix will be brought for Board approval in the future with changes.

Kurt asked if we can set this up for success and if more space is needed we need to think about it. Long-term the ISS space we could get a designated space for kids in their routinely with tables instead of desks to spread out. So we would have two separate spaces. ISS overflow at the middle school is taking the kids from classroom to classroom. The Panorama program at the middle school is great. High school is using some aspects of Panorama as well as it is a great plan.

If we can put some of the non-violent infractions could keep kids in the buildings down the road.

The point plan was taken from Belvidere North and we tweaked it over the summer and is being very positive.

Action Plan to reduce

Next Steps

This will go to the Board meeting agenda for approval and it will be submitted to the State and placed on the district web-site.

8.D.1. IV. District Consolidated Plan

Mickie presenting this Plan

Private compared to Parochial School Participation

If you qualify for free and reduced but are at grade level you do not receive

If academic need is shown the money could be going to that student.

ISBE Aligned goal must align to Student Achievement

Determining if students are making academic gains and have opportunities.

The District Improvement Plan was reviewed for all categories

Professional Development Supports & Offerings

Title I Specific needs must be aligned to an ISBE goal.

IDEA specific by Shannon Rice

Action Plan to Reduce the Use of Exclusionary Discipline - HMS Key Strategies and
Actions 1. Data Analysis and Monitoring 2. Professional Development for Teachers 3.
Targeted Teacher Support 4. Restorative Practices Implementation

Next steps – Get approved at the April 14 Board meeting

Megan thanked the group for all the work they have done and in working with her while on the Board.

8.E. Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Notes taken by Kris Arduino