

Committee of the Whole Education  
Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:30 PM

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

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

10. **EDUCATION:** (60 minutes or as needed) Began at 5:11 PM

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

10.A. Roll Call: Megan Hastings, Michelle Erb, Terrell Yarbrough, Pam Cook, Becky Logan, Jake Hubert, Shannon Rice, Ana Luisa Dominguez, Elena Schelling-Tufte/designee

Absent: Rebecca Carlson

E Team members:

Loves Park – Mike Valentine

Machesney -Abigail Edwards

Maple – Emily Bjork

Marquette – Brock Morlan

Olson Park – Marya Nelson

Parker Center – Erin Anderson

Ralston – Holly Perino

Rock Cut – Gloria Martinez

Windsor – Kasie Kosinski

High School – Dr. Jeremy Bois

Middle School – Jennifer Curless

10.B. Meeting Minutes Consensus: February 5, 2025

Motion to approve

-All aye to approve

10.C. Public Comments (if any) none

10.D. Agenda Items

10.D.1. – Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Behavior Data

2. - ELA Curriculum adoption

Starting with ELA Curriculum adoption

Becky Logan outlined in a Power Point presentation the process of how the ELA Adoption Committee selected the new curriculum.

-Surveyed K-5 staff on weaknesses and strengths of the current ELA curriculum. Four priorities were gathered from the survey.

- Coherence & Alignment of ELA components for K-5
- Technology Enhances Components
- Differentiated Learning Materials
- Knowledge Building

-ELA Adoption Committee met regularly over several months.

- Narrowed down the field through discussions & committee member surveys
- Publishers came in to present their curriculum
- Trial of Lessons- Full Unit
- Final Selections meeting occurred on March 6<sup>th</sup>

Pilot teachers were able to use one of three programs in their classrooms. Then teachers were able to observe other teachers using the alternative programs. Teachers then were given a survey regarding their experiences with the product. A final decision was selected after gathering all the feedback of all the programs that were piloted, HMH Education Curriculum.

The strengths of this program had engaging stories, the ability to annotate passages in the book, all elements included in phonics, audio support, parent communication in different languages.

There are challenges as well with a new program like keeping pace throughout the program, length of some assessments, change in handwriting practices, online platform is changing compared to what was piloted, no built-in assessment days.

See complete presentation at March 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting on the Harlem School District webpage.

Noted \$200,000 was taken off the cost of the original price.

Aaron asked if the cost front loaded since this a five-year contract. The payment contract is 60/40 or 60/20/20, most of the cost is upfront.

Mike asked Josh about registration fees to help cover the cost of the new curriculum. Josh replied that we have increased fees in some time.

The reoccurring cost for this program is \$125,000 more per year than what we would be spending with the current curriculum.

Mike asked if there were teachers in the room that can give some feedback on the program they piloted. A teacher shared a story of how student enjoyed the HMH program when it was piloted in their classroom. Students are able to write in the books that can help them and having decodables is a big plus. Many positive feedbacks from teachers.

Elana followed up with this program has a social studies unit. Elementary haven't adopted a new social studies unit since 1991.

Mike asked is this program will help with the transition with 5<sup>th</sup> graders to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Becky believes this help students with a solid base learning district wide.

-Kurt asked about new editions with this program.

Becky said that we will receive the new version not the new editions.

-How about Teacher Pay Teacher, will this reduce buying from TeacherPayTeacher?

Becky mentioned that the trainer said that there are so many resources for teachers that teachers shouldn't have to visit any other site.

Larry asked if this program help with the reduce of paper. Elana commented that primary grade, its best to use pencil and paper than Chromebooks. Hopefully it will reduce a little on the paper but Kindergarten, it probably won't.

Next steps would be to seek approval for the board to purchase this program. Then introduce this curriculum at April SIP Day, and offer summer training days, evaluate curriculum materials throughout the length of the contract.

Aaron asked Josh is we afford it. Josh responded that it's an extra \$125K a year cost but it's the core of what we do. We can make it work.

Mr. Morlan commented that this new program will give us a refresh to the curriculum. Plus, with new teachers coming into the District, they won't be looking at antiquated curriculum. This will give a new starting point where we can all be on the same page.

\*Second Part of Ed. Committee

Elementary Behavior Data-2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Loves Park

Behaviors are less and less from semester to semester. Social Workers & Christy are helping with behaviors.

Referrals-45

ISS,SIS-8

OSS-19

Detentions-8

Machesney

Administrators and teachers talk to parents about social media that their students are using and may be causing issues outside of the school day.

Referrals-22

ISS, SIS-1

OSS-2

Detentions-4

Maple

Referrals are down 60% through PBIS, 14% are students with IEP.

Referrals-22

ISS, SIS-0

OSS-1

Detentions-17

### Marquette

This semester the referrals were mostly generated by 2 students, one student is in the evaluation process for a behavior plan and one referred to the Learning Lab at Machesney.

Referrals-25

ISS,SIS-13

OSS-7

Detentions-2

### Olson Park

5th grade team is work with a group who is struggling with behaviors this year.

Referrals-21

ISS,SIS-5

OSS-2

### Parker Center

Pup Lab has made tremendous growth in one year.

Student Intervention Form-(SIF)-59 (18 Students)

### Ralston

2- 1<sup>st</sup> graders who are struggling this year. One qualified for an IEP with a behavior plan and that student is a success story.

Referrals-15

ISS,SIS-5

OSS-8

Detentions-2

### Rock Cut

Referrals are down from 136 last year at this time. Losing a game at recess or P.E. can be a trigger for behaviors. The younger students are having a hard time self-regulating their emotions and teaching them how to lose gracefully can be a challenge. Social media is a big part of behaviors in school.

Referrals-95

ISS, SIS-18

OSS-2

Detentions-52

### Windsor

Down 62 referrals from last year at this time. There has been consistency in expectations in different environments. Student having boundaries and consistent expectations and consequences in teaching has helped with the decrease in the numbers this year.

Referrals-33

ISS, SIS-13

OSS-5

Detentions-10

Mike asked if the same consequence leading to an OSS is same at all elementary buildings. Ms.Perino replied that not same action will get the same consequence as every student is different not because the school is handling it differently. The student in that situation might make that consequence different.

Mr. Valentine commented on the referrals in his building. Teachers are dealing with Level 1 referrals in the classroom as part of their classroom management plan. The referrals that the office is getting are the more egregious behaviors.

Mike asked what format would be easier for teachers to present this data.

-Ms. Kosinski commented that behaviors data seems to be highlighted when presenting this data and feel that she has to defend herself on this. Then asked can we give positive data.

-Mr. Morlan commented giving this data is fine but breaking it down by grade level doesn't seem as meaningful and trying to justify why the numbers are what they are.

-Mike responded the reason for this data is for transparency purposes.

-Mr. Smith inquired that the presentation not to be so inclusive and send the data ahead time will be sufficient. Sterling agreed. Terrell mentioned that moving forward the board get the data ahead of time. The presentation will be the highlights.

-Aaron commented that the purpose of this is to be helpful, maybe a policy needs to be changed or a matrix need to be updated.

-Mike commented that this wasn't to make the Principals feel like they have to defend themselves.

- Evelyn commented to the Principals how great of a job that they are doing.

-Megan commented that if she made the Principals feel like they had to defend themselves, she apologies, and they are all fantastic.

10.E. Adjourned 7:05 PM.

Minutes taken by Pam Cook