

## Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

UnitedHealth Group Building

4316 Rice Lake Road

Suite 108

Duluth, MN 55811

5:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Action Items - Consent Agenda

1) Presentation Items Requiring Approval

a. 2022-2023 Family and Student Handbook Update 2

Assistant Superintendent, Anthony Bonds

2) Resolutions - None

3) Other Action Items - None

B. Informational Items

1) Presentations

a. Science Adoption Changes 3

Director of Elementary Education, Brenda Spartz

2) Head Start Deficiency 5

Early Childhood/Head Start Coordinator, Sherry Williams

3) Secondary Schedule Task Force 9

Director of Secondary Education, Jen Larva

C. Other - None

4. **ADJOURN**

## Changes to the Family and Student Handbook

- Change the welcome letter for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent (pg. 3-4)
- Remove and change School Board member Sally Trnka to say Amber Sadowski (pg. 5)
- Remove Katie Danielson's picture and name and change it to TBD and a blank picture (pg. 6)
- Remove Myers-Wilkins principal picture and name Amy Worden and put in TBD and a blank picture (pg. 7)
- Remove and change Community Education & Services name Jay Roesler and picture and put TBD and a blank picture (pg. 9)
- Change the Hazing definition on page 55 **which was adopted on February 15, 2022** :
  - Hazing” means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. "Student organization” means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition. Refer to Policy 526 Hazing Prohibition.
- On page 66 change the Hazing Prohibition link to state 526 - Hazing Prohibition and the link to the updated **policy**.
- On page 78, remove the 5083 Hazing Prohibition policy and add the updated 526 Hazing Prohibition policy.

**Original Proposal**

*Presented on April 6, 2021 to Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting*

*Presented on April 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm, - Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting - Regular School Board Meeting*

*(The original proposal is below)*

**Curriculum Update for Committee of the Whole Science Adoption for Elementary and Secondary School**

**Science Adoption for Elementary and Secondary School**

The K-12 Science Committee has completed the curriculum review process for Elementary and Secondary Science. As a result of this extensive review process, which included curriculum writing, reviewing/aligning benchmarks, and evaluating materials from several vendors, it was determined that the best components required for Science curriculum delivery as well as content literacy will be as follows:

**Elementary Science Proposal:**

Purchase Elevate Science by Saavas. After reviewing three different vendors, it was determined that Elevate Science would provide the best match to the curricular needs of the district. The program includes digital resources, leveled readers, and kit materials.

Total Cost of K-5 Science Proposal: \$395,986

**Secondary Science Proposal:**

• **Textbooks Adoption**

- High School: TBD (see note below)
- 6-8th Grade: Science Dimensions-Houghton Mifflin Harcourt publisher
  - Of the publishers reviewed, Science Dimensions had the most authentic and most phenomena based learning woven into their curriculum.
  - Science Dimensions assessments were at higher Depth of Knowledge and included Performance Based Assessments for most benchmarks.
  - Two of the final publishers' learning management systems reviewed, including HMH, work within Canvas

Total Cost of 6-8 Science Proposal: \$195,220

Total for Science K-8 Curriculum Adoption: \$591,206

*Note regarding the status of the 9-12 materials review: The curriculum review process for grades 9-12 will start the fall of 2021. The review process includes professional development, standard alignment, and review of curriculum material. A final decision of curriculum purchase will be brought to the board spring of 2023.*

**June 2022 Updates:**

The Science adoption team was asked to review the current elementary proposal and vendors and research other options. After a year long pilot it was decided by the team to adopt the following:

**Elementary Science Proposal:**

Purchase Elevate Science by Saavas. After reviewing three different vendors, it was determined that Elevate Science would provide the best match to the curricular needs of the district. The program includes digital resources, leveled readers, and kit materials.

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This will be a staggered implementation, beginning in the school year 22-23 with third grade. Not included in the anticipated cost is the curriculum writing.

Total Cost of K-5 Science Proposal: \$460,840.28

The current quote does not include Spanish Immersion, additional anticipated cost to be purchased in 2022-2023 - \$65,000.

Total Anticipated Cost of K-5 Science Proposal: \$525,840.28 an increase of \$129,854.28.

Total Actual Cost of 6-8 Science: \$273,819.97 increase of \$78,599.97

Total Anticipated Cost of K-8 Science Adoption: \$799,660.25 increase of \$208,454.25

Anticipated Cost of 9-12: to be determined as the curriculum review process has just begun.

# Duluth Head Start has been found to have a DEFICIENCY.

A deficiency is defined as:

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As defined in the Head Start Act, the term "deficiency" means:

**(A) a systemic or substantial material failure of an agency in an area of performance that the Secretary determines involves:**

**(i) a threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff;**

(ii) a denial to parents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program operations;

(iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management;

(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;

(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or

(vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified;ents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program operations;

(iii) a failure to comply with standards related to early childhood development and health services, family and community partnerships, or program design and management;

(iv) the misuse of funds received under this subchapter;

(v) loss of legal status (as determined by the Secretary) or financial viability, loss of permits, debarment from receiving Federal grants or contracts, or the improper use of Federal funds; or

(vi) failure to meet any other Federal or State requirement that the agency has shown an unwillingness or inability to correct, after notice from the Secretary, within the period specified;

**(B) systemic or material failure of the governing body of an agency to fully exercise its legal and fiduciary responsibilities; or**

**(C) an unresolved area of noncompliance.**

## Head Start Performance Standards we are in violation of are:

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1302.90 Personnel policies. (c) Standards of conduct. (1) A program must ensure all staff, consultants, contractors, and volunteers abide by the program's standards of conduct that: (ii) Ensure staff, consultants, contractors, and volunteers do not maltreat or endanger the health or safety of children, including, at a minimum, that staff must not: (G) Physically abuse a child.

We did not ensure all staff did not maltreat or endanger the health and safety of children, including, at a minimum, staff must not physically abuse a child.

On April 26, 2022, a teacher at the Piedmont Elementary Head Start Center caused a 4-year-old child to fall and hit his head on the stairs.

An Early Childhood Specialist and a Grantee Specialist have been assigned to our program, who will help determine a root cause analysis and assist us in developing a corrective action plan.

We will need to correct this deficiency by September 30, 2022.

I have shared the full report, issued by the Office of Head Start, with you as well.



## Secondary Schedule Task Force Update

Under the project leadership of Jen Larva, Director of Secondary Teaching Learning and Equity and Anna Cawcutt, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, the Secondary Scheduling Task Force has reconvened to evaluate and make recommendations to the school board for changes to the secondary schedules. These changes will be necessary to ensure implementation of the 2018 MN Arts Standards requirements and schedules that best meet the needs of students in Duluth Public Schools.

### Historical Perspective:

In 2017, a Secondary Scheduling Task force was established to respond to the needs of students in Duluth Public Schools by looking at a variety of scheduling options at the secondary level, while responding to community feedback and how the current schedule impacted district goal improvement.

The [Secondary Schedule Task Force](#) presentation was made to the school board (February 2018) with these recommendations:

- After reviewing 35 schedule options two to five were selected that meet these criteria:
  - Surveyed desires of the community
  - Ensure alignment to Key District Strategies (MTSS, PLCs, Safe and Welcoming Environment)
  - Other considerations were taken into account

No decision was made to move forward with the secondary scheduling changes.

### Present Update:

Due to the changes in the 2018 MN Art Standards Middle School students:

- must be offered/have access to at least three and required to meet benchmarks in at least two Arts areas **every year**
- All benchmarks in an area must be met in a year in order to fulfill this requirement

These changes require the committee to evaluate the current schedule and implement changes.

Differences in 2008 vs 2018 Art Standards:

- Currently, students are required to have arts instruction every year (per compulsory education law); under the 2008 standards, within the 6-8 grade band, they must meet the standards/benchmarks in two of the arts areas at some point.
- Because the 2018 arts standards/benchmarks are grade-level, that leads to the requirement that students meet the standards/benchmarks in two arts areas each year for students K-8. The initial implementation year for the 2018 arts standards is 2023-24.

The Secondary Schedule Task Force, using the guidelines set by the committee in 2016-17, is moving forward to review the recommendations and options for changing the middle school and potentially high school schedules for the implementation in the 23-24 school year.

The goals of the committee are:

- To collaboratively work within the Labor Management process as we revisit the current structure of the secondary schedule and explore future possibilities.
- To implement the 2018 MN Arts Standards and requirements while supporting teachers and maintaining or increasing opportunities for students by the 2023-2024 school year.
- In order to fully implement the changes in the Secondary Schedule it is anticipated that a decision will be made by the committee by August, 2022 with presentation to the Committee of the Whole School board by August 4, 2022.
- Design a communication plan to keep all stakeholders informed of the process.