

Community Unit School District 200

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NOTICE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 200
DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

A Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. This will be a Virtual Board Meeting through Zoom. This webinar can be accessed by joining the following link:

<https://cusd200-org.zoom.us/j/88179248307?pwd=SEVDVhMcGVidEIPajV2Uy9Sd1Nsdz09>

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2021
4. Brief Discussion on 2021-2022 School Plans
5. Review and Feedback of Federal Relief Grant Targeted Expenditures
6. Hopes and Dreams for the 2021-2022 School Year
7. 2020-21 CAC Feedback and Membership Committee
8. What is the buzz?
9. Adjournment



Chris Crabtree
Board of Education, District 200



Superintendent of Schools, District 200

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Citizens Advisory Committee
May 19, 2021 - Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Dr. Schuler who turned over the meeting to Vice-Chair of the committee Debbie Diesing.
- This meeting was conducted through Zoom due to social distancing.
- 20 CAC members were virtually present.
- Others virtually present: Superintendent Dr. Jeff Schuler, Assistant Superintendents Charlie Kyle and Melissa Murphy, Director of Community Engagement and Communications Erica Loiacono, Board of Education Vice-President Rob Hanlon.

Public Comment

- None

Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2021

- Motion to approve the minutes as presented: S. Howington; motion was seconded; All in favor.
- Minutes of April 21, 2021, were approved.

Dr. Schuler welcomed the group, thanked them for their time and participation in the committee this year, and reviewed the agenda items for the evening.

Brief Discussion of 2021-2022 School Plans

- Mrs. Murphy shared a high-level overview of the in-person learning plans for the 21-22 school year, which included the following:
 - Plans to return to the traditional school day for each level
 - Early Childhood - half-days Tuesdays through Fridays
 - Elementary - will include lunch, P.E., Art, Recess, and Music; PACE ELA & Math
 - Middle School - lunch will depend on physical distancing guidelines, lockers, and backpacks will be used
 - High School - late starts will continue for Wednesdays for PLC's, lockers to be used, expanding clubs and activities
 - Transition - includes community-based instruction vocational training
 - Mitigation efforts - guidance will be forthcoming from ISBE (IL State Board of Education)
- Virtual Academy (VA) offering for next year - who chose to offer it the way it is being laid out? The offering will bring it into alignment with existing school code language regarding "home hospital provisions/instruction" for medical issues. ISBE resolution as of this morning sets the context for that. As of today, the District has had 56 students that have indicated that they will likely seek that medical provision based on a medical circumstance for them or family circumstance.
- The District will operate under a normal schedule. Anticipate operations of the school to resume pre-pandemic operational practices.

- Questions regarding masking in the fall - anticipating getting updated guidance on this soon. Schools continue through the end of this school year with current mitigations and masking. Great anticipation on understanding what this will look like for schools in the fall.

Review and Feedback of the Federal Relief Grant Targeted Expenditures

- Dr. Schuler sent three documents to the committee before the meeting. These were shared with the Board at the last meeting, bringing additional clarity around two of the Federal relief grants - ESSER II and ARP Esser III.
- Grants were broken down over multiple fiscal years on the documents. Efforts were projected to support a return to school next year.
 - Priority 1 - schools reopen in the way presented earlier - return to the traditional school day. Carrying potential costs to operate the Virtual Academy (VA) based on numbers. If numbers are as low as communicated earlier, it will not cost as much to operate the VA, therefore will be able to redirect into a different priority within the spreadsheet.
 - Priority 2 - Learning Acceleration Plans (math coaching & support, Instructional Technology support, can carry these supports for three years supported by the federal relief dollars; will have to be absorbed within the District budget after the three years.
 - Priority 3 - SEL Supports - expanding emotional wellness coordinators to MS, expand student activities and clubs across all three levels (this is important as we get kids connected at school),
 - Priority 4 - Technology - paying off some leases as devices were brought on to 1:1 environment;
 - Priority 5 - Curriculum Materials - online subscriptions and phonics curriculum
 - Priority 6 - Facilities - HVAC work to improve ventilation and systems control
- ESSER I - about \$1 million dollars, monies were expended this year
- All of the District summer programming opportunities accounted for in the Esser II grant.
- Dr. Schuler moved into smaller discussion groups to talk about some of the priorities you see within grant allocations. The groups were asked to share aspects of expenditures or opportunities you like or those you have questions about. Interested in general feedback. There has been no formal board approval on the grant expenditures to date. Will continue to adjust as we move through June., especially in the first category.
- Questions:
 - The gap analysis on where we are behind and how is that reflected in this grant information? 2 areas emerged in terms of learner priorities - 1) SEL and connectedness - feedback on the importance of all of the students, getting them reconnected in the school environment - 1700 students that have learned fully virtual this year in VA at the K-8 level; 2) academic space - core content area with the biggest priority- math. Historically, a lot of reading intervention and support. Now supports being brought into math intervention. Range of summer learning opportunities that are going to target specific needs.
 - Emotional wellness furniture is for the Emotional Wellness coordinators - at the HS this year. Outfitted the rooms that are going to support those functions.
 - Confirmation there are two separate grants totaling \$13 Million dollars.

- Do you foresee any problems filling all the new math support roles? Believe we will be able to fill them. Anticipate a number of those positions will be filled by current teachers and then those grade level positions backfilled.
- Each group was asked to assign one person to share with the group. Feedback from groups included the following:
- Group 1: liked an increase in clubs and activities at the Elementary level, continued SEL focus, liked math focus at all levels, summer catch up, flexibility for dollars being retooled if not needed for mitigations.
- Group 2: focus areas seem to be on target and in line with the work being done prior to the pandemic, discussion on future funding and some of the budget items are not one-time expenditures and how the Board will look to continue funding those or not funding those items.
- Group 3: happy about arts resources, and band/orchestra in general - bringing the arts back; supportive of emotional wellness resources, supportive of an increase in school activities; question on whether the materials have been chosen for phonics already? Mrs. Murphy confirmed those were not chosen, will be focused curriculum work with reading coaches, and will make a recommendation to the Board after the pilot program).
- Group 4: trying to understand the math support and trying to reconcile some of these numbers - VA and interventions for all levels - is that enough to give all kids the support that they need? Curriculum materials - What are math purchases at the bottom of the page? Online support - is that something that will be part of the curriculum going forward? Mrs. Murphy noted the line item that talks about summer learning programs - a lot of funding in that space will support students in math at every level. Curriculum materials - both Elementary and MS levels will be engaging in pilots. Those will also have digital components to curricular materials now that we have 1:1 technology.
- It was noted that what is not included in the spreadsheet are existing resources, math resources/interventions (pre-pandemic). Intervention specialists were reassigned during the pandemic to support classroom/VA teachers. Spreadsheets are only the new additional resources - enhancing support.
- Virtual Academy - had zero idea what to expect when we had to project a number for the grant. Looks like it will be substantially less. Currently, there are approximately 1500 students learning through the VA. We will have the ability to reallocate some of those resources to other areas in the spreadsheet.
- Intervention work - staff working directly with students in high-level small group tutoring; coaching resources - will work directly with classroom teachers on the delivery of high leverage instructional strategies in classrooms.
- Instructional resource purchases - cost for a district of our size; one-time purchase and as long as the resource remains a valid instructional tool vs. human resource - the assumption is this is an annual cost carried forward each year.
- MS level - had scheduled to be part of a pilot for new resources pre-pandemic and that was put on pause, were also in the process of looking at Elementary math materials as well (that was also paused), this is also true of phonics. All three were part of a work plan that was brought to the Board last school year.
- Group 5: a lot of support for additional club and activity opportunities at the elementary level, support for emotional wellness coordinators; mental health support for our staff as well for this challenging year; math coach role, and curricular resources.

- Dr. Schuler reminded the group they could provide additional feedback or ask questions beyond this evening.
- Anticipation is that in June - will circle back to this and the use of grant dollars will be built into the tentative budget that is presented in July to the Board.
- Additional comments:
 - Digital intervention and established resources for help - a COVID silver lining.
 - A significant need for intervention at all levels due to gaps, and a lot of support built into bridging gaps for students. Any consideration to thinking about an extended school day program for specific students due to significant learning gaps? Dr. Schuler noted there is a model for that; used title funding in the past to do some extended math tutoring outside of the school day. The idea is they get "core + more" - not pulling them out of their existing instruction. Giving additional intervention on top of the core instruction. Opportunities will get built out as we move into the year in the fall.
 - Will volunteers be allowed back into the building (Based on increased activities in the buildings)? Anticipate volunteers will be back in buildings in the fall. Cannot say exactly how this will look at this point, but see this changing next year.

Hopes and Dreams for the 2021-2022 School Year

- Positive psychology - Sean Akers from Harvard University
- Understanding the mindset of how you see things being critically important and how to frame out opportunities.
- Needs and recognizing challenges we have seen in the pandemic year. Wanted to end the discussion for the year framing through a positive lens - hopes and dreams for the District and the upcoming school year.
- Mr. Akers recommends as part of a daily exercise to take a moment to quietly reflect and think about the blessings and opportunities that are in front of us. The group was asked to take a moment and think about this - reflecting on their own circumstances and what they would like to see. Individuals were asked to write one thing down - narrow and brief of what they hope to see for our school district. Responses included:
 - Instill in each student lifelong goal of learning; establish a pattern of learning
 - Return to normal
 - Get kids back to normalcy, participate in clubs, get in school full-time and spend time with friends, colleagues, and teachers
 - Reconnection, community, and growth
 - A greater sense of appreciation for accomplishments within the district, rather than complaints about perceived shortfalls; comes from all - administration, teachers,, parents; feeds into a positive aura for kids.
 - Continued growth for equitable learning opportunities.
 - See our kids come together in an academic place and connect and learn from each other, with a stronger sense of unity with each other; hoping kids can teach us about resiliency and moving on and moving forward. Think the kids can lead the way.
 - Return to love of teaching for staff - then children will love to learn from those teachers that love to teach.
 - Hear sounds of laughing, full playgrounds, football, and basketball games.
 - Adapt and grow; for students and teachers to thrive in the coming year.

- Concern over division within our country and the community - would like to see a positive, well connected, cooperative community with our kids.
- Teachers - hoping they can recharge and recoup this summer and return with determination to teach.
- Eager, happy, well-adjusted, and hopeful learners
- Return to routine - see interaction come back, programs return, kids smile
- Continue lifelong learning, kids empowered to want to learn; find paths forward
- Realize how important it is to stay connected and support each other as we enter a new phase of change
- School is a second home to many children and staff; return to stability and predictability for next year at school and at home
- Teachers to be reinvigorated; come up with a plan for kids to catch up on learning; no masks
- More consistency; kids return to school and find a sense of belonging and inclusion to the whole school community.
- Productive, noisy, joyful classroom
- Noise, loud hallways, loud lunchrooms
- Rebound; take what we have learned and come back even stronger
- Aspire for kids stay at the center of every conversation we have and that kids stay connected (the importance of SEL)
- Hope for kids to return to that fully connected point; reminded of this year that school is so much more for our kids than core academics - they are essential but reminded of all of the other things we represent for the community and provide for each other. See next year as a tremendous opportunity to put the focus right on kids, and restore all of the opportunities.
- Dr. Schuler wanted to end the conversation of the committee this year by hearing everyone's voice, to bring some closure. Hope we can be reminded of this - the importance of all voices being heard and respected in all conversations, and recognizing we are not going to agree on everything. We can have hard and difficult conversations and can tackle things together.

2020-2021 CAC Feedback and Membership Committee

- Greg Bizariak updated the group on the status of the applications received for the 2021-22 membership. Feedback was received on whether current members were interested in returning next year, and if they were interested in helping sort through applications received from individuals interested in becoming members next year.
- A lot of applications have been received; A subcommittee is being formed to review the applications.
- Dr. Schuler noted: based on original feedback, 23 members have expressed interest in returning next year. Looks like the only current members that will not return are those that have hit the five-year mark. The cap for the committee is 36; should have room for 13 new members. There are 35 applicants for these 13 positions. Dr. Schuler has had conversations with Community Engagement representatives from the Board on how to use those that will not be joining this committee.
- It was also noted on the website are the CAC By-laws, section 7, which talks about how we prioritize the composition of the committee to reflect the composition of the community including geographic representation; those that have kids in school, and those that do not;

this language will assist the subcommittee with the process. We will find other opportunities for those that want to engage with the District.

What is the Buzz?

- Dr. Schuler and the leadership team - think all did a tremendous job with the circumstances this year, and the community should be grateful for what has been done. Have heard from a lot of people outside the District that have not had great experiences. This was seconded by another, adding they hope everyone in our community appreciates this.
- Thank anyone who has served on this committee for 5 years and to all for being on the committee.
- CAC and managing this many people - Enlightening; hats off to Dr. Schuler for putting this together; important for the broad perspective and input - vital as it is another source of information that is used for the District; pleasantly surprised of the effectiveness of a committee this large.

Dr. Schuler hoped this is the last time to see this group on a computer screen; appreciate everybody's flexibility this year and pivoting to the Zoom format. Thank you to everybody again; respect the perspectives of all as we bring plans to the Board. Look forward to kicking back up again in the fall.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: D. Diesing; Motion was seconded; All in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.