

Community Unit School District 200

Administration and School Service Center

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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, September 18, 2024, at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the School Service Center, 130 W. Park Ave, Wheaton, IL. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment (See Board Policy 2:230)
3. Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2024
4. Open Meetings Act Reminders and Training
 - i. <https://foiapac.ilag.gov/>
5. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024-2025 School Year
6. Question of the Month
7. Discussion and Feedback on Middle School Electives
8. Introduction to Discussion on Technology
9. What is the Buzz?
10. Adjourn



Rob Hanlon
Board of Education, District 200



Superintendent of Schools, District 200

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Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Sept 18, 2024 - Meeting at SSC

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supt. Schuler.
- This meeting was conducted in the BOE Room at the SSC.
- 28 CAC members were present for the meeting; 9 members were absent.
- Others present: Supt. Jeff Schuler, Asst. Supt. of Ed Services - Melissa Murphy, Director of Communications & Community Engagement - Alyssa Barry, Director of Middle School Instruction - Scott Chedister, Board Member - John Rutledge.

Public Comment

- Mary Ann Vitone - Referendum

Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2024

- Motion to approve the minutes: C. Dabovich; second: N. Mead; All in favor.
- The minutes of August 21, 2024, were approved.

Open Meetings Act (OMA) Reminders and Training

- CAC follows the OMA since this is a committee authorized by the Charter of the Board; we follow OMA - agenda being posted, public comment, etc. CAC members fall under the parameters of the OMA, so if this is the first time on CAC, there is a short online tutorial/training that needs to be completed on what OMA means.
- Let us know when you complete training; send the certificate or bring to the next meeting.
- [Illinois Attorney General FOIA / OMA](#)

Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024-25 School Year

- Two members of CAC have filed for chair of CAC - Meaghan Jorgensen and Nathan Mead.
- Meaghan could not be here - sent in a statement that Dr. Schuler read; Nathan provided info about himself to the group.
- One member expressed interest in the vice-chair position - Katie Keown.
- All members were given a ballot to complete. Results will be announced later in the meeting.

Question of the Month

- District Newsletter Topics - *In the Spring of last year, District 200 moved to a weekly cadence for District newsletters. Since that time, the open rate has been very strong for an electronic newsletter (72-75%). We have covered topics like safety, SEL, student learning celebrations, strategic plan initiatives, and facilities. Additionally, we use the newsletters to provide highlights from Board of Education meetings. Based on conversations or questions you hear in the community, are there other topics we should consider covering in our District 200 newsletter?*
- Table groups were asked to discuss and note other topics.
- Sheets were collected with ideas. Each group shared one:
 - Highlight District Administrators and what they are working on
 - Recognize special needs population students and their successes, and encourage others to come out and watch their events.

- Provide updates on safety initiatives and how the district invests in kids/buildings through weekly updates of things that have been done from a safety perspective in different building locations.
- Staff spotlights - amazing things teachers and principals are doing.
- Newsletters go to parents in the district, idea of having others in the community opt-in to receive the newsletters. Ms. Barry noted that community members can sign up to receive the newsletter on the website, but we can do things to increase awareness.
- Tech Tip Corner - examples of what is being done in school and how parents can keep kids protected; noted chat GPT and AI information.
- Where are they now? Follow up on people who have graduated from the District.

Discussion and Feedback on Middle School Electives

- Presented by Melissa Murphy and Scott Chedister.
- All academic programs fall under Ms. Murphy, who supervises the four middle schools. She will also review the results of the state report card at a future meeting.
- Had a call today with a statewide organization regarding trends in reading achievement. District 200 was selected based on learning outcomes and achievement in reading.
- Dual credit expansion - D200 has gone from 3 to 16 dual credit course offerings at our high schools; 82% of last year's graduating class took at least one early college course in high school, and there was no change in participation in AP (advanced placement) opportunities.
- Comment - take advantage of dual credit opportunities; it can save a lot of money.
- Presented an update to the board last week on Middle School Electives.
- There is still a lot to do in this area of MS electives; it is a great opportunity to get feedback from CAC and continue to build on the work that has been done.
- Dr. Schuler forwarded a slide deck to CAC members last week; going to highlight a few of the slides and some questions to think about.
- MS instructional day is made up of 8 periods, 45 min each; students have two elective periods.
- Current electives for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students (yearlong and quarter electives); students in 6th and 7th grade choose one of the four options for a yearlong elective and then rotate among the four quarter elective options for their grade level. In 8th grade, students have choices and can choose among the yearlong options and the semester options for electives.
- PLTW - Project Lead The Way; stem-based curriculum.
- Vision 2026 strategic plan and the goal/strategy called out related to Career Pathways
 - Develop an extensive Career Pathways Program, including expanding opportunities, endorsements, a review of graduation requirements, and a review of middle school electives to align with Career Pathways.
- Career Pathways - the intention is to expose students to a variety of different career opportunities and help students know what they want to do and do not want to do.
- College and Career Readiness - the importance of postsecondary education - whatever that is; multiple pathways to a life-sustaining wage; all experiences should include an opportunity for career awareness and work-based learning (internships).
- Instructional vision for middle school electives
 - The goal of MS electives work is to align the courses to HS pathways which will allow career exploration experiences and opportunities for students to explore interests and develop talents.

- Electives should allow students to discover a pathway to create a postsecondary education identity.
- Allowing students to discover interests or talents they may have by taking different electives.
- What D200 is proposing - noted new courses and courses that need updating to curriculum:
 - 6th grade - Introduction to Culinary Arts and Hospitality (new); Foundations, Dram, Digital Literacy (updates to curriculum)
 - 7th grade - Young Consumerism and Financial Literacy, Yearlong Course TBD (new); Speech (update to curriculum)
 - 8th grade - Performance Seminar, Entrepreneurship (updates to curriculum)
- Foundations course - currently about study skills
- Drama, Speech, Performance Seminar - series of courses 6th - 8th grade.
- Entrepreneurship - noted the correlation with the Business Incubator course. Piloting the MS version of the instructional materials used in the Business Incubator class (MX Inc.).
- The connection between these elective courses and the HS level courses > pathways
- Reviewed each of the pathways impacted by the recommended courses
 - Culinary
 - Business
 - Finance
- Timeline for the work:
 - 2022-24 - The Ed Services team conducted a learning and listening tour with staff, established an instructional vision for MS elective courses, the administrative team researched options, and gathered feedback.
 - 2024 + - curriculum development for identified courses, capital projects design for exploratory labs, implementation of new courses and updated curriculum for existing courses, and design and implement PACE framework for grades 6-12.
- Current career work-based experiences at the HS level - noted Broadcast Media, Business INCubator and Intro to Teaching courses.
- Feedback needed from the CAC group - Three discussion questions:
 - 1) Which electives are most popular with middle school students? What makes the experience memorable or special?
 - 2) What skills/topics would you recommend to support middle school students, particularly considering the transition from elementary and preparing for high school?
 - 3) Part of the electives curriculum development will be to increase career awareness. What suggestions do you have to begin exposing students to possible future careers connected to electives courses?
- CAC members were asked to discuss the above questions in their table groups. One person from each group should take notes.
- Asked each group to share a highlight that had a lot of conversation or which of the three questions they spent the most time talking about. There were comments/questions on the following:
 - Spent most time discussing question #2. One of the themes was about the Foundations course - it should be expanded to be more than one year to give students study skills they will need for their entire academic career. Financial Literacy - make it a year-long program so kids fully understand things such as debt (others noted if it is a year-long class, music students cannot participate).

- Discuss with HS teachers - what they feel is missing/gaps in skills. Ms. Murphy noted how much time was spent with the HS department chairs, who sit on curricular committees for the MS. Grateful to be in a unit district (Unit District - grades EC-12 school district where kids travel all the way through). Noted the difference between this and other districts: the continuum of learning experience. District 200 belongs to LUDA (Large Unit District Association) - 53 school districts are part of LUDA; there are almost 900 school districts in the state of IL. The 53 LUDA districts collectively represent about 60% of the student population in the state. For a lot of reasons, unit districts are incredibly more efficient in terms of resource allocation, and generally speaking, the tax rate is lower in unit districts.
- Real-world application of math - debt, taxes, insurance, credit cards - all related to financial literacy.
- Suggestion for some sort of personal finance class. Also noted is that the year-long offerings are very heavy in music; suggestion to offer foreign language earlier (this is on the exploration list). Another idea is to have a Study Skills vs. Foundations elective course, where you can learn note-taking, executive functioning skills, prioritization of projects, critical thinking, etc.
- FLES (Foreign Language Elementary School) program - is only at Pleasant Hill and Johnson. Some background was provided on the program, which started a few years ago. P-Hill and Johnson are the two sites with the largest bilingual population; need to provide Spanish Language Arts, and that is the model used.
- Executive functioning - hoping Foundations will get a revamp and include more of these skills.
- The idea of starting a Foreign language earlier. Also, consider a Sign Language class. The idea of a Career Day for MS students to have exposure to electives.
- Exposure to the trades - could be a yearlong class (electric, automotive, etc). When thinking about career paths for kids, we need to consider what these careers might look like when they graduate from college; think about the future (noted AI and Technology).
- Healthcare - seems like a big gap here. Do we know where our high schoolers go? Noted we are currently building out a nursing pathway at the HS level. Also noted, for the last two years, 8th-grade students have done a career interest survey and are using this information for course design. Noted, all students do take health. There are opportunities to build career awareness activities specifically tied to healthcare in health classes.
 - Music is a yearlong class - opportunities to move before or after school?
- The table groups were asked to look at the "other" box and note if there was something they heard tonight they wanted to add to their papers. If so, please note on the forms.
- Feedback forms were collected. There are a lot of good ideas.

Nathan Mead was elected CAC Chair, and Katie Keown was elected Vice-Chair for 2024-25.

Introduction to Discussion on Technology

- Preview of upcoming topics
- November meeting - largely focused on our District Dashboard.
- October meeting - there was considerable interest in topics related to technology. It fell into two buckets - cell phone use districtwide and device deployment (currently 1:1 device districtwide; Chromebook renewal lease coming up next year; what do we want to do?).

Homework for the group - review the EAB study on "The Impacts of Screen Time on K-12 Students" before the October meeting.

- Noted the EAB research organization and how this organization is used in D200. EAB is used by many departments around what other school districts are doing nationwide regarding specific topics.
- Noted the difference between casual use consumption technology and tech used for projects and homework.
- There is also a podcast on cell phone policies of school districts through the NY Times. Asked the group to send any other resources that might be helpful on the topic to Dr. Schuler.

What is the Buzz? (What are people talking about out in the community)

- A Warrenville mom of three, two of which are students in the district, tragically died; "see something, say something"; keep the family in your thoughts and keep an eye out for other kids - October is Domestic Violence Month. A GoFundMe was started for her three daughters.
- Pleasant Hill Fun Run is this week. The kids are excited. They raised a lot of money through community sponsors. Everyone has a shirt for the event this year.
- Frustration over the fight at Edison last week and the lack of communication about it was particularly noted by sixth-grade parents.
- Hubble's outgoing communication to parents has always been great, while WWS is difficult to read and can improve.
- Security updates outside of schools - cameras, nightlocks. Those in the community who know about it are excited, but not all are aware. We should let people know these features were added over the summer.
- Monroe has added more intramural activities this year. There is a lot of participation, and it is great for kids. Love seeing the interaction with all grades for the activities.
- Hubble - Noted some students are afraid to use the bathroom and fear something will happen in there. How can this be addressed?
- People are asking where to get a yard sign to promote the referendum. Mary Reynolds has contact information.
- Franklin does not allow much technology, but the leadership understands when exceptions need to be made. Noted: A laptop was provided for a new student who does not speak English, so she can use Google Translate, and students can interact with her in the lunchroom.
- The Franklin Cross Country Invitational is next week. This is a large event and fun to watch.

Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn: K. Gillenwater; second: R. Perona; All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.