

Dayton School Board
609 South Second Streets
Board Work Session – 6:00 p.m.
March 2, 2022

I. Call to Order -

Board Chair McCowen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium and via Zoom. Board members present were Jeffrey McCowen, Grant Griffen, Zac Fabian, Aneesha Dieu and Korinda Wallace. Student Representative Madison Richardson was also in attendance.

II. Flag Salute- Board Chair McCowen led the flag salute.

III. Work Session Topic #1 – Superintendent Recommendations

Superintendent Strot presented his recommendations for school planning and reorganization. This is a continuation of the presentations from the February 16, 2022 board meeting. Of the seven recommendations originally presented, five have been identified as essential.

1. Critical look at K-12 math curriculum and classes - Essential
2. Engage and support the MS/HS students in changing Culture - Essential
3. Update the AG/Metal/Wood shops and add a CAD Lab
4. Reorganize the administrative structure - Essential
5. Redo Master Schedule and add elective classes and choices - Essential
6. Establish a partnership with Walla Walla Community College
7. Develop a financial plan for this fiscal year and next fiscal year – Essential

Superintendent Strot along with board members discussed the recommendations and the implementation of each. Testing methods were discussed for the math curriculum. I-ready has been used in the elementary and STAR for the secondary. Superintendent Strot created a 4 year analysis of students choosing out of the district. Dr. Kreyssler would come back and continue the discussion of student culture. The first time she was here she listened to what was wrong. Coming back, Dr. Kreyssler can begin work on what could be solutions on how to change the culture in Dayton School District.

The reorganization of the administrative structure is essential. Essential is to reduce from three administrators to two, move to a K-8 principal and a HS principal/Superintendent, create two Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) positions for a MS/HS Academic Support Teacher and a K-8 Dean of Students. The master schedule needs to be reworked in order to add elective classes and choices for students. Students would be surveyed in the spring to find out what classes they would like to take then create a schedule to support our students. Developing a financial plan for the district will be essential for planning for this year and for the next fiscal year.

IV. Public Comment

John Delp – Questioned the need to refurbish the Ag and wood shops. Mr. Delp stated that the buildings and tools we have now are enough to teach students the basics of

carpentry and welding.

Wintyr McCauley had questions on the partnership with WWCC and what that would look like for students in regards to what grade students began the program and if there would be a change to the time students went to school. Board Chair McCowen explained that students in their senior year could be through their 1st year of college. This could also help take care of some of the classes so that students spent less time once they got to college or into a program such as diesel mechanics.

Dave Phillips had questions on the math curriculum and the testing methods used to get the numbers of where students are at. He felt that iReady was pushed on the secondary teachers and doesn't want to see the same thing happen. He wants to make sure that the math professionals are the ones that are selecting curriculum and testing methods.

Kristine Warren addressed the scheduling issues. She stated that for the past eight years she has polled the students in the spring and has had them scheduled before they come in to register in the fall. Mrs. Warren stated we have several different classes of foreign language that students take through an online program.

Clay Hutchens spoke about culture in the school and that the high school principal and the superintendent don't have a good relationship which has caused the problems of school culture.

Pearl Dennis questioned the recommendations of the superintendent and the process for the recommendations. Ms. Dennis is also concerned about the administrative restructuring process. She would like to see more input from the community regarding the changes being made.

Paul Bryan talked about the changes he has seen in the ten years he has been in the district. While some change have been effective he questions whether moving teachers into administrative positions is good for the district.

Trista Villaro asked about adding the electives to the schedule without adding additional teachers. Teachers are already teaching multiple subjects and clubs and the addition of more classes could be a burden on the teachers.

Rachel Hutchens spoke about the hi-cap program and that her son has been able to take upper level math classes which has been the only way her son has been accommodated through the hi-cap program.

Jeremy Trump stated that he was doing online school with his children which is something that he never thought he would have to do. He had always figured that his girls would be Bulldogs as he and his wife and his dad were. He has questions about changing the culture of the middle and high school and how it will work with the two administrators being proposed. He also talked about losing staff but wanted to know how we would be able to add electives with less staff.

Katie Leid stated that she was chair of the school board for about a year. She felt that the hiring of Mr. Strot was not a good choice. She asked the board members to call her if they have questions.

Leigh Cranmer choiced her students out of the District for the 2021-2022 school year. She is disappointed in the recommendations and doesn't see where the superintendent worked with the staff on the recommendations. She also questioned the use of consultants when the district is under financial constraints. She would also like to see staff consulted for their knowledge to design curriculum and programs. Ms. Cranmer would like ask the school board not to take any action on the recommendations until the staff can be consulted on the changes.

Vicki Zoller doesn't believe that the superintendent should take himself to a halftime job when things are not getting better while he is the superintendent full time. She would like to see more input from the staff and parents on the plan.

Aria Woodend expressed some concerns about having Dr. Kreyssler come back when

none of the concerns that were brought up during the meetings with students have been addressed. She felt that the toxic administration has caused staff to leave over the past few years.

Jeanne Walter talked about the loss of students in the district due to the loss of electives. She feels that Apex has been a great way to be able to offer students additional classes. She would like to see the district diversify so that we can keep students in district.

Board chair McCowen stated that he just wants what is best for kids. Sometimes not everyone has all of the information. He would like everyone to come together to do what is best for all students. He appreciates everyone that has contributed to this meeting and hopes everyone will put aside their differences to do what is best for our students.

V. Executive Session – The board went into executive session at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee. The session is expected to last for 20 minutes. At 7:50 p.m. the board extended the session for another 15 minutes. At 8:06 p.m. the meeting was called to order in open session.

VI. Action Items

- Board member Wallace moved to table the recommendations of the superintendent for further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Board member Fabian moved to approve Resolution 2021-02 Administrative Restructure for the 2022-2023 school year. Board member Dieu stated that this is just a piece of the whole situation and is just a step. She asks that the board is given respect and grace as they move forward. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting will be the regular board meeting on March 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy Strot, Secretary to the Board of Directors

BOARD MEMBERS:

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