

The Board of Directors of the Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on Monday, March 14, 2016, in the Board Room of the District Office at 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Board members present: Rich Wesen, David Lowell, Troy Wright, Bill Wallace, and Roger Howard. Staff members present were Laurel Browning, Superintendent; Dr. Jeff Drayer; Assistant Superintendent; KC Knudson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning; Jeff Brown, Special Education Director; Dr. Bryan Jones, Director of Equity & Assessment, and Joe Stewart, Director of Finance & Technology.

Call to Order

President Wesen called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Opportunity K Presentation

Director of Special Education, Jeff Brown, updated the Board on the Opportunity K program that has now been running for seven weeks with 15 students. This program was geared toward students who were not currently in any childhood program and the family met the financial criteria. This program was developed to support children and get them ready for kindergarten. So far they have seen vast improvements. The students are thriving and getting along with their peers. They also thought they did a good job identifying the students that should be in the program and they anticipate that more than 15 students will apply next year. Advertising for the program was through the schools, ECAP, the Burlington Library and at fall conferences. Word about our successful program has spread and a director in a neighboring district called to inquire more about it. Jeff Brown would like to invite the Board to tour Opportunity K.

Middle School Programming Goals

Superintendent Browning stated that the goal for the Middle School Programming Committee was to look at opportunities that were in the best interest of our students to provide a strong transition to high school. Some of the core programming plans would align students to what they must know to be successful in high school: meeting Common Core State Standards, encouraging AP and IB Advanced Programs, Computer Science as Math or Science Credit, Next Generation Science Standards, and many additional electives. The goal is not only to have a relevant and engaging academic experience but to provide a safe and healthy school environment.

Middle School Programming Committee Presentation

Bay View teacher, Taylor Swedberg, presented the Middle School Programming Committee findings. During the 2014-16 school years, 21 community members, teachers, administrators, students and parents reviewed middle grade level programming to develop plans to continue supporting students into the future. They investigated opportunities for middle grades that best support the learning experience for all student's interests and needs and asked themselves 'what can we do to add value'?

They evaluated current research and organized their collaboration into these middle level configuration options: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Leadership and Organization; and Culture and Community. After many meetings, the final recommendation from two out of three committee groups to the Board would be for a 7/8 Middle School for Burlington-Edison. The third group supported the practices identified under the 6-8 model; no matter what structure was decided on. The committee also recognized the importance of equity and poverty at all schools and asked to Board to be considerate in planning and funding the transition.

Many committee members spoke to the Board about the emotional difficulty in coming up with this conclusion and they were surprised to see what opportunities could be presented to the students with a 7/8 school model. They also asked the Board to consider a 7/8 model to help the district provide the best programming, collaboration, opportunities and equity for all students.

The members also listed the potential barriers in such a transition from: facilities, staffing budget, safety, community perception, passing a bond, and how to maintain the close feeling of family and community that we have in the K-8 model.

Thoughtexchange

Superintendent Browning presented a possible avenue to continue on with the Middle School Programming through a company called, Thoughtexchange. They would develop surveys to give the community a voice. It would be a process of collecting data for the next couple of years and would give the Board and District a sense of what the community would support.

Board Comments

Board member, Roger Howard, thanked the committee for their time and effort and all the hours they put into the Middle School Programming Committee. He stated that it was an emotional decision that would need more time and research. We can't lose sight on the tradition of our K-8 model.

Mr. Wallace thanked the Committee for their hard work. He liked the idea of using an outside agency to collect information and to communicate with the district. He felt that information needed to get to the parents and that this was very critical.

Mr. Wesen also thanked the Committee for their work on this.

Adjourned

At approximately 5:36 p.m. there being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Board President

Board Secretary