



Board Meeting.

January 8, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on Monday, January 08, 2018, in the Board Room of the District Office at 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance

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

Call to Order

President Wesen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Special Education Update

Special Education Director, Jeff Brown, updated the board on special education. He commented on the reasons why he got into the field of special education. He mentioned that he worked in a school where students with disabilities and traumatic histories were seen as incapable of higher thinking. A punitive model was used to mandate compliance and academic engagement. He decided that this was not acceptable and he focused his career on finding the best practice for children with developmental needs. He stated that this experience has continually influenced him to understand each child's individual disability.

He reviewed the eligibility process for the Special Education Program from the referral, through the evaluation to the Individualized Education Plan. He described his department and staff of teachers that were trained for specialty departments like Life Skills, Pre-School, or Transitions. He also listed the number of learning environments at the District. He stated that his department is federally funded, with additional funding through Safety Net. However, there is continued advocacy to adjust the funding model to recognize the full cost of special education. Mr. Brown stated that the B-ESD's deeper learning concepts addressed the needs of many of our students. His goal for every student by the end of their B-ESD experience, is that they would be able to: successfully access opportunities to learn, develop areas of individual interest, secure employment, and utilize the resources necessary to be active members of their community; preserve when their disability makes learning, employment, and community involvement challenging; practice self-advocacy skills to access services and help others understand their unique needs and strengths.

Road Map Update

The B-ESD Road Map is broken down into four targeted strategies. P-3 Education, Diverse and exceptional Learner: Language Learner Emphasis, Career and College Readiness, Student, Family and Community Engagement. Special Education Director, Jeff Brown, updated the Board on the P-3 segment. He stated that a child's early years lay a foundation for life. Researchers have learned that the human develops 80% of its neurons between birth to three years of age. He continued with the current efforts that the District would focus on in P-3 education:

- Work with our community to increase access to high quality, early childhood experiences for all students (Opportunity K, exploring growth of pre-k programs, new partnerships)

- A continued focus on the implementation of our Quality Kindergarten Guidelines and Kindergarten learning environments
- Prioritize low class-size for Kindergarten - 1st Grade
- Increase district use of WA-KIDs data to inform instruction and identify areas of focus for professional learning
- Ensure concept based, inquiry units incorporate developmentally appropriate practices

Director of Equity & Assessment, Dr. Bryan Jones presented the Diverse and Exceptional Learners segment. Dr. Drayer updated the board with the 2017 TBIP State Assessment Data. B-ESD was below state performance levels. He stated that the District was focusing their current efforts on supporting Diverse and Exceptional Learners were:

- Newcomer support through equitable access to core content and staff, celebrating cultural and linguistic backgrounds and providing staff with opportunities to learn.
- Building system wide understanding of how language acquisition happens and how to support it.
- Creating a system for every language learner to be bilingual and biliterate by graduation.
- Empower parents as partners in the education process.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Drayer, presented the Career and College Readiness segment. He stated that the District continues to focus on this area because high school graduation is the core of the District's work. Students need to have a plan for continued education beyond a high school diploma and that the high school 5-year adjusted (2016) graduation rates are at 88% for B-EHS and 25% for B-E North. He listed the current efforts of focus in this area:

- Promoting college-ready transcripts
- Research Burlington-Edison North High School students receiving a state diploma
- Grow and develop post-secondary programs that promote a college-going culture

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, K.C. Knudson, presented the Student, Family and Community Engagement component of the Road Map. He stated that student engagement improves discipline and attendance outcomes, which leads to an increase in academic achievement. When a family is engaged in a district this promotes accelerated social, emotional, physical, and academic growth in students. Community engagement is another area of focus that leads to improved learning experiences for students through partnerships and continued financial support. He stated that the District's current efforts in this area include:

- Developing student-centered learning opportunities through collaboration and professional learning
- Enhancing reciprocal communication and partnerships with a focus on our diverse families
- Increasing community partnerships and local field experience opportunities aligned to the educational program

Recess into Executive Session

At approximately 5:35 p.m., President Wesen announced the Board would recess into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's evaluation and review. He stated that the public was excluded due to the sensitive nature of these matters, that he anticipated the Executive Session would be no more than 60 minutes long, and that the Board not take any formal action upon return to public session.

Reconvened/Adjourned

At approximately 6:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session, no action was taken, and there being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.