

**League of Women Voters  
Community High School District 99 Observers Report**

**Board meeting attended:** Regular Board Meeting

**Date and Location of meeting:** 26 Feb 2018  
Administrative Service Center, 6301 Springside Avenue

**Meeting started:** 7:32 pm

**Board Members Absent/Tardy:** None

**League Observer:** Linda Derrig

**Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff):** approximately 10 persons in the audience at the start of the meeting including students and staff

**Meetings are taped and posted at:**

<http://www.csd99.org/boe/meeting-highlightsvideos.cfm>

**Agenda can be found at:**

<http://www.csd99.org/boe/Meeting-Agendas.cfm>

**1/2) CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL**

**3) Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Closed Meeting- January, 2018
- B. Business Meeting- January 29, 2018

**Unanimously approved**

**4) Reception of Visitors: None**

**5) Recommendations and Reports of the Superintendent:**

- A. 2018-2019 Staffing and Curriculum Overview  
First of three times when information on staffing and curriculum will be presented to the board by staff. More details will be presented at the board workshop meeting on Monday, March 5 and the regular board meeting Monday, March 19.

Among the course changes following study registration, board members were informed:

- Culinary Arts course- the district has more requests than they are currently able to field given existing facilities
- Freshman and Sophomore seminar course (semester course added last year) has gone really well and there will be an extra section offered at South next year

- North will add an AP Art History section- first time it has been taught there in several years
- South will be adding a section of the recently-approved Rock Band course
- Name change for a PE course offering to Gymnastics, Tumbling and Fitness did not secure enough interest to keep it from being cut for next year. Meanwhile, PE courses Self-Defense and Physical Training are up from last year.
- In Social Studies- the new junior year Civics requirements has meant an increase in classes that fulfill this requirement and a decrease in courses which do not.
- World Languages- enrollment is very stable at both schools.
- Overall, 10 courses are recommended for cut, based on low enrollment (last year 15 courses were cut)
- Overall, 17 courses with enrollment less than 20 (existing lower limit) are recommended for approval
- Calculus 3 will NOT be offered within Downers high schools this next year. North Central, which has taught the course for the district at DGN, has decided not to continue given enrollment. Interested students will be able to take Calc 3 at Lemont High School. The board encouraged staff to look at other options for students in future years including possible video-conferencing. Staff explained that following changes in common core at the junior high level, there are no longer students on a trajectory to take Calc 3 (second year collegiate course) at the high school.
- Course and enrollment considerations will result in an increase in instructional staffing from last year of .8 FTE. Changes will bring student teach ratios at each campus in line with one another and per, Superintendent Hank Thiele, will hit the “sweet spot” of that ratio based on literature and peer districts.
- For Special Education, Counseling and Student Support Services (CSSS) and Safety staffing the overall district FTE recommendation will increase from 75.3 to 81.1 for the 2018-2019 school year.

Board members asked staff to also investigate the possibility of adding an additional safety/resource person which is done in partnership with the local police at each campus.

**B. Board Representation on the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee**

Board Members Davenport and Nicholas volunteered to serve on the committee

**C. Textbook Recommendations**

Six textbooks were recommended to be put on display for review and comment.

**D. Parent Teacher Conferences 2018-2019 - Amended Calendar**

Based on input from teachers and parents, staff recommends moving parent/teacher conferences from an all-day event on a Thursday to after school/evening Thursday and Friday morning. The change to the calendar is swapping the day off/no attendance day from October 17 to October 19.

**E. Physical Education Exemption**

A new Illinois law now allows Illinois high schools to exempt ninth and tenth grade students from PE. The matter had been sent to the board’s policy committee for discussion and the policy committee had returned the issue to the board for further clarification and direction. After much discussion, the board unanimously agreed NOT to exempt freshman and sophomore varsity athletes from PE, citing the importance of the freshman and sophomore PE curriculum.

In addition, the board reviewed the administration plan to require varsity athletes to sign up for PE and complete PE in-season when not engaged in their sport.

Junior and Senior athletes whose athletic season or combination of seasons exceeds 12 weeks will be waived out of the PE requirement. All other students will be enrolled in a PE class. While their sport is in-season, these students will be enrolled in a study hall. When their season ends, the students will be returned to their PE class. In addition, these students will have the option of taking their PE as a pass/fail class in which the course does not count toward their GPA. Students will receive a 100% for the time they are in-season and not participating in PE. Students who are opting to take PE for a grade will need to take the final. Students opting for the pass/fail option will not be obligated to take the final.

**F. Master Facility Plan Community Engagement Update**

The superintendent reported they are not seeing crowds at the community nights which the district has hosted. However, he noted, the administration/staff has been taking the message to the community, e.g. the Rotary, local PTAs, etc.

The District will host a live Facebook event on Wednesday, March 14.

**G. Safety Committee Update**

The superintendent reviewed efforts to communicate safety practices of the district to parents and students following the recent high school shooting in Florida.

The board again asked the administration to investigate the possibility of increasing the # of Student Resource Officers in the buildings.

**H. Bond Funds**

Following some questions from the community on whether the board is handling its reserves properly, Mark Staehlin, district controller, presented information to the board on how these funds are handled.

Staehlin explained that the county adds a small amount of taxes to the levy request in order to cover delinquencies and property tax appeals. The district can close its reserve and use that money to abate taxes.

While the district does currently have money in its reserve, Staehlin indicated there are legitimate reasons not to close off the reserve. He noted there is one large outstanding property tax appeal within the district and dating back more than 5 years. In addition, he said, using the funds to abate off a potential new issue, "maximizes the benefit for your taxpayers" as it reduces the amount of money that taxpayers will pay interest on for decades. "Abating off a new issue is the smartest thing to do." However, he said, if the proposed referendum does not pass, the district would abate.

Meanwhile, it was noted, in its audits the district actually gets 'dinged' for keeping such a low reserve.

Board Member Michael Davenport said he "took personal offense" to some of the comments being made about the district's handling of its reserves and congratulated Staehlin on the work he does as financial steward for the district.

I. Freedom of Information Requests

**6) Consent Agenda:**

- A. Personnel Report - Appointment-Certified; Transfer of Position-Classified; Appointment-Classified
- B. Personnel Report - Retirement-Administration; Retirement-Certified; Resignation-Classified
- C. Personnel Report- Termination-Classified
- D. Financial Pages
- E. Approval of the 2018-2019 Amended Calendar
- F. Approval of Student Tour

The consent agenda was unanimously approved

**7) Recommendations for Action:**

- A. Approval of 2018 Summer School Recommendations
- B. Approval of Student Fees for 2018-2019
- C. Approval for Recommended Textbooks to go on Display

All items were unanimously approved

**8) Old Business: none**

**9) New Business**

- A. Policy Committee Report- First Reading  
Most changes were identified as minor in nature: e.g. grammar fixes and language tweaks.  
The textbook policy is being updated to reflect the use of electronic media.  
The board will vote on the policies at its board meeting in March

**10) Reception of Visitors- Public Comment:**

There were no public comments

**11) Communications and Announcements:**

- a) **Report on Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND)-** Don Renner: Executive Director is moving to a contract position. Succession plan is in development. Hank Thiele: legislatively, bills are in committee in Springfield—many dealing with school safety, school finance/taxes, and dual credit.
- b) **Report on School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED)-** Nancy Kupka: SASED is seeing an increase in enrollment and is discussing means for servicing.
- c) **Report on District 99 Education Foundation- Terry Pavesich:** The Foundation is seeking volunteers. April 1 is the deadline for teachers to submit requests for foundation grants.
- d) **Report on Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)-** Michael Davenport

