

League of Women Voters of Downers Grove-Woodridge-Lisle

Observer Report

Community High School District 99

June 16, 2014

Business meeting

Media: Trib Local

Meeting convened at 8:17 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Staff presented an audit of the co-teaching effort. Co-taught classes are regular classes that include special needs students and are taught by both a regular education and a special education teacher. Co-teaching occurs in both reading and math and has grown steadily. Both the number of co-taught sections and the number of students being taught have increased. Comparison of pre-2007 average scores with post-2008 scores reflects significant increases in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding PSAE standards. This is true for both students with disabilities and those without. Performance reading scores show that the gap between special education and regular students is shrinking district wide. Reaction to the co-teaching program was positive from both students and teachers.

Staff next reported on progress toward implementation of the Common Core with regard to speaking and listening. It has been implemented in ninth and tenth grades, and work has begun on eleventh and twelfth grades. Students are assessed at both the beginning and the end of the school year. Staff emphasized that the stress of the entire program is on critical thinking. Students give positive feedback regarding the new approach. In its effort to implement the Common Core, District 99 continues to develop and strengthen collaboration with its feeder schools. The District is leading the way on this issue for other school districts. Staff regularly receives questions, calls, etc. about District 99's program.

Supt. McDonald gave the Board an update regarding an appraisal, or teacher evaluation, form. Development of such an appraisal is in accord

with District strategic goals. The Appraisal Committee met monthly during 2013-14 to work on this form. The department chair rubric formulated by the Committee received generally positive feedback, with only a few improvements still needed.

The following items were withdrawn from the Superintendent's Agenda: IMRF Administrative Salaries and Energy Conservation Report.

Bids were awarded for copy paper and maintenance supplies. The Support Staff Contract, which was approved last month by the union members, was approved by the Board.

The Supt. Announced that District 99 will participate in the Downers Grove Fourth of July parade. He also urged that the District should attend the Downers Grove Economic Development Committee luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

For more detailed information see District 99 website: www.csd99.org

Observer: Peggy Healy

Date submitted: July 10, 2014