



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Workshop #1
Meeting Location:	Media Center (Rm 306), McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	Monday, March 25, 2019
Meeting Time:	6:00 P.M.

- A. A workshop of the Dover School Board was called to order by Chair Amanda Russell on Monday, March 25 at 6:00 P.M. in Room 306 of the McConnell Center.
- B. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Amanda Russell, Keith Holt, Kathy Morrison, Andrew Wallace, Carolyn Mebert, Zachary Koehler and Matthew Lahr.

Also present were Superintendent Harbron, Business Administrator Libby Simmons, Paula Glynn, Kiley Hemphill, Brittany Granfield, Deb Nary, Jackie Tromba, Emily Sherman, and District administrators.

- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Morrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. **CITIZEN'S FORUM (limited to agenda items only):**

Gretchen Lothrop 16 Grandview Drive – In support of updating curriculum, with ongoing professional development.

E. **CURRICULUM PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Glynn spoke of the key trends that are guiding curriculum; digital learning, interest driven learning, skill driven learning, new subjects matters, and interdisciplinary learning. She stated the goal of the evening was to inform the Board of work that has been completed thus far in updating the District's curriculum and competencies. She also stated that time capacity, growth mindset of staff and the budget are roadblocks the team faces to complete the project.

Mr. Koehler inquired as to what communications will be communicated to parents to inform, or teach them, of the new grading system, to which Ms. Glynn responded parent evenings will be held, and papers sent home with explanations of the new proces. She also stated that they will be working closely with DHS Dean, Tom Waldron to ensure proper communication is being met.

Ms. Glynn stated that the Curriculum Planning Council has moved from a screening committee to a voting board with appropriate templates. Any new curriculum content must be approved through the committee, using the new Approval Criteria Form.

Ms. Nary, Literacy Coordinator at HSS and Ms. Tromba, K-4 Literacy Facilitator at WPS, discussed literacy at the elementary level. They have met with K-4 teachers, district wide, to hear from teachers, what curriculum worked, did not work, or needed adjustments made, from their perspective. Teachers spoke highly of



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workshop methods, as well as giving student's a voice and choice in reading and writing materials.

Ms. Hemphill, K-4 Math/Science Coordinator, spoke of the 8 levels of competencies, I Can Statements, and objectives of the elementary math/science competencies. Ms. Hemphill described a new single point rubric that teachers have welcomed, which describes what the student should be able to do. Teachers then write a narrative about specifics. The students use the same document to create a self-reflection, which then goes home to educate parents on their child's progress.

Mr. Holt commended that these go home but recommends that the District provide information to parents prior to, as to why graded papers look different, and how to understand the new grading system. He also questioned what the expectation was across elementary schools, and if lessons are being rolled out at the same time? Will someone be lost if they change schools? Ms. Hemphill responded there is an approximate timeline, with parameters, for that reason. Mr. Holt also inquired what additional supports are available for students that still need help in meeting the skill sets? Ms. Hemphill responded that they are still working out ways to help those struggling students.

Ms. Granfield, Instructional Coach at DMS spoke of documents pertaining to the new science framework. She has worked closely with Ms. Hemphill to make sure there is a consistency in content area throughout the schools and grade levels. They are working at keeping curriculum continuous throughout grades K-8.

Ms. Hemphill spoke of K-8 science. She stated that the lessons for each grade level have been narrowed down, as to not repeat lessons/projects in different grade levels.

Ms. Granfield discussed social studies at the middle school. In March of 2017, the District adopted the C3 Framework (college career and civic readiness). This engages students in a deeper way of learning and thinking. Teachers are using this to help students to be prepared citizens. She also stated that inquiry is a large part of the framework, but technology hinders the ability to meet the inquiry needs.

Mr. Holt inquired what the technology needs are, to which Ms. Granfield responded that in order to make research authentic, they need a proper audience, using online resources to connect to other outside resources such as blogs and video pen pals.

Ms. Sherman, Dean of Instruction at DHS discussed curriculum at the high school level; specifically, competencies and assessments. She stated they are beginning to see more choice coming in relating to student voice and choice. They are



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working on how to roll out competencies and continuing to work on performance assessments. Ms. Sherman spoke of various performance assessments students have been involved in. She will provide a list of those performances to the Board.

Mr. Holt commented that he is in favor of eliminating midterms and final exams and would like to see the high school move forward with performance-based assessments. Ms. Russell suggested adjusting the school day schedule to fit in assessments.

Mr. Wallace inquired about what the professional development time is for high school teachers, to which Ms. Sherman responded they are spaced throughout the year, and teachers have 90 minutes of prep time where they can collaborate if there is a common time.

Ms. Glynn commended the work of the curriculum team and the efforts they have put into the progress made thus far.

Mr. Holt offered his assistance on creating graphics for The Portrait of a Graduate document, to which Ms. Glynn responded with her appreciation, and will reach out to the Art Department as well. He reiterated that more professional development must be offered. Ms. Russell stated that the District must cycle back through the process as well due to staff changes over time.

Mr. Holt questioned if the District subscribes to the National Clearing House to look at data for DHS students who move on to college. Mr. Driscoll responded that the CTC receives that and will be accessible for all Dover High School students.

Mr. Wallace would like parents to know what is happening in the schools, as discussed throughout the evening, he also highlights the need to find the additional time for teachers to learn new ways to teach and develop projects.

Dr. Mebert agrees more time is needed, but asks for suggestions on where this time will be coming from? Ms. Glynn responded that extra curriculum hours on Saturday's and over the summer have been offered to teachers. Mr. Wallace suggested staff time and department meetings.

Dr. Harbron thanked Ms. Glynn and the team for their presentation.

- F. SCHOOL BOARD MATTERS OF INTEREST:** Ms. Russell would like to inform everyone of upcoming meetings. The overall budget will be presented to the city in on March 27th, the school and other departments will be presented on April 3rd, the



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school public hearing will be held on April 10th, May 1st is the projected budget adoption date, with May 8th being the backup date. These meetings provide many opportunities for members of the public to present their case in front of council. Ms. Russell reminded people that spring sports are beginning, which brings on many fundraisers, she asks that you support as you are able.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Mebert moved, Mr. Koehler seconded to adjourn the workshop at 8:07 p.m. An oral **VOTE PASSED 7/0.**