

Minutes of Public Hearing - School Improvement Waiver Of April 9, 2018

The Board of Education Harlem Consolidated School District # 122

A Public Hearing of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Monday, April 9, 2018, beginning at 5:40 PM in the Harlem Administration Center, 8605 North Second Street, Machesney Park, IL 61115.

1. Call to Order by George Russell at 5:40 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Board Members and Other Attendees
George Russell, Melissa Wenger, Larry Barger, Evelyn Meeks
Absent: Heather Kelley, Patti Lawrence, Sue Berogan

Other Attendees:

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary
Dr. Julie Morris, Superintendent
Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Scott Rollinson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Pubic: 2 people

3. Comments from the Community
Mr. Brad Sweet, Harlem Federation of Teachers' President addressed the Board regarding the School Improvement Waiver noting his concerns with School Improvement Waivers. He noted that these days were discussed in PERA Committee as being needed with the SLO process in order for teachers and administration to have time to prepare. There needs to be a special circumstance to have a SIP such as SLO implementation. It needs to have a sound economic backing such as PERA implementation and he does not see the evidence today and is concerned about this. This just seems like a routine application every five years.

No other comments noted

4. Discussion, Comments, Questions as to Waiver Application to Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to allow District to include up to four School Improvement Days in school calendar for the purpose of staff development beginning with 2019-2020 school year through 2023-2024.

Dr. Erb noted the rationale for these days including professional development time being increased and the District implementing student and District goals, including system wide collaboration across the District for staff. In the past years schools have used these days to work on the Standards and Assessments. This time will continue to be used for mindset, feedback, criteria for mastery and learning targets which will help teachers as they work on SLO's and their goals. An evaluation process occurs after each day and for feedback on professional development. The feedback is relatively positive and valuable as a whole at 89% at the end of January and 10% minimally valuable and 1% not at all. Plans have been changed after reading some of the feedback. Specialists indicate that they appreciate the time to work together as a group. A space is created for better collaboration and the use of alignment of the high school campuses will be also a focus on SIP days.

Dr. Morris noted in response to Mr. Sweet's comment, also serving on the PERA Committee, it was planned that the first year we would specifically use the time for the SLO process and use the time to work on that which we did. Staff feedback is utilized as to whether we are on the right path or we need to add things or revisit things during the SIP days. We need to have a focus for the school improvement planning because you can't have random things going on but we do adjust from time to time for staff to work through things and staff in general feel these days are important.

This year we had I Ready training and a focus on technology and integrated writing and how things are scored on assessments. We are scoring low on phonics up through second grade so those teachers are working on this. Another group is working on Words their Way and some focused on curriculum writing and technology training.

Melissa asked the reasoning behind requiring a waiver for the SIP days and Dr. Erb noted that because the State states that we have 2 days but with the waiver we apply for four days. Half days are hard to do for families and daycare. Teachers have said they prefer a full day over a half day and the ability to use those four days is banked time and students are not receiving less than the State requires.

Scott asks if the State accepts the waiver can we switch the days during the five-year period of time. Dr. Erb noted that we could do that.

George asked if any questions, comments or statements by the Board three consecutive times.

None are noted

Board member Patti Lawrence joined the public hearing in process at 5:56 p.m.

George asked if there are any questions, comments or statements by members of the community three consecutive times?


None are noted

Presenter: Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

5. Mr. Russell announced that the Public Hearing is closed at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Arduino,
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



President



Secretary

Dated: 4-23-18