

Administration Response to Citizens' Advisory Council Recommendations - 2014/2015 School Year

#	Committee	Recommendation	Administration Response	Date to BOE
1	Curriculum	<p>Follow through with the Eureka Math implementation plan presented by Kevin Wiland and his team. This plan was shared by EVERY elementary school in the spring of 2015. This plan has the advantages of using consistent resources, with some slight tweaking available so it can be individualized for a specific school. Key points of the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The PowerPoint presentation for parents. b. The program will be shared by EVERY elementary school in the spring of 2015. c. Program dates should be gathered and shared in a central location on the District website, so if a family cannot attend one specific date, they can select another date that is convenient for them. d. The early implementers at each site should be available so that parents can ask questions of the "resident expert" in that location. e. The presentation should be translated to the languages that may be needed throughout the District. f. The PowerPoint presentation should have a home on the U-46 District website. g. The District website should have a link to the parent resource section of the Eureka Math information page. This link should be on the front page of the website, at least for this next school year, 2015-2016. 	<p>We concur. Eureka Math night presentations were held in the spring of 2015 at all elementary school. We will work to fully implement Eureka Math in elementary schools in a manner consistent with the Committee's recommendations.</p>	<p>May 18, 2015</p>
2	Curriculum	<p>The Eureka Math implementation plan was developed through exemplary cooperation from the U-46 District team and members of the CAC Curriculum Committee. The District should leverage the Curriculum Committee for their insight into the parent component of any curriculum adoption. The</p>	<p>We concur and will be using an early implementer model as we rollout a new science curriculum and Eureka Math in middle schools.</p>	<p>May 18, 2015</p>

Administration Response to Citizens' Advisory Council Recommendations - 2014/2015 School Year

		Committee believes the early implementer model can be even more effective with improved parent communication.		
3	Curriculum	<p>Students should be made aware of the many offerings available to them as they begin middle school in the District. U-46 currently does not have guidance counselors on staff in the middle schools. This could be offset by:</p> <p>a. Provide training and professional development to 6th grade teachers about the middle school class offerings. These 6th grade teachers are in a unique position to offer guidance to their students.</p> <p><i>i. They are familiar with the students' progress through their elementary years of school.</i></p> <p><i>ii. They have a small caseload of 25-32 students whereas the typical counselor caseload at the high school level is 300+ students.</i></p> <p>b. The online Course Guide, which currently outlines course offerings in grades 9-12, should be expanded to include course offerings for grades 7-12.</p> <p><i>i. In addition to course offerings, requirements for graduation, recommendations/requirements for academy admission, and other necessary information should be outlined in this document.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Course offerings should be shown in a flow-chart type pattern, to help a student and parent understand the course sequence that commonly occurs.</i></p> <p>c. The middle school registration and course selection process should be standardized across the District. Parent and student informational sessions should occur well before course selection, so that decision makers have ample opportunity to discuss the offerings. This will aid in a seamless transition to middle school.</p> <p>d. In the event that families are</p>	Administration will work to determine an appropriate method of ensuring middle school students are made aware of offerings available to them. In doing that work, we will consider the sub-recommendations provided by the committee.	May 18, 2015

Administration Response to Citizens' Advisory Council Recommendations - 2014/2015 School Year

		<p>unable to attend a middle school informational session, assemblies should be held for all students during the school day, to learn about course offerings.</p> <p><i>i. Parents and families should be invited to attend.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Information should be sent home, with a requirement for a parent signature, to verify that the information was received.</i></p> <p><i>iii. Information for parents should be translated as necessary.</i></p>		
4	Special Education	<p>Special Education University: The purpose of Special Education University is to provide meaningful support for parents on a broad special education topic specific to School District U-46. Past topics of Special Education University include: Understanding Your Child's IEP, Parents on the IEP – Strategies for Success, and U-46 Transition Programs. The Committee would like to continue this series in the next school year with relevant and meaningful presentations based upon parent feedback in collaboration with the Special Education Department. Our tentative outline for next year is a program focusing on specialized services that might comprise all or part of a student's Individualized Education Plan. Examples would be occupational or physical therapies, speech therapy, social work, hearing itinerant services, etc. The tentative date for this program would be November 4, 2015 at Elgin High School.</p>	<p>Administration will continue to support the Committee in the development of future Special Education University sessions.</p>	May 18, 2015
5	Special Education	<p>6th Annual Special Needs Parent Resource Fair: Following the continued success of this year's Fair, we enthusiastically support carrying out this event next year. However, the Committee is unfortunately aware of an increasing number of long time non-profit exhibitors that are facing significant funding cuts from the State of Illinois, which could</p>	<p>Administration will continue to support the Committee for the 6th Annual Special Needs Parent Resource Fair.</p>	May 18, 2015

Administration Response to Citizens' Advisory Council Recommendations - 2014/2015 School Year

		<p>significantly impact the number of agencies available to exhibit next year. As the budget issues with the State continue to evolve, the Committee would like to reserve the option to be flexible with the composition of the Fair. Two of those options would be increasing the number of for-profit exhibitors to replace those non-profits that are no longer providing active services for the SPED population, and/or putting more of a focus on relevant presentations at the Fair by outside resources. To that end, the Committee will continue to concentrate on identifying new exhibitors, and will investigate potential resources for high-quality presentations early in the next school year. The tentative date for the next Resource Fair would be on March 5, 2016 at South Elgin High School.</p>		
6	Family & Community Engagement	<p>The Committee recommends that an informative tab is created within the U-46 website for those who are new to U-46. The tab will include how to find your attendance school, a map with school feeder patterns, District "Facts at a Glance", a link to transportation routes, and more high-level information. The target audience for this tab is realtors and prospective families.</p>	<p>We concur. While all the information requested is currently accessible from the website, we will work to create a "one stop shop" for realtor information.</p>	June 15, 2015
7	Family & Community Engagement	<p>The Committee recommends that we repeat the realtor breakfasts at least once a year, just prior to the busy, spring house buying season.</p>	<p>We concur and will support the Committee in this work.</p>	June 15, 2015
8	Family & Community Engagement	<p>The Committee recommends that we host future realtor breakfasts at new locations in the District that are close to realty offices. We will be partnering with a realtor to identify future locations and validate presentation materials for the realtor breakfasts.</p>	<p>We concur and will support the Committee in this work.</p>	June 15, 2015
9	Family & Community Engagement	<p>The Committee recommends that School District U-46 provides focused support to the FACE parent group network endeavor</p>	<p>Administration will work with CAC FACE Committee to determine the appropriate course of action regarding this recommendation.</p>	June 15, 2015

Administration Response to Citizens' Advisory Council Recommendations - 2014/2015 School Year

		and provide additional resources as needed for parent groups throughout the District. The FACE Committee would like to expand its network endeavor to include the middle school and high school parent groups (PTO/PTA and Boosters).	We need to ensure PTOs remain independent organizations while complying with Section 8 of the Board policy.	
10	Family & Community Engagement	The Committee recommends that Student-led Conference research be shared with all Transformation school principals in the Fall of 2015 and potentially all elementary schools in the District, with the goal of having SLC adopted by all elementary schools in the Fall of 2016.	Administration will share information on Student-led Conference research with elementary schools. While we concur that increasing schools utilizing SLC would be good, the decision to move towards that format needs to be a collaborative decision between the teachers, parents, and administrator at a school site.	June 15, 2015
11	Family & Community Engagement	The Committee recommends that Dr. Angela Ernst, Luis Fernando deLeon and Lori Brandes be involved in sharing the key qualities of SLC, as well as their own success stories, with all elementary school principals in the District.	See response to #10.	June 15, 2015
12	Family & Community Engagement	The Committee recommends that teachers from Huff, Laurel Hill and Washington help lead professional development for schools adopting a SLC model and that each school is provided with a "tool kit" of resources.	Administration can provide opportunities for schools to learn about SLC, but we cannot compel teachers at a site to lead professional development.	June 15, 2015
13	Family & Community Engagement	The Committee recommends that the District adopts a list of non-negotiables, to fine tune and create a model for SLC that best fits their unique communities.	Administration will need additional time to determine if non-negotiables for implementation of SLC is needed.	June 15, 2015
14	Family & Community Engagement	The Committee recommends that Board members observe a Student-lead Conference in order to witness for themselves the benefits described herein.	This is a recommendation for the Board of Education. Administration will support the Board in attending any student-led conferences.	June 15, 2015
15	Family & Community Engagement	The Committee recommends that the direction of the building staff and families of the school communities are involved in increasing the curb appeal and family friendly feel of the common areas of school facilities.	Administration will endeavor to involve building staff and families of the school community in any projects aimed at increasing curb appeal and family friendly feel of school facilities.	June 15, 2015
16	Finance	We would like to work with the	In response to CAC Finance	June 15,

Administration Response to Citizens' Advisory Council Recommendations - 2014/2015 School Year

		administration and the Board to define a more formal role for the Finance Committee. One possible solution is to more closely align the CAC Finance Committee with the Finance Committee of the Board. This would allow the Board Committee to leverage the CAC Finance Committee as a source of detailed and informed community input.	<p>recommendations #16-19, Administration will defer to the Board of Education regarding the role of CAC Finance.</p> <p>Administration supports recent Board discussions regarding the alignment of Board committees and CAC committees.</p> <p>Information regarding formalizing a connection between Board committees and CAC committees is expected within the 2015-2016 school term.</p>	2015
17	Finance	Even if the Board CAC committee alignment is not possible, we would like to discuss a more formal role for the Committee with the Board and the administration prior to the start of the 2015-16 school year and determine if a mutually agreeable role can be determined.		June 15, 2015
18	Finance	If a mutually agreeable role for the CAC Finance Committee cannot be created, it is the Committee's recommendation that the dissolution of the CAC Finance Committee be considered at that point.		June 15, 2015
19	Finance	In the event the Committee is dissolved, it is our recommendation the Financial Operations department makes periodic presentations to the CAC General Session about the financial health and status of the District.		June 15, 2015

*Note that while the Enrollment and Facilities Committee and the Legislative Committee provided reports to the Board, those reports contained no recommendations for administration to consider.