

**DISTRICTWIDE PARENT' ORGANIZATION  
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

[http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSA/parents/District\\_Parents\\_Organization](http://www.edline.net/pages/ICCSA/parents/District_Parents_Organization)

**Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2017**

Attendees Included: Jamie Wapole, Ellen Sweet, Denise Zumbach, Jen Rushton, Anna Flaming, Shawn Eyestone, Brad Kelly, Laura Faga, Marla Swesey, Jacki Marquardt, Marisa Keeney, Jessie Benist, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Paul Roseler, Bonnie Liberman, Tara Sterba, MK Pilcher-Hayak, Ben Brozene, Julie Eisle, Jen Krause, Laura Broffitt, Matt Degner, Tea Ho, Steve Murley, Susan Brennan, Sarah Hachtmann, Vanessa McDonald, Jen Johnson, Desiree Espinoza, Traci Oleson, Valerie Hoffman, Eric Johnson, Denise Seabold, Jenni Mettemeyer, Mary Murphy, Julie Ewert-Hayes, Diane Schumacher

Representing: ICHSAP, Wickham, NCJH, Alexander, ICCSD Board of Directors, Longfellow, Kirkwood, Transitions/CAPSTO, Liberty HS, Penn, Coralville Central, Weber, Hills, Hoover, Shimek, City HS, Horn, ESC, Lincoln, SEJH, Van Allen, Borlaug, Garner, Twain,

- I. **Gathering time (an opportunity to socialize) (11:30).** Attendees started gathering and socializing at 11:30 at Penn Elementary in North Liberty.
  
- II. **Call to Order (11:45)**
  - A. Principal Kristy Hefner welcomed DPO attendees to Penn Elementary. Penn has 640 kids, including [or perhaps an addition to?] 40 preschoolers. She loves the facilities master plan, and wants one or two more schools for North Liberty. She says that children under 5 years almost outnumber adults. She thanked everyone for coming.
  
  - B. **Introductions.** Co-President Brad Kelly asked how many new people were present? New people were present from schools including Kirkwood & Webber [note, these were new people from these schools, those same schools have had attendees previously].
  
- III. **Announcements (11:55)**
  - A. Co-President Tara Sterba had no announcements.
  
  - B. Brad Kelly said it is never too late to think about joining the DPO [so please contact him or anyone on the board if you are interested in serving on it!]. The next meeting is on January 10th at Kirkwood. The evening meeting last month was well attended and had new faces present. The DPO Executive Board is considering holding another evening meeting, perhaps in March.

- C. Eric Johnson, Mark Twain Elementary, reported that his school's PTO posts a video summary of its meeting on YouTube [see December meeting as an example at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMjf6bPo2aA&feature=youtu.be>] on the PTO's facebook page and sends out a link to parents using one of the parent's YouTube account although the PTO may get its own account. If questions, contact Eric..

*[For those who are interested, Eric provided the following summary after the DPO meeting:*

*Why we do this: to provide an easily accessible (brief) video about what we did in our PTO meeting at the end of the night. Viewers can take advantage of Youtube's free closed captions and translation features so that families in homes where English is not the first language can easily follow the most important developments from the meetings. Our student and family advocate, Claire Czierwonka suggested this to us, and confirms that families in the district do use the caption + translation features.*

*How this works on our end: After the meeting is over, the President makes a quick list of what we want to cover in the video minutes. We keep this to bigger topics and/or upcoming announcements. Then another member sticks their smart phone on a tripod and films the President reading the summary. This usually takes a couple of takes and it helps if you have someone filming who knows how to compile shorter clips into one video so you can stop and start. We then upload this to youtube, and then share the link via our FB page and email. **You don't have to do anything on this end for the translated captions.***

*Getting translated captions on the user end: (1) Hover the cursor over the video while it plays, or pause the video so the controls along the bottom show up. (2) Click the little gear icon for "Settings" towards the bottom right. (3) One of the options on Settings is "subtitles/CC". Its defaulted to off. Click that once and you get the option to turn it on for English. **The auto translate feature is on the same menu, but you have to turn the captions on in English first.** (4) After you add the captions in English, go back to the same gear icon, and click the same "Subtitles/CC"*

*button, and now the auto-translate is active. Click that, and a drop-down menu will pop up which lets you choose from a wide variety of languages.]*

- D. Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Co-President Elect and NWJH parent, announced that Northwest Junior High had more students this year than last, was having extreme behavior issues, that she and other parents had confirmed with school personnel that behavior issues were worse than in previous years, and asked for advice. She said parents did not want to take resources away from other schools; however, NWJH is in need of additional resources to deal with the extreme behavioral issues. They are also considering how they can better support the NWJH teachers.
- E. Tea Ho, Past Co-President, reminded DPO attendees that the DPO was looking for honorees for next year [spring 2018]. Individual school PTOs contribute money for each of their school honorees to a scholarship fund, and the DPO has a reception every year where individual scholarships are awarded to students who are interested in teaching.

**IV. DPO Officer Reports (12:05)**

- A. **President.** No new report
- B. **Secretary & approve minutes.** The co-secretaries asked for a show of hands to approve the October and November DPO meeting minutes, and the minutes were approved.
- C. **Treasurer.** No new report.
- D. **President Elect.** No new report.
- E. **Past President.** No new report.

**V. Iowa City Community School District Reports (12:20)**

- A. **Foundation Representative,** Susan Brennan reported the following:
  - 1. that Run for the Schools had 1,607 runners and received a \$27,397 check to be disbursed to schools based on participation, which included runners and volunteers.
  - 2. Hills Bank made a presentation at last night's board meeting to award \$11,000 plus for Cash for Classrooms, which helps fund Maker Spaces, etc.
  - 3. 1,133 kindergartners participated in Kindertales in a partnership with the Children's Museum.
  - 4. 514 6th Graders have already done School of the Wild.
  - 5. Dine Out for Education has also taken place.

6. The “Susie” mailing is sent district wide to ask for help [raise money]. All size donations are welcome.

**B. School Board Representative,** Sean Eyestone reported the following:

1. At last night’s board meeting, the board received a special education update, a clean audit, and a grounds care report.
2. There have been several listening posts at schools including Northwest Junior High (NWJH) in Coralville. With regard to NWJH, the board is looking for short term and long term solutions. They are trying to work on staffing.
3. The board is starting to look at boundary decisions for the north end and wants boundaries for the north end set by the end of March.
4. The board was presented with a “full acceleration plan” and voted to accelerate the following:
  - a) Tate
  - b) Alexander
  - c) North Central
  - d) South East
  - e) City High Design so people can see what Hoover will be used for and what the benefits will be.
5. In March, the board will get a student analysis report including where students might be.
6. There has been nothing moved back in regard to the facilities master plan.
7. He knows the DPO promoted a day on the Hill.
8. The UEN will partner with the IASB for the Day on the Hill, which is scheduled for January 30.
9. Next week, the education committee will meet and discuss SAHD [Students against Hate and Discrimination], who want to effect real change.
10. The CASL program is on the agenda. [Cross-Curricular Approach to Student-Driven Learning - see <https://www.iowacityschools.org/Page/16320> and [https://www.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/AU8K7X508CCB/\\$file/CASL%20-%20Parent%20Presentation%202017-18.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/AU8K7X508CCB/$file/CASL%20-%20Parent%20Presentation%202017-18.pdf)]

**C. Administration Representative,** Superintendent Steve Murley reported the following:

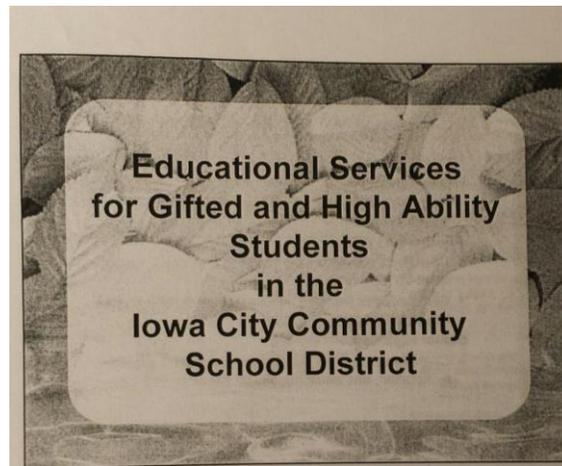
1. The day on the hill will be structured differently this year.
2. In response to a question, Margaret Buckton, lobbyist, is open to us [ICCSA/DPO parents] coming separately.

3. That he [Murley] would like to organize a separate day for day on the hill and shoot for the end of January/February.
4. There may be a compressed legislative session.
5. Following Mary Kate Pilcher Hayek’s question about whether ICCSD representatives could meet with other legislators besides our own who already agree with us, that he [Murley] will try to add others.
6. That ICCSD hasn’t had a snow day in two years. That ICCSD tries to call off school or announce a school delay by 10 p.m. the night before with notice to the media and that ICCSD will try to cancel by 6 a.m. in the morning.
7. If there is a late start due to weather on an early out day [e.g. Thursday], school will end later at the regular out time.
8. In response to a question from Miriam Timmer-Hackert about whether DPO members were encouraged to come to the local meetings with legislators, Mr. Murley announced that local legislators would meet at ICCSD’s central office the Friday following this DPO meeting at 4 p.m. Meeting ends at 5 p.m. All Johnson County schools and legislators that serve them are welcome and Mr. Murley encouraged everyone at the DPO meeting to attend.
9. Mary Murphy asked if curriculum review materials, including the ELP review meeting minutes, survey results, etc. could be restored to the District’s website as curriculum review materials were previously found on the school website and she had asked this question previously about the ELP review, been told that previously at a DPO meeting that the ELP curriculum review was on hold for a year due to lack of funds [now review is underway/complete?], and that a new website would be forthcoming, which is now up. Assistant Superintendent Matt Degner replied that the District website needs to be accessible, that due to this, there is not as much information provided as before, and that they [ICCSD] can look at putting review material on the website.

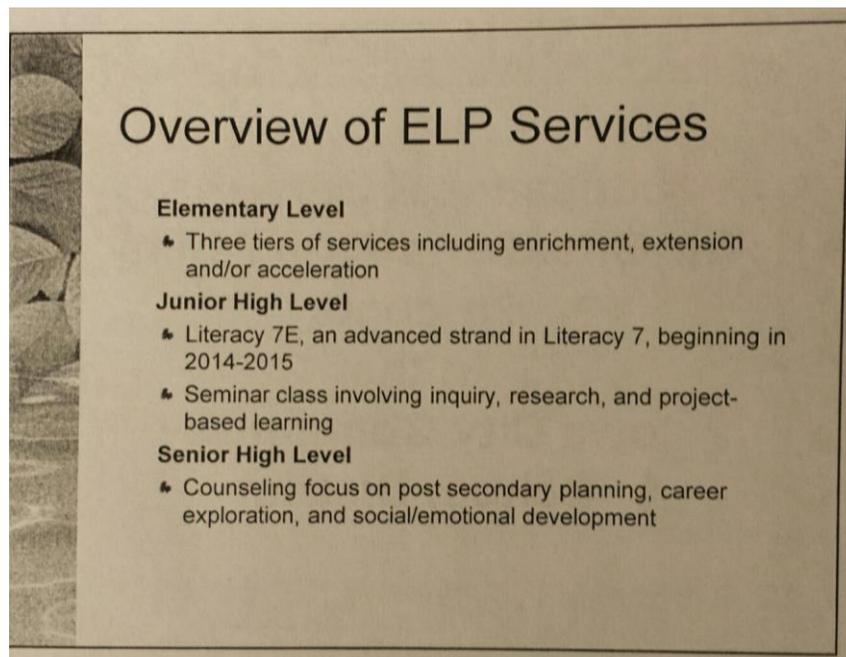
VI. **Presentation: (12:30)** The topic “**Advanced Learning/ELP**” was presented by Julie Ewert-Hayes, ELP Coordinator and Diane Schumacher, Direction of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- A. Ms. Ewert-Hayes stated that the definition for gifted and talented students is found in the [Iowa] Code [See <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2017/257.44.pdf> and <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/search/document?fq=id:513818&pdid=703567&q=gifted%20and%20talented#281.59.5> and <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/advanced-learning-opportunities/gifted-talented>].

- B. Gifted and talented students need differentiated instruction, they want them to be challenged, and research shows gifted kids work better if working with other kids like them. At the secondary level [high school], ICCSD provides guidance services.



- B. At the elementary level, there are three tiers of services that include *enrichment, extension, and/or acceleration*. At the junior high, ICCSD has *Literacy 7E* in seventh grade and *Seminar* in 8th grade for eligible students.



- C. Starting last year, ICCSD screens all second graders. They look at the top 10% in the building and the top 10% ethnic-wise. ICCSD widened its net. Previously, it had never screened all kids so this is new.
- D. Tea Ho asked if there is still a teacher pathway [meaning teachers can make recommendations]. The answer was yes.
- E. Mary Murphy asked what about screening kids who are good in reading or math but do not reach 99% on their Iowa Assessments Core or Composite. The answer was they are working on this.
- F. Another parent asked why the change was made from 97% to 99% . The answer was “not sure.” The parent said 97% was standard across the nation.
- G. Ms. Ewert-Hayes said in the second trimester, [eligible] students can go into Literacy 7E.
- H. In high school, ELP [Extended Learning Program] is not a program. There is additional guidance provided if student eligible.
- I. Another parent [different one than above] asked with regard to second graders, is ICCSD looking at the cost--that is, will there be an analysis to see if screening all second graders is cost effective to make sure that ICCSD is not taking money away from services that could otherwise be provided? The answer was that ICCSD is working on this and there will be an analysis.
- J. Yet another parent pointed out that there was a disconnect between the screening and the services provided to kids.
- K. Mary Murphy asked if the district’s philosophy was geared more toward differentiation or separate courses for ELP students? The answer was both. Ms. Murphy stated she asked because Literacy 7E and English 9H (honors), all kids are in a classroom together for an entire trimester and then when students go into 7E and 9H, the 7E and 9H students are still in the same classroom with all students. The answer was that the reason for not assigning kids to 7E or 9H the first trimester was to try to get the kids used to a new building.

## Screening Process

<p><b>Elementary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All second graders are screened with the <i>Cognitive Abilities Test Screener</i> in the spring – top 10% take the full test, top 10% of subgroups also take the full test</li> <li>* Grades 3-6 Screening process begins in February, testing done in April, parents notified of results in early June</li> <li>* Teacher and parent nominations accepted</li> <li>* Students also enter screening pool based on Iowa Assessments Core or Complete Composite scores at 99th percentile</li> <li>* Candidates also take the Cognitive Abilities Test</li> </ul>	<p><b>Junior High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Screening process begins after Iowa Assessments results are available</li> <li>* Eligible students need Iowa Assessments Core or Complete Composite Reading scores at 98 of 99 NPR, and a 550 aReading score</li> <li>* Updates in progress</li> </ul> <p><b>Senior High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Eligible students need Iowa Assessments Core or Complete Composite score of 99 NPR &amp; minimum 3.95 cumulative GPA</li> <li>* Updates in progress</li> </ul>
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- L. Enrichment focuses on kids. Where a building doesn't reach 5% [of its population], ICCSD looks down to the next level of high ability kids.
- M. Tea Ho asked what the difference was between Enrichment and Extended Services? The answer by Ms. Ewert-Hayes was that Enrichment is tied to strengths with many areas such as math and English and that Extended focuses on the strengths. Diane Schumacher added that Enrichment is a trimester, Extended is all year, and that Enrichment is in addition to Extended.
- N. A parent asked how is Enrichment funded for the five elementary schools where kids don't meet the definition of gifted? Does it come out of the ELP [extended learning program] or gifted funds? The answer by Ms. Ewert-Hayes is that Enrichment is delivered by the ELP teachers.

## Elementary Program Services

Enrichment	Extended	Accelerated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Offered in schools where at least 3% of the students are not receiving Tier Two services. Tier One-Enrichment services currently offered at Hills, Kirkwood, Lucas, Twain, and Wood</li> <li>* Students identified through the use of nationally standardized tests, district assessments, teacher and parent information, and student work</li> <li>* Enrichment offered in grades K-2 in language arts, math and/or spatial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Offered in all elementary schools</li> <li>* Students identified through the use of nationally standardized tests, district assessments, teacher and parent information, and student work</li> <li>* Students work on challenging units of study outside of regular classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Acceleration Guidelines are on district website <a href="http://www.iowacityschools.org">http://www.iowacityschools.org</a> Departments/Curriculum/Curriculum Areas/ELP/Acceleration</li> <li>* Students may be whole grade or subject accelerated, primarily in math</li> <li>* ELP staff work with building administrators and teachers as well as district personnel to evaluate students' achievement data</li> </ul>

## Junior High Program Components

- \* Literacy 7E is an advanced strand in Literacy 7
  - \* began in 2014-2015
  - \* *provides challenges for students with exceptionally strong literacy skills*
- \* Seminar is an elective class for academically eligible 8th grade students
  - \* full year, meets on alternate days
  - \* class offered at all three junior high schools
  - \* designed for the exchange of ideas in research and discussion form
- \* *Advanced math classes and dual enrollment in science in 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

## Accelerated Math Sequence

(supervised by Math Department)

Super-Accelerated Math Sequence:

- \* Pre-Algebra 6 offered to qualifying sixth graders
- \* students identified by math department
- \* eligible to take Algebra as 7th graders and Geometry Honors as 8th graders

Accelerated Math Sequence:

- \* Pre-Algebra for eligible 7th grades
- \* take Algebra as 8th graders

Students follow advanced math progression throughout high school.

## Extended Learning Program Overview

- \* Serves ICCSD students in grades K-12
- \* Staffed by instructors with Iowa teaching certification and gifted education endorsement
- \* Revised on a regular basis based on ELP Curriculum Review Improvement Plan
- \* Governed by Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 12, General Accreditation Standards 12.5(12) *Provisions for gifted and talented students*. "Each school district shall incorporate gifted and talented programming into its comprehensive school improvement plan as required by Iowa Code section 257.43."

Julie Ewert-Hays, Gifted Education Coordinator, Iowa City Community School District  
Ewert-hays.Julie@iowacityschools.org

### Equity Statement

It is the policy of the Iowa City Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, disability, or socio-economic status in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Equity Director Ross Wilburn at 1725 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245 319-688-1000, wilburn.ross@iccsd.k12.ia.us.

O. Ms. Ewert-Hayes stated that the senior high components include counselors constantly meeting and working with kids.

P. Diane Schumacher stated a child does not have to qualify for ELP to access high school counseling and gave an example of City High counselor Linda Hoel helping a non-ELP student get a fashion design internship and another student get into a specialty school for composing music in California. ICCSD also has honors classes, 24 AP classes offered in reading, math, art, etc. ICCSD also has secondary enrollment options that ICCSD pays for. ELP can start as a freshman.

- Q. A parent asked about online courses, and Ms. Schumacher replied that ICCSD has just opened up online courses with the caveat that the student must first take a face to face college course and be successful.
- R. A parent asked if there was any talk about students getting a weighted grade for honors courses to help them get scholarships. Ms. Schumacher answered that some of the courses have different grading scales. Mr. Murley added that university officials said they unpair grades.
- S. Mr. Murley said that ICCSD is now offering Chinese in high school. Ms. Schumacher added that ICCSD also works with the Kirkwood Regional Center and Project Lead the Way [PLTW].
- T. There is a parent-service provided to any student.
- U. Ms. Schumacher said there is a 3.5 GPA [grade point average] to get into the University of Iowa as a high school student. Students need to meet with their guidance counselor.
- V. Ms. Schumacher said there is an accelerated math sequence, a double acceleration, and a super acceleration where qualified 6th grade students can take a bus to attend pre-algebra in 6th grade.
- W. A parent [the same parent who asked above about the reason for the change from 97 to 99%] asked about whether the district had validated the math test that the district uses to decide who qualifies for getting into pre-algebra, advancing in math? This parent pointed out that there were more males than females that qualified, suggesting gender bias, and kids who could do well that did not get to advance in math. The answer by Ms. Ewert-Hayes is that district validated the math placement test by asking the math teachers if the kids who got in were successful and Ms. Schumacher said the district was doing their best.
- X. This same parent asked whether the district would consider testing from the Belin Blank Center [see <https://www2.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/about/>] and pointed out that kids have tested at level 13 but do not qualify for acceleration within ICCSD. The answer from Ms. Ewert-Hayes was that ICCSD uses the Iowa Assessments then invites kids to test for double acceleration, and Ms. Schumacher added that for accelerated math, the district uses the Iowa Assessments.
- Y. Ms. Ewert-Hayes said ICCSD is working on doing well and Ms. Schumacher said to use the notecards to say what should be on the district's website.

Z. Eric Johnson, Co-President Elect, asked if the presentation could be shared with the DPO, and the answer was yes.

AA. Parent representative Marissa Keeney asked the district to make it clear to parents that that a student needs to get an A to stay in math super/double acceleration track because not all parents are aware of this.

BB. If attendees have additional questions, please submit them to Jenni Mettemeyer on the index cards or you can email questions to dpoisscsd@gmail.com.

VII. The meeting adjourned exactly at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Jenni Mettemeyer and Mary Murphy, DPO Co-Secretaries

Co-Presidents: Tara Sterba\*Brad Kelly

Co-Presidents Elect: Miriam Timmer-Hackert\*Eric Johnson

Past Co-Presidents: Mary Kate Pilcher-Hayek\*Tea Ho

Co-Secretaries: Jenni Mettemeyer\*Mary Murphy

Treasurer: Cynthia Crossett-Powell

Next Meeting on January 10, 2018 at Kirkwood Elementary, 1401 9th Street, Coralville, IA 52241, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

- State Funding, Speaker: Dr. Arthur Tate
- Approve Minutes from 12-13-17 meeting
- Approve December minutes
- Approve Treasurer's report