

**Douglas County School District
Music/Art Study Group Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2015
4:00 p.m.**

*Minutes Approved
October 22, 2015*

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Rita Borseli, DHS Art Teacher
KC Brennan, DHS Art Teacher
Cynthia Patmont, PHES/JVES Art Teacher
Amy Sando, DHS Art Teachers
Shannon Sedlock, MES/GES Art Teacher
Mary Stoll, CCMES Art Teacher
Kelley Yost, DHS Art Teacher
Sharla Hales, Community Member (by phone)
Robert Schilling, Community Member
Alissa Teachout, Music Teacher
Tammy Owens, PWLMS, Music Teacher
Christi Blahnik, DHS, Music Teacher

District Personnel Present: Brandon Swain, Director of Education Services – Area 4

Call to Order

Mr. Swain called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

The meeting agenda was unanimously adopted with an amendment to add approval of minutes from the Art Study Group meeting of May 21, 2015.

Approval of Minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting

Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Work Session Reports and Discussion

Mr. Swain discussed the phases that each group followed during their meetings, as directed by the School Board. The phases were to establish the current status of each program, develop suggestions that would further improve options or exposure for students without increasing costs to the budget, develop suggestions that would further improve options or exposure for students that do include price tags and prioritize recommendations. The music and art teachers met separately, music teacher's first and art teacher's second. Mr. Swain compiled the suggestions from both group meetings to review. Both groups agreed that having one teacher per site would ultimately be the best solution. They also agreed that the A/B week would not work. The elementary schools would have to shorten class periods and time would be wasted in traveling from school to school.

Mrs. Hales joined the meeting via phone conference and wanted to express that her main concern was to figure out a way for students to learn more about music before they reach the secondary level and that there not be a year gap between classes. She would like this done with as little disruption to the art program as possible.

The teachers agreed that they would prefer to have their own classrooms at each site. If rooms are available at schools right now, the concern is if something is not decided soon for the music and art programs that those rooms will be used for other things. Principals' would have to weigh in on this, as they assign classrooms at their site. If a room is only being used for a semester by the music or art teacher, then that leaves an empty room when that teacher goes to their other site during the next semester which would not be feasible. Having the music and art teachers share a room would not work because each group has different needs.

Nationally, a very strict curriculum is being imposed on what students should accomplish by the 5th grade in music. In this district the students are just starting with the preparatory training in the 5th grade, so they are falling behind and these effects are showing at the middle and high school levels.

Theater arts used to be taught at the middle schools. These courses should be available for students, as there are opportunities such as the Junior Thespian trips, national and state competitions. There has been no discussion in the district of bringing this back to the middle schools and no performance base or stipends are offered to provide these courses.

Mr. Schilling indicated that since the goal for music is to keep continuity throughout the year, would it be worth exploring having an after school music club at the school during the portion of the year that a music class is not being held. The club could switch back and forth between schools. The school could then designate a music room where it would be used during that semester by the music teacher and after school by the music club. The teachers would require a stipend if they were asked to run this after school program. It was suggested that a community member or possibly someone from the Carson Valley Arts Council might be interested in running the program. The Carson Valley Arts Council did offer support to the district at previous meetings. In order to have an after school club, it would have to be sponsored with district approval. Liability would have to be addressed. A summer school program was also suggested for music and art, as this would benefit students in both programs.

Mr. Swain concluded the meeting by stating that he felt there was more work to be done for this committee; therefore, another meeting will be scheduled for the month of October. Mr. Swain would like to focus on specific items for the October meeting. Both groups have some commonalities so the focus would be to bring these ideas together in forming a united front.

Public Comment:

No public comments were offered.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,
Margaret Guzman
Douglas County School District
Education Services; Area 4