

**Douglas County School District
Music/Art Study Group Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2015
3:30 p.m.**

Minutes Approved

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Christi Blahnik, DHS Music Teacher
Rita Borselli, DHS Art Teacher
KC Brennan, DHS Art Teacher
Shannon Brown, Administration
Brian Fitzgerald, Community Member
Sharla Hales, Community Member
Heather Kuehner, PHES/JVES Music Teacher
Tammy Owens, PWLMS Music Teacher
Cynthia Patmont, PHES/JVES Art Teacher
Cindy Schnaare, PWLMS Art Teacher
Shannon Sedlock, MES/GES Art Teacher
Mary Stoll, CCMES/SES Art Teacher
Karissa Kondo, CVMS Music Teacher

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

Call to Order

Mr. Swain called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to adopt a flexible agenda for the meeting; seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald.

Approval of Minutes of the September 14, 2015 Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Hales to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2015 meeting, as presented; seconded by Ms. Blahnik.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Work Session Reports and Discussion

Mr. Swain reviewed what has been established as the committee's mission which was directed by the Board. Music and art teachers have established what their part is for the music and art programs; suggestions were given by both groups of non-cost items, as well as items that do include a price tag. A spreadsheet was created that provides a breakdown of those items. Mr. Swain suggested consolidating the information and putting it in a condensed version so that it could be presented to the Board in a PowerPoint presentation.

At the last meeting, it was discussed how to improve the music program at the elementary level to increase instruction so that students have more frequent exposure in music that can be carried into the middle and high schools. The point of having a year-round opportunity with music is for the students to have literacy in music so that when they reach the middle school they don't start at square one again. The students currently come into the secondary level with very little experience.

Discussion ensued regarding the after school club. It was suggested that if it is decided to move forward with the after school club that there be a background check done on the individual to ensure that they have the knowledge and experience needed to teach music or art and who will teach in-line with the district curriculum. In order for there to be an after school club, there must be a district sponsor and this is usually a teacher that would help guide the program and be present at the meeting. There could be a stipulation put in place stating what this individual should teach and the specific guidelines they would need to follow. An advertisement with qualification requirements would need to be done for applicants to apply. A teacher should be part of the interview committee.

A definition of what the club should be about needs to be put in place first. The age group for the club would have to be determined. Information can be provided to parents to see what level of interest and what grade level is received. It may be determined by the clinician running the club as to what grade level that they are comfortable with. Mr. Swain suggested that the teachers sit down with the administrators and determine what would be most beneficial to the students for the music and art programs at their schools. There would have to be some consideration for the volunteers that are willing to run this program so that there is a balance in place, with keeping in mind what is best for the students; otherwise, there may not be much interest for someone to do the program.

If a stipend could be provided, a music and/or art teacher could run the after school program. This would depend on available funding. Parent groups may be able to donate towards a stipend or even an outside entity, such as the Ed Foundation. A grant may be another source of funding.

A summer school program is another option that the group feels would be beneficial to the students. Mr. Swain suggested a summer music/arts academy, which falls in line with the after school club. This would have to be a non-profit program. Currently, the summer school that is funded by DCSD is specifically for remediation and credit recovery. There are grants that may be able to help support a summer program for the fine and performing arts.

Mr. Fitzgerald reiterated that the Carson Valley Arts Council is willing to help by partnering up and supporting the school district and teachers, but they need to know what is needed. They can also help with the process of finding resources.

A presentation for the music group was provided to the Board at the end of last year. Mr. Swain would like to bring the presentation for both music and art to the Board in December. The ultimate goal for both groups is to have a teacher at each site and one room assigned for music and art at each elementary school. Currently, the short term plan is the after school club to begin the process of a continual teaching in music and art so students do not have the gap between semesters. The suggestion for the after school club is also to secure the room at the schools. Depending on the site, rooms may not be available, as some schools were over capacitated and now with the 6th grade gone it has given opportunity to span out. Even though a room is available, it may not be conducive to art and music. Administration should be informed of what the needs are for the music and art programs so that they are aware.

It was noted that there are National Common Core Standards for art, music, and performing arts. In regards to NEPF standards, this is still being determined for a content that is not tested. Art and music do contribute to the Star rating for their schools.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Work Session Reports and Discussion – Cont.

The art teachers would like to be able to attend a local conference annually. Mr. Swain suggested that they submit a proposal to him and he may be able to provide some support, if resources are available. Mr. Brown informed the group that the administrators are very receptive to these types of requests, but information needs to be provided to the principal. The teachers would like the opportunity to have someone come in to present to the music and art staff during a PLC day. Teachers should go to their administrator in advance to request time allocated for these types of meetings or collaboration time.

The group agreed, as a consensus, on the following recommendations to the Board. These are basic necessities in order to put together an outstanding fine arts program in Douglas County.

No Cost Items

- 8 period class schedule at the high school
- Support a dedicated art room and music room appropriate for those functions at each elementary school
- Support after school clubs for fine and performing arts with an emphasis on elementary arts and music on the alternating semesters when they are not receiving those services
- Art and music teacher to be placed on the hiring committee
- Hiring teachers with multiple licenses so that a teacher could teach social sciences and performing arts

Cost Items

- As resources become available have an art and music teacher at each elementary school, as well as theater arts at the secondary level.
- A theater
- Additional money for instruments that can be housed in those dedicated rooms at the elementary level
- Art supplies at each school
- Equitable resources across the district for both programs so that each site has the appropriate furnishings and equipment that they need

Mrs. Hales suggested asking the Board for a continuation of this committee to meet once a year and provide updates to the Board. Mr. Swain stated that he could meet with the music and art teachers during a staff meeting. This would help for him to learn what their needs and concerns are and it would be a less formal setting.

Mr. Swain will provide the group with the documents that will be presented to the Board prior to the December meeting for their review.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Owens.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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