

ACROSS THE BOARD

March 2023 Committee Meetings

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This issue of Across the Board provides an overview of the following meetings:

March 23: [Business Services Committee](#)

April 3: [Learning and Teaching Committee](#) (rescheduled from March 20)

Agendas, minutes, documents, and recordings from all meetings are available to view on [BoardDocs](#).

Business Services

Monday, March 23

For Discussion

Financial Reports

District 303

Expenses are trending very close to prior year; revenue is trending slightly ahead. There are no areas of concern at this time.

Mid Valley

Both revenue and expenses are trending slightly behind. There are no areas of concern at this time.

Facility Master Plan Update

Administration and the Board continue to review data and next steps following the February demographer report by RSP & Associates, with whom the District contracted last fall. Currently, administration is determining the minimum standards for elementary building usage, which will be presented to the Board in April.

- Following the February Business Services Committee meeting, administration received from RSP individual heat maps per grade level as requested by the Board.
- Wold Architects have met with administration to discuss various facility items.
- Upon presenting to the Board in April, administration will share elementary minimum standards to RSP, which it will use to provide updated capacity scenarios.
- The standards are for planning purposes, and will not lead to any physical changes to buildings for the 2023-2024 school year.

[View the demographic study presentation](#)

Vacant Land Appraisals

District 303 currently owns nine parcels of vacant land. At the request of the Board, administration had seven of those properties appraised for consideration of possible improvement or sale. The total appraised values of the seven properties is just over \$350,000. District 303 staff currently maintain these properties, with the exception of two currently leased to Wasco Softball. Lease on these properties ends in summer 2024. These parcels of land are unlikely options for future facilities.

Administration will return to the Board with the possible process for selling these properties.

Boiler Replacement Bid Recommendation

During the off season, leaks were found in multiple hot water boilers at Wredling Middle School, East High School, and North High School. Administration solicited bids for replacing the boilers in March and received two bids. Barr Mechanical Sales submitted a low boiler equipment bid and Bornquist, Inc. submitted a low pump equipment bid.

Recommendation: Split the bid between both Barr Mechanical Sales and Bornquist, Inc. to provide different boiler replacement parts. Award a contract to Barr Mechanical Sales in the amount of \$969,660 for boiler equipment, and award a contract to Bornquist, Inc. in the amount of \$77,000 for pump equipment. A separate bid process will determine which company is chosen for the installation of the boiler equipment.

Pool Plaster Replacement Bid

The pool plaster at St. Charles North High School is delaminating, which indicates the product has reached the end of its useful life. Administration solicited bids for pool replastering as a base bid with two alternates. Alternate No. 1 includes a full plaster removal and replacement; Alternate No. 2 includes acid washing and tile regrouting. Pool Tech was the lowest bidder of two received bids. Completion of this project would occur over the summer and accommodates for St. Charles North's needs for pool use.

Recommendation: Award the base bid, Alternate No. 1, and Alternate No. 2 to Pool Tech for a total cost of \$318,000.

Access Control

In the [December 12, 2022](#) meeting, the Board approved Administration to move forward with upgrading access control in District buildings. Completion of this project would eliminate distribution of most physical keys, eliminate the labor associated with physically changing codes for over 170 keypads currently installed, and provide staff with more secure access to buildings.

Administration solicited bids for this project in March and received two bids. Both bids were outside of the acceptable cost range for the District and preferred timelines for completing the projects. This will likely go out to bid again within the next few months. The target installation period for this project is summer 2024.

Recommendation: Reject all bids received.

Schoolza Website Renewal

The District currently contracts with Schoolza to host the District website and all school websites. The cost of a 1-year renewal of this service and continued support remains the same.

Recommendation: Approve the Schoolza renewal at a total cost of \$25,000.

Annual Learning and Teaching Resource Renewals

Several curricular resources must be renewed annually to maintain teacher and student access. All renewals proposed in this meeting have been reviewed to ensure ongoing alignment with District curriculum and goals.

Recommendation: Approve renewal of the listed resources for a total cost of \$1,083,652.

[View the full list of resources](#)

Future Agenda Items

- Facility Master Plan Update
- Food service renewals
- Learning and Teaching resources

The next Business Services Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 24 at 5:30 PM.**



Learning and Teaching

Monday, April 3

Early Childhood Update

Purpose

This presentation provides an overview on the Early Childhood services provided by District 303 and the value it adds to supporting the overall goals of the district. This information will help guide future decision making with regards to the Facility Master Plan.

High-Quality Early Childhood Programs

Preschool increases future academic success

From birth to age 5, the brain structure of children grows rapidly and significantly. Early childhood builds a strong foundation of this structure, leading to increased learning over time. Consequently, students who attend preschool are better prepared for school.

Society benefits economically from preschool students

Preschool students are less likely to be referred for remedial education, require welfare, and participate in crime at later ages. This produces a return on investment of \$4-9 for every dollar invested. As adults, they are also more likely to earn higher incomes, thus producing higher tax revenues.

Components of a High-Quality Early Childhood Program.

These benefits are seen specifically in high-quality early childhood programs. To reap the benefits, research indicates that a program must include:

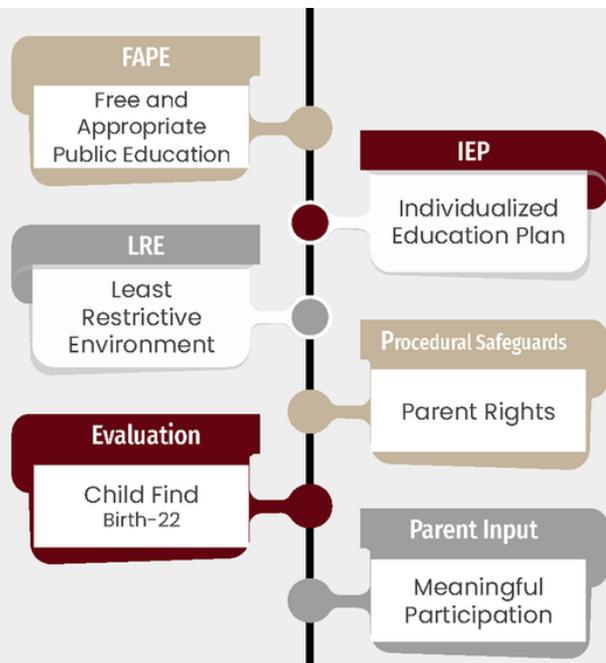
- Qualified and appropriately compensated personnel
- Small group sizes and high adult-child ratios
- Language-rich environment
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Safe physical setting
- Warm and responsive adult-child interactions

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), District 303 is required to provide services with all the required core components of the act for students between ages 3 - 22.

Core Principles of IDEA

Required for all students entitled to services between the ages of 3-22



Least Restrictive Environment

This discussion focuses on the IDEA component of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). An LRE provides students with IEPs access to peers without IEPs. This impacts how the District provides a continuum of student services.

Continuum of Services

The continuum of services starts with all students in general education, which is comprised of 70% of students without IEPs and 30% of students with IEPs.

In developing a plan, IEP teams first consider if providing supplemental aids and accommodations in the general education classroom can meet a student's needs. Removal from general education should only be considered if the student is unable to access and make progress toward grade-level standards.



Current District 303 Early Childhood Services

District 303 provides comprehensive services at Fox Ridge Early Childhood Center including developmental screenings, classrooms, family engagement and support, and community playgroups.

To provide a Least Restrictive Environment under IDEA, the program serves three student groups:

- **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE):** Students who qualify for special education services as required by IDEA.

- **Preschool for All (PFA):** Students at risk for academic failure. Services are funded through the Early Childhood Block Grant.
- **Community:** Students who have not been identified for IEP or PFA services. Families pay tuition to participate.

Overall, Fox Ridge has the capacity to serve 340-350 students.

Location of Services

Before Fox Ridge opened as a centralized Early Childhood Center, services were held within multiple elementary buildings. While there are benefits to both centralized and multi-building service models that support the District's Strategic Priorities, centralized services allow the best opportunity for the District to provide high-quality learning experiences.

Service Delivery Model	Early Childhood Center	Classrooms within multiple elementary buildings
Effective Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficacy of PLCs • Efficiency in how we use staff • Increases family involvement/engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities to collaborate with Kindergarten teachers
Instructional Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency in curriculum and sharing of resources • Effective and meaningful PL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced transition services from EC to Kindergarten
Culture of Dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in LRE options • Supports sense of belonging for EC staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations may be easier to access for families

[View presentation](#)

Middle School ELA Resource Recommendation

Summary

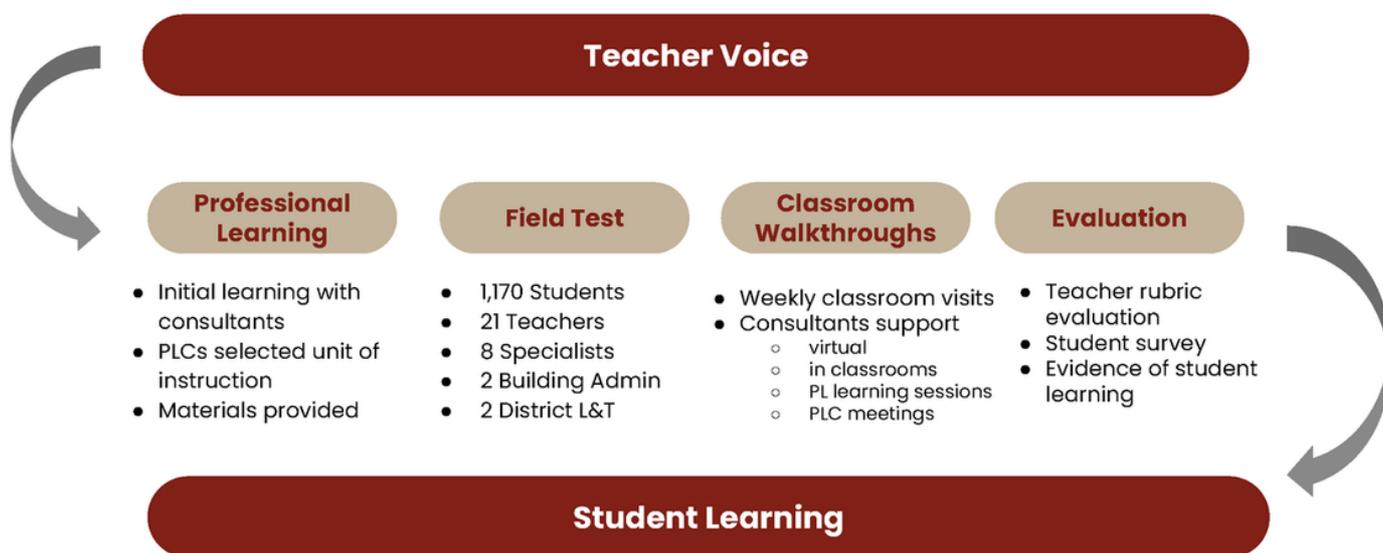
Throughout this school year, a Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction (CAI) committee has been engaged in development of the middle school English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. As part of the designing phase of the development process, the committee recommends the purchase of StudySync print and digital resources

Background

The middle school ELA committee is comprised of teachers, instructional support coaches, and specialists from both middle schools. The committee has been meeting regularly since fall 2021. This year, their work has been focused on identifying a resource to support the priority standards established last year.

Selection Process

The committee identified and reviewed six highly rated resources. After meeting with the resource publishers, two resources were chosen to be field tested in the spring; Amplify and StudySync.



Field Test Process for Amplify and StudySync

Additionally, the team reviewed efficacy studies for both resources and researched the resources used by [comparable and aspirational benchmark districts](#).

The field test results of Amplify and StudySync were assessed with a rubric of eight criteria. The criteria included:

- Inclusive and Diverse Text
- Materials and Teacher Usability
- Priority Standards
- Instructional Strategies
- Responsive Instruction
- Student Choice
- Assessments
- Student Differentiation

While Amplify only met four criteria, StudySync met all eight criteria and included robust support for multilingual learners.

StudySync

StudySync offers tailored instruction to whole-class, small group, or individual needs with student-facing scaffolds and extensions. Print and digital resources can be used interchangeably from a continuously growing library of over 2,000 classic and contemporary texts. StudySync also integrates tools to support accessibility for all learners, including audio, closed captioning, and vocabulary support.

A subscription to StudySync includes access to digital resources, consumable print books for students, and teacher print guides. It can be purchased as a 3-year bundle or a 6-year bundle.

- **3-year bundle cost:** \$31 per student and \$34 per teacher, with a total cost of \$266,692.75
- **6-year bundle cost:** \$27 per student and \$25 per teacher, with a total cost of \$432,989.74

All resources are available at the Haines Center and can be viewed by contacting Tina King.

Recommendation: Approve the purchase of StudySync to support the 6-8 ELA curriculum.

[View presentation](#)

Future Agenda Items

- K-5 literacy resource recommendations in May
- Initial learning related to AP Audit

The next Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 15 at 5:30 PM.**

BOARDDOCS

Agendas and meeting minutes from the School Board meetings are accessible online via BoardDocs.



Community Unit School District 303

district.d303.org



201 S. 7th Street
St. Charles, IL 60174-2664
(331) 228-2000