

**DeLaSalle High School
Academic Committee
Meeting Notes – January 10, 2024**

In attendance:

- Ernestine Key
- Steve Gering
- Sean Stalling
- Bill Patterson

Agenda:

- Update on Elevate K-12 math instruction.
- Debrief from December Board Meeting; Q&A with Commission representatives, discussion of Board dynamics; connecting “new” and “old” board members.
- General discussion on classroom instruction, teacher compensation, recruitment, and retention.

December Board Meeting/Board connection

- Ernestine expressed concern about a perceived disconnect between the older and newer members of the board when answer questions from the Commission.
- Bill will contact David/Lisa to inquire about next steps with Kent Petersen and broach the subject of holding a team-building event to help newer board members learn the history of the organization and better articulate “the DeLaSalle story.”

Classroom Instruction

- Sean reported DeLaSalle teacher compensation is in the top five percent of charter schools in the city and that only Frontier pays its teachers better. All teachers receive individual health care coverage as part of their compensation packages; however, family plans are not covered.
- Sean urged the board to define “retention” based on how many of the instructors accept the invitation to come back to DLS each school year.
- DeLaSalle has employed a three-part program for evaluating and developing teachers. Using these criteria, the school determines which instructors will have their contracts renewed (“be invited back”) for the following academic year:
 - Classroom walk-throughs
 - Danielson-model evaluations
 - Coaching

- The committee agreed Sean (Ms. Wilmore?) should provide an overview of this three-step program at the next Board meeting.
- Sean complimented Principal Wilmore on her professional growth and ability to establish her expectations of faculty, as well as establish a strong identity for the faculty and staff.
- Sean expects an even stronger faculty team on campus by the beginning of the 24-25 school year, noting that former biology instructor Camille Bergmeier will be returning (albeit in a different capacity than before.)

Special Education Update

- About 18-19 percent of 9th & 10th graders are categorized as exceptional learners. Sean attributes this number to the high number of middle schools who send their exceptional learners to DLS.
- School-wide, the number of exceptional learners is around 11 to 12 percent.

Elevate K-12

- DeLaSalle has implemented Elevate K-12 remote instruction on an interim basis while one of the school's math instructors is on maternity leave. DeLaSalle has subscribed to the program for eight (8) weeks.
- Preliminary reports have been positive, as the Elevate K-12 curriculum aligns with the Danielson model.
- The current contract expires in mid-February and will not be renewed, as it was an unfunded item in the 23-24 budget.
- *Note to committee: I am including this bullet from the December report for reference for 24-25 budget planning purposes.* The cost to implement Elevate K-12 is comparable to what it would cost to pay and provide benefits to a full-time classroom teacher. (\$68,000 salary plus benefits = \$81,000 vs. \$80,000 for Elevate K-12). The salary of the Classroom Coach (a paraprofessional) can be covered from the school's Mental Health budget or other non-instruction line item.