

# Citizen's Advisory Committee

## U-HIGH ISU Metcalf

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2008

University High Library

7:00 – 8:15

### ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Robert Dean, Jeff Feid, Valerie Wilder, Jeff Hill, Laurel Schumacher, Mike Troll, Judi Doubet, Heather Marshall, John Tuttle, Allison Geyer, Michelle Hardman and Amy Coffman.

Absent: Ken Fansler and Eric Ruud.

Kevin Eack has notified the committee that he will be unavailable for the committee for the rest of the school year. The committee will be working with Kevin to determine if he will complete his term (ends in 2010) or if he will resign his position. Jeff Feid will update the committee.

Updated board contact sheets were provided by Dr. Dean.

### INTRODUCTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Dr. Amy Coffman, Metcalf School principal and Jeff Hill, U-High principal were introduced.

### READING OF & CALL FOR APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT OF MINUTES OF PRIOR REGULAR MTG:

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Feid and 09/19/2008 minutes were accepted.

### Dr. Coffman:

Dr. Coffman shared a piece of writing from our 4<sup>th</sup> grader Charlie Cutting. She discussed how writing helps the students work through life experiences and opens up communication. Dr. Coffman then discussed the new language arts assessment system:

**Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System**~ Our language arts teachers took the initiative to implement this new reading assessment system. The system guides teachers in differentiating their reading instruction based on individual student needs. This assessment and instructional tool helps teachers examine where all children in K-8th grade are in the following areas of reading: decoding (sounding out words), fluency (speed of reading), vocabulary (defining), and comprehension (understanding). Your child's teacher assesses their developmental reading levels for the purpose of informing instruction and documenting reading progress. Every child in grades 1 through 8 (and soon to be Kindergarten) has been assessed and your child's teacher is using the information gained during this one-on-one assessment to guide your child's reading instruction. Students will again be assessed in the third quarter to measure individual progress. In addition, each year your child will be assessed using Fountas and Pinnell, so a reading trajectory is developed for each child across time. The assessment data and instructional strategies for each child will be kept in an individual folder that will then be transferred to the next grade level teacher. For more information, please either ask your child's teacher, contact an administrator, and/or visit the following website:

<http://www.fountasandpinnellbenchmarkassessment.com>

**Technology:** Smart board and document camera system has been added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor computer room. The document camera works with the board to scan items written on the board straight to the computer. We are also using the spycam system. This allows teachers to view what is on each individual student's screen and even put it up on the classroom screen to use their work as an example.

**New calendar:** Metcalf's calendar has been updated. It is much more user friendly and easier to read. The new calendar system also allows parents to create their own personal copy of the master calendar and filter it for the items specific to their family. It also automatically places the next 10 events onto the front of the website. Check it out!

Dr. Dean commented that we are lucky to have two very good people leading our technology efforts at Metcalf and U-high. We are seeing great progress in both schools.

**Construction activity:** The ISU fitness center construction hasn't negatively affected us yet. It has actually been a benefit to have University Ave. closed to thru traffic, allowing Metcalf traffic to be nearly the only traffic around the school other than the construction vehicles. We will continue to monitor any changes to University Avenue or Dry Grove and will communicate updates to families as soon as they are available.

**2008 Metcalf ISAT Results:**

In the last 8 years our school has had only one year and one subject area where students have had 100% of the students meeting and exceeding state standards (06/07 – 8<sup>th</sup> reading). In 2008, we had four areas where students have 100% meeting and exceeding.

While the ISAT tests are only one assessment, the results provide us with a general overview of how we're doing. The results are shared with individual teachers to help them make adjustments in their instruction. The mapped curriculum allows teachers to run reports on when and how particular content strands are taught and assessed. Teachers can make informed decisions about their teaching based on this information.

This year Metcalf learned that teaching our students how to take standardized tests is an important element in preparing them for ISATs. Our students aren't as familiar with bubbling in test answers or writing structured 5 point paragraphs, so this year, we plan to implement prep work prior to the ISAT tests.

Teachers receive a color coded chart for their class of students. Actual percentage of answers correct is used to help evaluate classroom and student needs.

The following is a summary of ISAT results:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Math Scores	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	92.9	95.6	95.9	<b>100</b>
Reading Scores	92.9	<b>100</b>	86	88.9	98	97.9
Science Scores	No Testing	88.4	No Testing	No Testing	No Testing	98
Writing Scores	No Testing	No Testing	40	73	No Testing	87

**Jeff Hill:**

**2008 U-High PSAE Results:**

Staff and families may have read the recent Pantagraph article taken from a Sun Times report that ranked Illinois High Schools based upon their PSAE test scores. U-High scores were not included in this ranking. But based upon the information the Sun Times used, U-High would have ranked between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

<b>School</b>	<b>Sun Times Rank</b>	<b>Reading % meets &amp; exceeds</b>	<b>Math % meets &amp; exceeds</b>	<b>Composite ACT</b>
U-High	NA	83	87	25.4
Hinsdale Central	5 <sup>th</sup>	86	87	25.5
Adlai Stevenson	6 <sup>th</sup>	83	88	25.3
Glenbrook North	7 <sup>th</sup>	81	86	25.3

The ACT company also assesses student's college readiness. This assessment indicates a student's anticipated success/grade in a college level class. At U-High, 52% of students meet the ACT standards for College Readiness in all 4 major subject areas. (75% in Math, 60% in Science). This is a high percentage compared to other schools, but U-High would like to raise this number by analyzing each student's individual progress. ACT sets a very high standard, which is a good match for a school like U-High where so many students continue their education after high school.

U-High's composite ACT of 25.4 & top 10 ranking in the state of Illinois combined with its ACT college readiness score of 52% are very good indicators of excellence.

**Technology:** Laptop Initiative – 12 Laptop classrooms have been fully implemented. Adding tablets for mathematics classes has been very successful in engaging kids in math. Every student is now involved in at least one laptop class. Our faculty are doing a great job sharing strategies for teaching with technology and engaging the students with new learning techniques.

As we look into the future, it will be interesting to see how technology effects all parts of the school experience. We are already seeing some students and teachers choosing to use fewer textbooks. However, we need to remember that different students learn in different ways so we do not envision an all electronic environment anytime soon.

Prototype machines have been integrated into the industrial education courses. The machines work with the computers to automate the process of moving from design to finished product.

U-High is currently in a technology planning year and will assess our current program/plans and outline the program for the next several years.

**U-High Sports:** We have had a great 1<sup>st</sup> quarter sports season! The teams have won multiple intercity championships, represented U-High in several regional/playoff events and even won another boys State Golf Title!

**Thank you to Jeff and Amy for their individual reports.**

#### **REVIEW OF COMMITTEES:**

**Legislative Forum:** No Updates.

**Those Who Excel:** Heather Marshall has volunteered to chair the Those Who Excel program for the 2008-2009 school year. Nominations are currently being received and will be reviewed for selection by the board in January.

**School Safety:** No Updates.

**Technology Plans:** Ken Fansler has volunteered to review the technology plans for both Metcalf and U-High.

**Fundraising:** Michelle Hardman has volunteered to assist Allison Geyer on the Stroud fundraising campaign. As discussed in September, we would like to target our fundraising on Stroud so that we can include as many extras as possible in the remodel.

Construction is anticipated to start as soon as school ends in May and continue for 18 months. More information will be available as the design process proceeds.

#### **REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE REPRESENTATIVE – DR. ROBERT DEAN:**

**Racial Justice Workshop:** Metcalf and U-High teachers are attending the community's Racial Justice Workshop offered through the YWCA. The workshop challenges attendees to work through pre-conceived ideas and bias that they may have. The seminar is intended to act as a "train the trainer" workshop in order to have all attendees bring the information and experiences back to their workplaces and teach others.

**ISU Emergency Management Team:** Amy Coffman, Jeff Hill and Robert Dean will be part of the University's emergency management team. This will keep the laboratory schools involved in emergency planning and aware of all updates to the University's programs.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13,2009.