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Instructional Policy & Student Achievement Committee

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Summary

- Board members Diana Autry, Carla Jackson, Bruce Alexander and Summer Hall spent the May 5 Instructional Policy & Student Achievement Committee receiving an update on the process and success around the Akron Public Schools High School Seniors “Dream Day” program as well as an overview of the selection process for fine arts curriculum textbooks.
- The Dream Day program focuses on students selecting a focus for their senior year. The four “Es” (Employed, Entrepreneur, Enrolled and Enlisted) correspond to students’ options after high school. Once an “E” is selected, the students complete a checklist of tasks throughout their senior year and attend career/recruitment fairs to help them prepare for graduation with a focus on their own “E.”
- K-12 fine arts textbooks have not been updated for 16 years, and many of the supplemental materials are now outdated. Fine arts textbooks come from multiple

publishers, compared to one or two publishers for other subjects. Dawn Wilson, APS's fine arts learning specialist, took the present board members through the selection process and highlighted some of the selected text.

Follow-Up Questions

- Is there any post-graduation follow-up for seniors who participated in the Dream Day program? Do they feel it helped them prepare for the next step after high school?
- Why did it take 16 years to select a new fine arts textbook? What is the average lifespan of selected textbooks across subjects?
- Why was there no discussion of summer contracts? Were they just being read into the record?

Notes

Monday, May 5, Instructional Policy & Student Achievement Committee Meeting

- The next Instructional Policy Meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 2.

Meeting called to order at 4:32 p.m.

Akron Board of Education (BOE) members in attendance

- Diana Autry — Instructional Policy & Student Achievement Committee chair
- Carla Jackson — BOE president
- Bruce Alexander — BOE vice president
- Summer Hall – BOE member

1. Review minutes from the last meeting

- [April 7, Instructional Policy & Student Achievement Committee Meeting](#)
- No discussion or changes to the minutes
- Minutes accepted as presented to the committee

2. Discussion topics

- **Business affairs**

- The following contracts will appear at the next regular board meeting for the summer learning programming.
- No discussion of the items took place, but board members were asked to review and be aware.

- **23.6 [ArtSparks](#)** - Service contract for \$26,000 for structured, curriculum-supported youth development summer camps for extended learning at Findley and Resnik CLCs.
- **23.7 [Best Life Dance Fitness LLC](#)** - Service contract for \$17,400 to provide structured, curriculum-supported youth development summer camps for extended learning at Barber and Rimer CLCs.
- **23.8 [Glazed & Amused Ltd](#)** - Service contract for \$17,400 to provide structured, curriculum-supported youth development summer camps for extended learning at Betty Jane, Glover and Schumacher CLCs.
- **23.20 [Savvas Learning Company LLC](#)** - Service contract (grant funded) to provide three three types of sheltered instructional observation protocol (SIOP) professional development training for 190 APS staff members, which will take place over nine days in June. SIOP training is a research-based instructional strategy to support English learners and will benefit all students at a cost of \$56,500.

- **Other agenda items**

- **Dream Day presentation - Marcie Ebright, Beth Winter, Clayton Cundiff**

- Dream Day is APS high schools' current "Summative" experience
- It started as a one-day experience to inspire seniors to explore and find a focus in their senior year and help them plan for life after high school. The day consisted of a keynote speaker, conference sessions themed around Employed,

Enlisted, Enrolled and Entrepreneur, followed by a career/college/military fair.

- The program now starts at the end of the student's junior year, where the students would select one of the “Es” and complete a checklist of items and goals tailored to that specific path.
- It has evolved and continues to grow into hyper-intentional process for APS students.
- While a final decision comes at the end of the student's junior year, every student is prepared for the day starting in elementary school.

- 2024 - 2025 events Employment & Entrepreneurship “E” Group
 - Groups' checklists developed by academy coaches and school counselors
 - Resume and interview workshops
 - On May 1, APS hosted 200-plus seniors with 30 community partners for the first-ever senior career fair
 - 15% Entrepreneurship focus from this group
 - This is for students looking to enter a trade, go right to work or start a business.

- 2024 - 2025 events Enrolled “E” Group
 - Largest group
 - Groups' checklists developed by academy coaches and school counselors
 - No APS leads the college fair, but they do “piggyback” on other local college fairs. Would like to do a specific Dream Day college fair next year.

- 2024 - 2025 events Enlisted “E” Group
 - Again, the groups' checklists were developed by academy coaches and school counselors
 - Military service/branch fair for students to talk to recruiters
 - 32 seniors have committed to military service
 - The BOE will host seniors who have already enlisted and will be recognized at the May 12 board meeting,

and attend a special meet and greet before the meeting.

■ **Fine Arts presentation - Dawn Wilson**

- The presentation reviewed the process of selecting an arts education textbook.
- Fine arts is a different process from other subjects because you end up working with multiple publishers and suppliers.
- It has been 16 years since the district has updated the fine arts textbook options. Many of the ancillary resources are obsolete.
- Board members were walked through the five-step process across schools that evaluated the textbook updates.
 - Overview – *What are we looking for*
 - Vendor/resource compilation – *Who should we reach out to, and who else can help*
 - Curriculum presentations – *Hearing from publishers and exploring the materials*
 - Discussion and final choice – *Presenting selected materials and why they were chosen.*
- Focus was given to virtual resources that help students learn at their pace/level and give teachers the flexibility to explore different art mediums.
- Wilson gave the board an overview of the categories for each selection and the chosen publishers and highlighted a few of the materials selected for each category.
- Hall noticed that some of the schools were to be represented on the selection committee. Wilson explained that some schools did not send anyone to participate because of timing and availability.
- In response to a question from Alexander, Wilson explained the nuance of art programs and their availability in each APS school. Generally, every student has full access to every program, except for AP Music and Visual Arts.
- Board members and Wilson highlighted a few upcoming student arts events, including the [May Festival on May 13 at the Civic Theatre](#). The festival has been going for 98 years.

- Fine Arts Committee text book and distributors received resources include:

- **K-8 general music**
 - [Quaver Ed](#)
 - [Interactive Music Savvas](#)
 - [Music is Elementary](#)
 - [Make Music](#)
 - [Savvas](#)

- **5-8 instrumental music**
 - [GIA Publications](#)
 - [Hal Leonard Publications](#)
 - [Alfred Publications Co.](#)
 - [Make Music](#)
 - [FJM Publications](#)

- **Music Theory/AP Music Theory**
 - [Alfred Publications Co.](#)
 - [Barron's Educational Services](#)
 - [McGraw Hill](#)
 - [Make Music](#)

- **9-12 instrumental music**
 - [Sight Reading Factory](#)
 - [Alfred Publications Co.](#)
 - [GIA Publications](#)
 - [Make Music](#)

- **6-12 choral music**
 - [GIA Publications](#)
 - [Sight Reading Factory](#)
 - [Make Music](#)

- **K-12 visual arts**
 - [The Art of Education](#)
 - [Davis Publications](#)

3. Updates

- Teaching & Learning: An update for a policy about intellectual property (IP) was given to the committee. There was no discussion of the update, just a copy provided for review. Information from the document is below.

- **ESL / World Languages**
 - English as a Second Language (ESL) will offer multiple SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) training sessions at 10 N. Main St. in June. These research-based instructional strategies are good for all learners but are especially effective for refugee and English learners to learn content and language simultaneously. These trainings will be paid for by a refugee grant that ends on June 30 and will include teachers, coaches, and administrators (\$56,500 for 190 staff members). Board approval for Saavas to come to 10 N. Main to provide these training sessions will be on the board agenda on May 12 in Business Affairs.

- **Science / Health**
 - More than 55 students participated in Best Medicine on April 26 at Cleveland State University. Solar Car Races were held among all Middle Schools, Helen Arnold, Schumacher, and Sieberling (Bridges, East CLC, and Mason CLC still need to race).

Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.