

Elgin Public Schools
American Civics Committee Meeting
Distance Learning Room, EPS

Lisa Welding committee chairman called the American Civics meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. on March 14, 2022. The meeting held in the IT Room of Elgin Public High School.

Committee members present were Ron Bode, Luke Hinkle and Lisa Welding, also present was Superintendent Mike Brockhaus.

Lisa told committee members that she attended a NSBA new president workshop and found out we should not do the American Civics public testimony at a regular school board meeting.

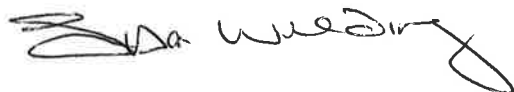
The committee on American Civics reviewed Policy 203.06 Board Committees, 201.01 Board Powers & Responsibilities, 604.11 Citizenship.

The committee reviewed and completed the American Civics Checklist. We also went over some of the activities that the school participates in.

Elgin Public School District is in compliance with the American Civics requirements.

The next American Civics committee meeting will be in October where public testimony will be accepted. The meeting will be posted and advertized as such.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Welding". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "L" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lisa Welding, Committee Chairman

American Civics Activities Completed by Elgin Public Schools

1. Pledge of Allegiance daily at 8:15am
2. Citizenship assessment in high school social studies
3. Veteran's Day Program
4. Constitution Day Scavenger Hunt
5. 9/11 Remembrance Day
6. County Government Day
7. Revolutionary War Battles Google Slideshow
8. Oregon Trail game in 4th Grade
9. Bill of Rights in 4th Grade
10. Rights and Responsibilities of being a citizen of our nation, state, community, and school
11. Watch and discuss elections
12. Discuss the following birthdays and why these people are important:
 - George Washington
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - Abraham Lincoln

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS CHECKLIST

For the calendar year 2022, the Board appointed the following three members to serve on the Committee on American Civics: Ron Bode, Luke Hinkle and Lisa Welding.

The Committee on American Civics met on the following dates: March 14, 2022 and _____ . (At least two meetings per year are required.) The Committee accepted public testimony on the following date: will do in October

The Committee completed the following tasks (check when completed):

X Minutes of the Committee on American Civics' meetings have been kept and show the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

X Confirmed the District's social studies curriculum is aligned with NDE standards.

X Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum stresses the required patriotic themes.

X Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes a requirement, in accordance with state law, that high school students (i) complete a written test; (ii) attend a public meeting; or (iii) present or write a paper on an appropriate topic.

X Confirmed that the curriculum approved by the Committee is available for public inspection.

X Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes all required components, in accordance with state law and NDE standards, including (a) one hour per week of patriotic instruction for grade levels below sixth grade; (b) a set amount of time to teach
· American history for grade levels from fifth grade to eighth grade; and (c) at least two courses in high school that teach American civics.

X Confirmed that the District will conduct appropriate patriotic exercises for the following holidays: George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Committees will be appointed by the president of the board. These committees are created for specific tasks of seeking information or investigation and will report back to the board for its consideration and action. Committee action is advisory only. Each committee will have a chairperson appointed by the president. In addition to appointing the three members to the Committee on American Civics at the annual board organizational meeting in January for one year, the board may wish to appoint additional committees on topics such as

- a. curriculum, instruction and assessment,
- b. personnel and community relations,
- c. facilities and finance,
- d. technology and equipment,
- e. transportation,
- f. negotiations, and
- g. policy.

The Committee on American Civics shall:

1. Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;
2. Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed;
3. Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
4. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
5. Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
6. Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education;
7. Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
 - a. naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

This is a mandatory policy. All powers of the board lie in its action as a group. Individual board members exercise authority only as they vote at a legal meeting of the board and when the board has lawfully delegated authority to them.

The board of the __ Elgin School District ___ #18 ___ School District, acting on behalf of the school district, shall have jurisdiction over school matters within the territory of the school district.

The board is empowered to make policy for its own governance, for employees, for students and for school district facilities. The board is also empowered to enforce its policies. The board may, through its quasi-judicial power, conduct hearings and rule on issues and disputes confronting the school district.

The board has these powers and all other powers expressly granted to it in federal and state law as well as the powers that can be reasonably implied from the express powers.

The board is authorized to govern the school district which it oversees. As the governing board of the school district, the board has three duties to perform: legislative duty, executive duty, and evaluative duty.

As a representative of the citizens of the school district, the board is responsible for legislating policy for the school district. As a policy making body, the board has jurisdiction to enact policy with the force and effect of law for the management and operation of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the board, under the board's executive duty, to select its chief executive officer, the superintendent, to operate the school district on the board's behalf. All references to "superintendent" in this policy manual shall mean the "superintendent or the superintendent's designee" unless otherwise stated in the board policy. The board delegates to the superintendent its authority to carry out board policy, to formulate and carry out rules and regulations and to handle the administrative details in a manner which supports and is consistent with board policy. The board may enter into certain contracts as permitted by law for periods not to exceed four years.

The board has a responsibility to review the education program's performance under its evaluative duty. The board regularly reviews the education program and associated support services. The review includes a careful study and examination of the facts, conditions and circumstances surrounding the amount of funds received or expended and the education program's ability to achieve the board's educational philosophy for the school district.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

CITIZENSHIP

It is important that students develop a knowledge of our nation's history, government, geography, and economic system. The social studies courses shall include and adequately stress contributions of all ethnic groups to:

1. The development and growth of America into a great nation;
2. Art, music, education, medicine, literature, science, politics, and government; and
3. The military in all this nation's wars.

All grades below the sixth grade shall devote at least one hour per week to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose:

1. The discussion of noteworthy events pertaining to American history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans;
2. The historical background, memorization, and singing of patriotic songs such as the Star-Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful;
3. The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom; and
4. Instruction as to proper conduct in the presentation of the American flag.

In at least two of the three grades from the fifth-grade to the eighth-grade time shall be set aside for the teaching of American history from the social studies curriculum, which shall give students the opportunity to:

1. Become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska; and
2. Prepare to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world.

In at least two high school courses time shall be devoted to the teaching of civics and American history as outlined in the social studies standards adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education, in which specific attention shall be given to the following matters:

1. The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state;
2. The benefits and advantages of representative government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to, Nazism and communism;
3. The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world, and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and
4. The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

Neglect by any employee in carrying out these instructions may be considered a cause for dismissal.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-724

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 505 Student Discipline