

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
February 7, 2023

Place: Roosevelt Auditorium

Members Present: Mrs. Barbara Hickey, Ms. Stacey Williams, Dr. Nicole Thompson (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Mr. Richard Moore, Mrs. Kathleen Avalos, Mr. Calvin Davis, Mrs. Sarah Eckmann

Administrators Present: Dr. Edward Condon, Superintendent
Dr. Alison Hawley, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Mr. Casey Godfrey, Lincoln School Principal
Mrs. Christine Gerges, Lincoln/Willard School Assistant Principal
Ms. Diane Wood, Willard School Principal
Mrs. Debbie Lubeck, Director of Student Services
Ms. Dawne Simmons, Communications Coordinator

Recording Secretary: Anthony Cozzi, Chief Operations Officer

Mrs. Hickey called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:03 p.m., welcomed visitors and invited comments from the audience. The number of community participants in person was 20 and on zoom was 14.

Public Comment

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks Dr. spoke out against expanding to a full-day kindergarten program. She noted that, over the years, she and her fellow residents used the adequate supplemental resources available in the community and never heard any problems with students transitioning to first grade. She felt that the full-day proposal is just a response to COVID. She noted that the data presented is not a complete representation of the community and also felt that the educational gains do not justify the investment as the District does not have the funding or the available space. Finally, she noted that the tax burden on families that don't have students in the District is too high.

Payton Worsham, Roosevelt student urged the Board to make a change in the curriculum that teaches more Black History in school. She noted that only 27% of adults polled in America had accurate knowledge of black history.

Rodney Clayton, 847 Park spoke in favor of a full-day kindergarten program. He noted that the recent survey results were overwhelmingly in favor of the expansion. He understood arguments against expansion because of the high tax burden, but felt that expansion is the more equitable outcome.

Alicia Worsham, 7919 North spoke in favor of a full-day kindergarten program. She noted that, per the survey, parents of current District 90 students and future District 90 students are in favor.

It was moved by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Williams that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Avalos, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Hickey, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Eckmann, Mr. Davis, Ms. Williams

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Board Governance

Kindergarten Program Review – Presentation of Recommendations – Mrs. Hickey introduced Dr. Hawley to begin the Kindergarten Program Review. Dr. Hawley spoke about the composition of the Committee and its charge. She introduced Dr. Kathleen Fleming to discuss her subgroup’s Literary Review. When she finished, she introduced Mrs. Lubeck to present her subgroup’s Data/Geodemographic findings. She passed it over to Mr. Godfrey and Ms. Wood to discuss their subgroup’s Facility study. When they were done, Mr. Cozzi spoke about his subgroup’s report of the Financial implications. Dr. Condon then followed by discussing the Community Survey themes. Finally, Dr. Hawley gave the summary conclusions of the working subgroups and gave the Committee recommendation to expand to a full-day kindergarten program beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. She then spoke about any next steps upon Board approval. A lengthy Board discussion ensued. The Board asked the kindergarten teachers in attendance for any input. Lori Suzuki and Barb Garvey spoke on behalf of the entire kindergarten department.

It was moved by Ms. Williams and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education direct the District administration to prepare a resolution for Board approval at the February Board of Education Meeting instituting a shift to a full-day kindergarten program model in fall 2023.

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

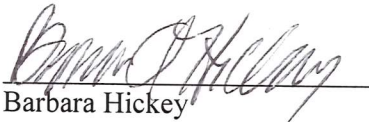
Ayes: Mrs. Avalos, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Eckmann, Mrs. Hickey, Mr. Moore, Dr. Thompson, Ms. Williams


Nays: none

The motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:27 p.m.


Barbara Hickey
President


Nicole Thompson
Secretary