

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
January 12, 2021

Place: Roosevelt Multipurpose Room

Members Present: Mr. Richard Moore (via Zoom), Mrs. Barbara Hickey (via Zoom), Ms. Stacey Williams, Dr. Nicole Thompson (via Zoom), Mrs. Kathleen Avalos, Mrs. Judy Deogracias

Administrators Present: Dr. Edward Condon, Superintendent
Dr. Alison Hawley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (via Zoom)
Mr. Larry Garstki, Roosevelt School Principal (via Zoom)
Mrs. Dawne Simmons, Communications Coordinator

Community Present: The number of community participants on Zoom was 60.

Recording Secretary: Mr. Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities

Mr. Moore called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. Moore welcomed visitors and asked Ms. Simmons for written comments from the public received in advance of the meeting.

Public Comments

Louisa Starr/Shana Joyce, RFEA Co-Presidents spoke about two issues relating to COVID-19. First, they noted the recent expiration of FFCRA benefits and asked the Board to consider approving a stopgap measure and provide assistance to employees if they experience personal child care complications due to a COVID-related closure. Second, they asked for a more detailed COVID decision matrix to create certainty about when the District may take another adaptive pause.

Deanna Herrman, resident asked for more information about middle school practices around remote learning. She noted that, even in a hybrid situation, most instructional time is in remote learning.

Scott Hall, resident thanked the Board for deciding to return to in-person learning before the break. However, in light of the District's current and projected deficit spending, he urged the Board to reconsider moving forward with the expensive, proposed air conditioning projects at Willard and Lincoln Schools set for this summer. In addition, he questioned the validity of the math and reading/ELA curricula, especially the one that covers the works of Lucy Calkins.

Samantha Stearns, Roosevelt teacher was concerned about the planned return to hybrid learning on January 19th as many of her students have travelled or are still currently travelling out of state.

Tara Zinger, Roosevelt teacher noted a trend that many more than expected students have travelled over winter break and asked the Board to consider extending the adaptive pause to a later date to keep District students, staff and faculty safe.

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It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Communications Committee

COVID-19 Data Dashboard/Decision Making Process – Mrs. Avalos introduced Dr. Condon and Mrs. Simmons to present the District’s COVID-19 Data Dashboard/Decision Making Process. The presentation included the District’s response to COVID; an explanation of the dashboard; items that clarified the decision-making process and the steps moving forward. Dr. Condon thanked all of the entities and groups that have helped the District with community partnerships through this pandemic.

Board Governance

FFCRA and 2020-21 Leaves Memorandum of Understanding – Dr. Condon presented the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for approval. The MOU between the District and the RFEA set to memorialize the understanding concerning the 2020-21 school year and the health and leave considerations as a result of COVID-19. Dr. Condon thanked the RFEA for helping to craft a fair agreement.

It was moved by Dr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Williams that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Illinois Vaccine Distribution: Phases 1A and 1B – Dr. Condon shared a summary of the intended Illinois Vaccine Distribution: Phases 1A and 1B under the Restore Illinois initiative. Several nuances need to be completed in Phase 1A in order to begin Phase 1B. He noted that teachers and school employees will qualify for the vaccine under Phase 1B except school health care workers, who qualify under Phase 1A.

Personnel

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Mrs. Deogracias that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report as presented.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m.

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Richard P. Moore
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Richard Moore
President

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Stacey Williams
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Stacey Williams
Secretary