

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**March 1, 2022**

Place: Roosevelt Auditorium

Members Present: Mrs. Barbara Hickey, Ms. Stacey Williams, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Kathleen Avalos, Mr. Richard Moore, Mr. Cal Davis, Mrs. Sarah Eckmann

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

Community Present: The number of community participants in person was 5 and on Zoom was 28.

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

Mrs. Hickey called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m., welcomed visitors and invited comments from the audience.

### **Public Comments**

Brandi Schutt, 600 Clinton Place, praised the District for moving forward with loosening COVID mitigations. She asked the Board to have, in the future, an unbiased plan that shows District 90 as a leader school district, not a follower.

Mrs. Hickey asked Mrs. Simmons for written comments from the public received in advance of the meeting.

Marta Kozbur, Lincoln Teacher, River Forest resident and proud Ukranian-American, noted that students are happy to be safe in school. She stated that she couldn't believe that the community has been arguing over masks when there is a war on the other side of the world. Please urged the community to unite.

Allison Jack, parent, hoped for an approval from the Board that would maintain optional masking. She spoke about mental health issues of students and student-related services that were unnecessarily affected by mask wearing.

Steffani LeFevour, parent, was hopeful to be able to see students' and teachers' smiling faces at school, but also noted that her students were also anxious. Equated the past two years to a form of trauma to her children. She urged the Board to stop perpetuating fear and get back to teaching with compassion. Hoped the Board would continue to remove COVID restrictions.

Mario Ferro, parent, thanked Dr. Condon for his recommendation at the last meeting. He commended him for his courage. He noted that the Board had the opportunity to show leadership but didn't by postponing the decision.

Ryan Schutt, parent urged the Board to maintain the mask optional stance.

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

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

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

### **Board Governance**

**COVID-19 Safety Mitigation Protocol Revisions** – Dr. Condon thanked families, staff, students and especially the Board for their efforts moving the District forward safely. He then presented the revisions to the COVID Safety Mitigation protocols. Other than masking, there remains many other safety protocols. He summarized those for the Board and community. He summarized the revisions that were all in lockstep with the recent changes per the CDC and IDPH. He gave the Board the face masking metrics that they requested. He spoke about specific scenarios in the future where students may be required to once again wear a mask. A lengthy Board discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Ms. Williams that the Board of Education approve the COVID-19 Safety Mitigation Protocol Revisions as presented.

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

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Safety and School Climate Report, 2022** – Ms. Simmons presented the School Climate and Safety Report. She spoke about the District's current environment and the status of the safety recommendations that were originally discussed back in 2019. She noted that almost all of the items have been implemented. The Behavioral Threat Assessment Team is the one item that is still in progress, but is expected later this school year. She noted that the District's communication strategy is to provide the report to the community via the District website, as well as trifold mailers and other means.

### **Education Committee**

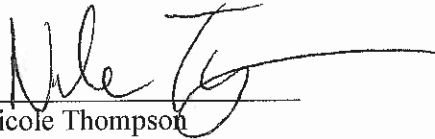
**K-8/Science/STEM Curriculum Review** – Dr. Thompson introduced Dr. Hawley to speak about the K-8 Science/STEM curriculum review. She thanked all the committee members for their efforts. She spoke about the mission and vision as well as how the committee reviewed the Next Generation Science Standards and practices. She also spoke about the content area changes and grade level shifts as well as the upcoming evaluation of instructional materials and pilot process timeline. A Board discussion ensued.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:11 p.m.

  
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Barbara Hickey  
President

  
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Nicole Thompson  
Secretary