

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 2, 2021

Place: Roosevelt Multipurpose Room

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

Administrators Present: Dr. Edward Condon, Superintendent (via Zoom)
Dr. Alison Hawley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (via Zoom)
Mr. Larry Garstki, Roosevelt School Principal (via Zoom)
Ms. Denise Matthews, Director of Student Services (via Zoom)
Ms. Diane Wood, Willard School Principal (via Zoom)
Mr. Casey Godfrey, Lincoln School Principal (via Zoom)
Mrs. Christine Gerges, Lincoln/Willard Assistant Principal (via Zoom)
Mrs. Dawne Simmons, Communications Coordinator (via Zoom)

Community Present: The number of community participants on Zoom was 88.

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

Mr. Moore called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:01 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/Amy McFarlane, RFEA Co-Presidents and Grievance Chair asked that as the District leadership discusses increased in-person hours, those same decision makers adhere to authoritative guidelines, specifically around maskless time, including lunch.

Amy Hansmann, resident thanked the Board for keeping school buildings open safely. She asked about any plans for a smooth transition for incoming 5th graders to Roosevelt as they have had two academic years affected by the pandemic.

Deanna Herrman, resident had various questions about the presentations on the agenda for tonight's meeting, such as the presentation about Easter Seals and the presentation about blended learning.

Rebecca Kleps, resident expressed her relief that in-person instruction has continued and questioned how the District planned to lengthen the instructional school day.

Meredith and John Natale, residents et al looked forward with hope for a full-time in-person school day.

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Mrs. Avalos 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, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Hickey, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Moore, Ms. Williams

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Education Committee

Report on Progress – Easter Seals Program Review – Dr. Condon introduced Ms. Matthews to present an overview of the Easter Seals Illinois Autism Partnership, the current progress of the program, and the recommendations going forward. In the spring of 2019, Easter Seals completed a comprehensive audit of the multi-needs program. In addition to the findings and recommendations from the audit, Easter Seals has provided the District with ongoing monthly consultation. A lengthy Board discussion ensued.

Key Considerations: Blended Learning Instructional Schedule Revisions – Dr. Condon presented the key considerations for the proposed revisions to the instructional schedule. He noted that a more detailed proposal will be presented at the March Regular Board meeting. This presentation included an implementation target date just after spring break. He also discussed the topic of maskless time at lunch and recess as well as other issues such as density and ongoing accommodations for full remote learning option students. Furthermore, he noted that the YMCA Remote Learning Supervision Program would be winding down during this time period. He thanked the faculty, staff, the administration and the RFEA leadership for their ongoing efforts. He also announced that the Social Emotional Advisory Panel (SEAP) met for the first time earlier today and it was off to a good start. Finally, he spoke about the next steps needed, through consultation with Rush Hospital, District 90 administrators, Building Leadership Teams, the RFEA as well as a questionnaire soon to be sent out to all families. A Board discussion ensued.

ISBE Assessment Waiver Request to Department of Education – Dr. Condon informed the Board that the District requested, along with many other school districts, a waiver from assessment and accountability requirements this spring. He noted that status of the request and a lengthy Board discussion ensued.

Board Governance

West Cook YMCA Power Scholars Academy Partnership – Dr. Condon presented the proposed partnership agreement with the West Cook YMCA to once again hold the Power Scholars Academy this summer for a cost of \$55,000. He noted that this summer the program will not include Forest Park District 91 and will be held in Roosevelt Middle School. As such, there will not be a need for daily transportation services. A Board discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mrs. Deogracias and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education approve the West Cook YMCA Power Scholars Academy Partnership Agreement as presented. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Committee of the Whole Meeting, March 2, 2021

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Mrs. Deogracias that the Board of Education move into closed session in order to discuss 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body to determine its validity.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried and the Board moved into closed session at approximately 8:51 p.m.

The Board returned to open session with the same members present at approximately 9:53 p.m.

Personnel

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

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: None

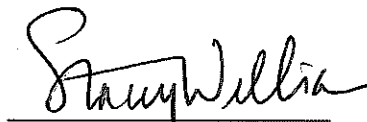
The motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:54 p.m.



Richard Moore
President


Stacey Williams
Secretary