

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
December 1, 2020

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Mr. Richard Moore, Mrs. Barbara Hickey, Ms. Stacey Williams, Dr. Nicole Thompson (arrived at 7:35 p.m.), Mrs. Kathleen Avalos, Mrs. Judy Deogracias, Mr. Calvin Davis

Administrators Present: Dr. Edward Condon, Superintendent
Dr. Alison Hawley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Denise Matthews, Director of Special Education
Mr. Larry Garstki, Roosevelt School Principal
Ms. Diane Wood, Willard School Principal
Mr. Kevin Martin, Director of Technology
Mrs. Christine Gerges, Lincoln/Willard Assistant Principal
Mrs. Dawne Simmons, Communications Coordinator

Community Present: The number of community participants on Zoom was 42.

Recording Secretary
(in-person at Roosevelt Middle School, 7560 Oak Avenue, River Forest, Illinois): Mr. Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities

Mr. Moore called the virtual Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. Mr. Moore welcomed visitors and asked Ms. Simmons for written comments from the public received in advance of the meeting.

Public Comments

Suzanne D'Agostino, resident expressed that students need to return to school in-person as remote learning is substandard.

Steffani LeFevour, resident noted that while teachers are doing an amazing job, remote learning is not as productive as in-person learning.

Robin Flaherty, resident noted that her child has floundered during remote learning.

Mary Harfoot, resident noted that students need to be back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

Maggie Boyd, resident agreed that students need to be back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

Meredith Natale, resident also agreed that students need to be back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

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Lea Thies, resident was grateful to live in a well-funded school district. However, she was disappointed that the students were not yet back learning in-person.

Alison Jack, resident also agreed that students need to be back to in-person learning as soon as possible. She referenced a petition signed by 131 residents stating the same.

William Flaherty, resident also agreed that students need to be back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

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, Mrs. Hickey, Mr. Davis, Mr. Moore, Ms. Williams

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Board Appreciation Video – Due to technical difficulties, Dr. Condon tabled the presentation of the Board Appreciation Video to a later date.

Education Committee

Dr. Hawley presented the English Learner Program Review Process. She spoke about the goals of the program review, while noting that the District has contracted with the Center for Applied Linguistics to perform the review and support the program design for the 2021/22 school year. She also spoke about the Center's principals for effective instruction and the timeline for next steps. A Board discussion ensued.

Board Governance

Strategic Planning – Living the Plan – Dr. Condon gave a presentation about the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan that was completed back in March of 2020 just before the onset of the global pandemic. He spoke about the process of launching its execution. He also looked specifically at certain goals and strategies in the plan and discussed each in detail. He then spoke about next steps as well as details that were particularly relevant at this time, such as social/emotional needs of the students; and academic proficiency. A lengthy Board discussion ensued.

District Calendar Committee Recommendation – Dr. Hawley presented the first draft of the 2021/22 official school calendar and noted the constitution of the calendar committee. She spoke in detail about the calendar's deviations from previous years. A Board discussion ensued.

January COW Meeting – Dr. Condon proposed, due to the revised winter break schedule in the 2020/21 school calendar, moving the January 5, 2021 COW meeting to January 12th.

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It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Mr. Davis 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 8:46 p.m.

The Board returned to open session with the same members present at approximately 9:22 p.m.

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. 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 9:23 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Richard P. Moore
Richard Moore
President

DocuSigned by:
Stacey Williams
Stacey Williams
Secretary