

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

November 7, 2017

Place: Roosevelt Library Learning Center

Members Present: Mr. Ralph Martire, Mr. Richard Moore, Mrs. Barbara Hickey, Ms. Stacey Williams, Mrs. Judy Deogracias, Dr. Nicole Thompson, Mr. Cal Davis (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Administrators Present: Dr. Alison Hawley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mrs. Karen Boozell, Director of Special Education  
Mr. Larry Garstki, Roosevelt School Principal  
Mr. Kevin Martin, Director of Technology

Community Present: Kelly Benkert, OP resident  
Ericka Bachner, parent  
Stephanie VanDerSchie, parent  
Kelly O'Keefe, parent  
Colleen Vahey, parent  
Valerie Tobin, OP resident  
Anne Gottlieb, parent  
Robert Zeh, parent  
Stan Sneeringer, parent  
Rev. Colleen Vahey, parent  
David Hanson, resident  
Alissa Digman parent  
Kristen Coe, resident  
Marta Kozbur, RFEA  
Garnett Foster, resident  
Katie Avalos, Lincoln School PTO Liaison  
Damon Ranieri, parent  
Dan Potter, parent  
Julia Potter, parent  
Mark Partin, parent  
Deana Herman, parent  
Chris Herman, parent  
Sue Quinn, RF Library  
Liz Ziehl, parent

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

Mr. Martire called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:06 p.m. He acknowledged the members present from the River Forest Civic Association (formerly the River Forest Service Club) and thanked them for their partnership in helping put this town hall forum together. He introduced Kristen Coe from the Association to speak of the partnership with the District. Mrs. Coe thanked the Board for its help communicating the transition process of the Service Club to the Civic Association to the community. She then led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Martire welcomed visitors and invited comments from the audience. A copy of the Speakers' Roster as well as the Attendance Roster is included in the official minutes.

**Public Comment**

Kelly Benkert, Oak Park resident, spoke on behalf of the LGBTQ community as well as transgender and transgender expansive students. She hoped that the District would support and affirm these students to provide them the best educational experience possible. She asked the Board to implement a new policy to allow these students to achieve at the highest level.

Ericka Bachner, River Forest resident, identifies as cisgender and spoke about her own children's experience in the District. She knew that the District would support her children and would do everything possible to be inclusive. She also asked for the District to adopt a policy around transgender inclusivity.

Stephanie VanDerSchie, River Forest resident, identifies as cisgender. She read a letter from a family, which summarized their experiences and their children's experiences with regards to gender identification and gender bias at school. On their behalf, she asked the District to adopt a policy that gives equity to transgender students.

Kelly O'Keefe, River Forest resident, presented a letter of support from Rep. Chris Welch for District 90 to adopt a policy giving equity to transgender students.

Rev. Colleen Fahey, 707 Ashland, thanked the Board for their service to the community. She spoke on behalf of her reverend colleagues at the Unity Temple in Oak Park and asked the Board to adopt the most proactive policy possible that achieves equity for transgender and transgender expansive students.

Val Tobin, Oak Park resident, is a psychologist and mental health specialist that works with gender minority students. She noted that the mental health of these students are at risk. She asked the District to adopt a policy providing equity for transgender and transgender expansive students.

Anne Gottlieb, 723 Bonnie Brae is a Principal of an alternative high school, which includes many gender minority students. She told a story about one such student. She also spoke in favor of the Board adopting a policy that would support transgender and transgender expansive students.

Robert Zeh, River Forest resident, spoke about why his child will be opting out of the Illinois Youth Survey. He felt that the survey data would violate a student's anonymity.

It was moved by Mr. Moore 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: Dr. Thompson, Mr. Martire, Mrs. Deogracias, Ms. Williams, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Hickey,  
Mr. Davis

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Education Committee**

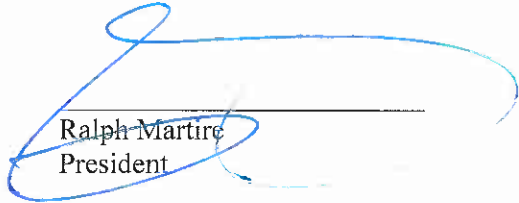
Dr. Thompson introduced Dr. Hawley to present a District Student Assessment Overview. Dr. Hawley presented the information and also recognized and introduced the District's data analysis consultant, Phil Earvolino. He provided information about the presentations most technical statistical data.

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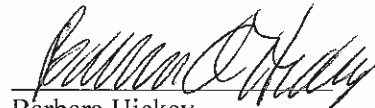
A lengthy Board discussion and community engagement session ensued.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:01 p.m.



Ralph Martire  
President



Barbara Hickey  
Secretary