

River Forest School District 90
Board of Education Meeting
December 14, 2015 7:30 p.m.
Observer: Kathleen Perry

Board Agenda, Board Packet, Addendum Material, and recording of the December 14 meeting are available at www.district90.org.

Present: President Patrick Meyer; Board Members: Ann Gottlieb, Ralph Martire, Roman Ebert, Barb Hickey, and Rich Moore.

Absent: David Latham

Present: Superintendent Edward Condon, Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities, Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Student Services.

Agenda: The agenda was approved by the Board with a minor change.

Communications: no report.

Student Presentation:

Fourth graders Cece Flosman and Mason Phillips from Willard School reported on some highlights of their studies and activities during fourth grade. The highlights included the following areas: Social Studies, Science, Reading, Narrative Writing, Opinion Essays and their interaction with Early Childhood students.

Public Participation:

Approximately 13 residents were present, and 7 or 8 of the residents had signed up to speak. President Meyer review the ground rules: speaker should give name and address, and limit comments to 3 minutes.

The **first speaker** requested that the North parking lot be opened to seniors during the day. She also noted that community groups have moved their activities from the Library to other spaces due to the parking.

The **second speaker's** statement was lengthy, and he concluded that he could not complete his statement in the allotted time. It was difficult to determine goal of statement.

The **third speaker** stated that she was not surprised at the decision and expressed the fact that she felt some negative feelings from the Board. She also stated that teachers could not cover the necessary content in 2 hours, and "we are not giving up on full-day kindergarten".

The **fourth speaker** supported the board; she recognizes that the Board is made up of volunteers. She stated that District 90 is very successful, so they are doing a lot things right. She firmly supports 1/2 day kindergarten, the school lunch and iPad programs.

The **fifth speaker** indicated that full-day kindergarten is an option not a requirement. She felt that kindergarten teachers need more time to cover the necessary content, and there is a broad residential base in favor of full-day kindergarten. This speaker is in favor of a full-day kindergarten.

The **sixth speaker** questioned: what's the problem, how to solve it, what's the research, what's the necessary funds. 90% of school districts have full-day kindergarten, but River Forest out performs 95% of the other school district.

The **seventh speaker** stated that she had moved here 2 years ago for the schools as she wanted what was best for her children.

The **eighth speaker** mentioned there had been 10 accidents and also mentioned the National Safety Council Report. She continued with “kids and cars don’t mix”.

The **ninth speaker** stated that the administration, staff, and school board does a creditable job, but there was a negative tone when considering full-day kindergarten.

The **tenth speaker** thanked the school board. Due to personal experience, she favored a full-day kindergarten.

The **eleventh speaker** stated that if full-day kindergarten doesn’t come, that’s O.K. There always room for improvement.

The **twelfth speaker** expressed concern that her child’s instruction time was reduced by 1/2 hour due to speech therapy.

The **last speaker** stated that her 3 children attended Lincoln, she was president of Lincoln PTO, and she supports the administration and the school board.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda includes minutes of the November 16, 2015, Board Meeting, and the December 1, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting, Payrolls, Orders Relating to Payrolls, Bills, Treasurer’s Report and payment of expenses (\$1,330,673), (Pages 4 and Pages 17-42 in Board Packet). The Board approved the Consent Agenda.

Board Committee Reports

Education - Rich Moore indicated that research and decision making on all-day Kindergarten will be discussed later in the meeting.

Personnel - Ann Gottlieb stated that personnel issues will be discussed in closed session.

Policy - Barb Hickey indicated that 2nd reading of policies is scheduled for later in the meeting.

Finance/Equity - Ralph Martire reported that the Equity group has discussed project-based learning and a focus for the district hiring practices that bring more diversity to the faculty. Hopefully, specific recommendation will be presented to the Board in March. Facilities - Roman Ebert will discuss

Roosevelt exterior project later in the meeting

Communications - Patrick Meyer no report for Communications.

District Calendar Review

The Committee of the Whole is scheduled to meet January 5 and Board of Education will meet January 14. (Pages 43-44 in Board Packet)

Outside/Other Meetings

A. Council of Governments - Patrick Meyer no report, next meeting scheduled for 1/8/16.

B. OPRFHS Citizen's Council - Rich Moore meeting re-scheduled for 1/14/16.

C. Youth Network Council - Barb Hickey next meeting date is 1/14/16.

D. Board Liaison District PTO Council - Barb Hickey the group did not meet, so no report.

E. Inclusiveness Advisory Board - Ann Gottlieb no report, next meeting is scheduled for 1/13/16.

F. River Forest Service Club - David Latham and Roman Ebert, no report, meeting scheduled for this week.

G. Citizen Corps Council - Roman Ebert will represent the district at Volunteer Appreciation Night.

H. West Cook Governing Board (IASB) - Ralph Martire reported better implementation of technology, perhaps using River Forest as a model.

I. ED-RED - Ralph Martire no report, and no budget.

J. River Forest Sub-Committee on Collaboration - Ralph Martire, Barb Hickey reported that the Sub-Committee met to discuss opportunities to work with each other, which could include sharing strategic plans between organizations. Also review priorities, and how they might share resources, and how they might collaborate.

Agendas for District Meetings

A. Superintendent's Leadership Council (Page 46 in Board Packet)

B. District PTO Council (Page 47 in Board Packet)

C. Professional Development Council (Page 48 in Board Packet)

Superintendent's Report

Action Items:

1. Adoption of 2015 Tax Levy (Page 50 in Board Packet)

2. Resolution Authorizing Reduction of Certain Fund Levies for the 2015 Year (Pages 51-53 in Board Packet)

3. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session, tapes may be destroyed after 18 months (Pages 54-55 in Board Packet)

4. Policy 7:132 (Student, Bikes and Other Wheeled Devices) Second Reading, second graders allowed to ride their bikes and park them on school property. (Page 56 in Board Packet)

5. Eighth Grade Lock-In Approval at Roosevelt Middle School on Feb 26, 2016 (Page 57 in Board Packet)

The Board approved all of the above items.

Informational Items

District 90 Kindergarten Programming Review

Factors to consider:

- Review research quickly but thoroughly
- 2012 Report on full-day kindergarten was very comprehensive
- Winter of 2011, information regarding full-day kindergarten was reviewed, and the decision made in 2012 not to institute a full-day kindergarten
- Research indicates benefits of full-day kindergarten for low-income children
- Also data indicates that more affluent and very rural areas tend not have full-day kindergarten
- Data concludes that some 5 year-olds are socially and emotionally ready for full-day kindergarten and other are not
- Difficult to compare readiness for 1st grade between 1/2 day and full-day kindergarten students
- River Forest students entering 1st grade exhibit readiness skills for reading and math
- River Forest schools provide needed intervention for kindergarten students before and after the school day
- River Forest High School students perform well above the national average (Pages 63-64 in Board Packet)
- Financial Aspects of Full-Day Kindergarten:
 - Personal cost for 3 additional teacher at Willard and 2 more at Lincoln) would cost \$476,000, and cost \$512,000 in 3 years,
 - Construction cost of classrooms (2 at Willard and 1 at Lincoln) would cost \$1,360,000
 - Classroom equipment for 1st year would cost \$120,000 and \$10,000 for 2nd year
 - Supplies 1st year cost would be \$40,000 then the cost would be \$10,000

It was determined not to recommend full-day kindergarten, although there's a need to gain more information about need for early childhood programs. Explore strategies for the improvement of early childhood programs, perhaps partner with Oak Park Early Childhood Collaboration to provide additional resources. Encourage the employment of kindergarten teachers with early childhood certification. The Addendum Material online contains all the research articles used in considering the topic of full-day kindergarten.

Officials of the School District and Library met to discuss a possible path forward on the parking issue. It was understood by the Library that 9 parking spaces would be available for Library (community) parking in the North lot.

Roosevelt Exterior Project

The Board received a presentation from Terra Engineering firm for the Roosevelt School Exterior Project (Pages 65-74 in Board Packet) *The Recording provides discussion of this plan beginning at 2 hours and 9 minutes.*

Policy Updates

Changes recommended for various policies were briefly described, more discussion will occur at the next meeting (Pages 74-108 in Board Packet).

School Calendar

Brief presentation of School Calendar for 2016-2017 (Pages 109-112 in Board Packet).

The Open Session of the Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.