

# **River Forest District 90 Committee of the Whole Meeting Highlights November 6, 2012**



## **Presented by**

Mr. James Weiss, District 90 Board President  
Dr. Edward Condon, Superintendent

The meeting was held in the Roosevelt Middle School Library Learning Center at 7 p.m. Below is a summary of the meeting highlights. Full meeting minutes will be posted on the District website once approved.

All members were present with the exception of Juli Geldner.

## **Education Committee, David Latham, Chair**

Kevin Martin, Director of Technology, gave a Technology Update.

### iPad Initiative

The District added 200 new "second generation" iPads this year. The total number currently deployed to students is 152 in 7th grade and 148 in 8th grade. There are 424 being used District-wide by students and staff. Parents are responsible for a repair fee if their child is negligent in causing damage to the unit. A meeting was held in September to provide parents with information about the iPad program. Kevin will be upgrading all the iPads in three waves, beginning in November.

A survey of the 7th and 8th grade teaching staff resulted in overwhelming positive responses. The students will be surveyed after the upgrade is completed.

### Other Technology

Kevin also gave an overview of technology infrastructure, equipment, and facilities upgrades and changes, including Internet bandwidth upgrades and additional WiFi access points at Lincoln and Willard, server updates, and phone system additions. Other highlights include the following.

- The District obtained 70 MacBook Pro's for teacher/staff use. There are 619 Macbooks as well as 131 iMacs at the three schools.

- The new Calcium web calendar is in place, which is more user-friendly, can be subscribed to, and can be used on a wide variety of devices.
- All three school libraries switched to a new web-based system that provides more functionality for teachers and students. Nettekker is a protected search tool for students, which makes their Internet searches safer.
- Teachers attended a Tech Refresh training in August, including a day-long Apple Professional Development workshop.
- There were 431 Help Desk tickets in September.
- Kevin met with his counterparts at Districts 97 and 200 to discuss what can be done collaboratively. They reviewed the "bring your own device" policy at OPRF High School (students may use their personal devices at certain times during the day, and in class with teacher permission). Board members discussed the pros and cons of students bringing their own devices.
- The District and school websites are being upgraded, and a new design will be expected to be launched sometime in December.
- Apple TV is being piloted at all the schools, which allows students to project to a screen from their devices in the classroom. Students continue to have an interest in being able to interact with the Smart Boards. There was discussion of the benefits of Apple TV as complementary to the Smart Boards.

### STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Roosevelt Middle School Principal Larry Garstki reported that STEM deployment is on schedule for the 2013-14 school year. Teaching faculty will be receiving professional development over the summer. STEM involves students in doing hands-on projects, e.g., Roosevelt students were at OPRF High School last week making their own microchips. The 40-day modules will incorporate seamlessly into the existing Exploratory program. All 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in this curriculum.

### **Roosevelt Exterior Project – Next Steps**

Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities, shared a draft of the Roosevelt Master Plan traffic review with the Board of Education. The District has contracted with Peter Lemon of Traffic Analytics and Design to perform the analysis, and with Landmark Engineering to complete topographical surveys of the site. The Board will approve a civil engineering contract at the Nov. 14 meeting. A REQ (request for qualification) went out in October for civil engineering firms, and qualification statements have been received from two firms.

Landscape contractor bids will be submitted in Spring 2013. The Exterior Design Committee and the community will continue to be involved in the process. The exterior construction project will begin on June 14, 2013, to be completed by August 26.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.