

River Forest District 90 Committee of the Whole Meeting Highlights December 4, 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.

Public Comments

Julie Moller presented information about the One Earth...Our Earth juried young filmmakers contest on behalf of Green Community Connections, a grass roots organization. She shared a flier with Board members.

Education Committee, David Latham, Chair

Response to Intervention (RtI): Karen Boozell, District 90 Special Education Coordinator, and Merryl Brownlow, Willard School Principal, presented a progress update about RtI, now in its third year of implementation. School leadership and faculties engage in student problem-solving meetings three times each year, as well as touching base continually regarding individual student needs. They have progressed significantly and are shifting from outside consultant support to in-house leadership. RtI is positioning the schools to better meet Common Core requirements. The team is focusing on parent communication, most notably, how to share data from testing and benchmarking.

Five Essentials: Predictions for School Success: Dr. Ed Condon reported that a state-mandated online school survey will be implemented in early Spring as part of school reform legislation. The survey will include K-8 teachers, grades 6-8 students, and parents. Results will be reported with ISAT data in the Fall. The survey, titled "The Five Essentials," is intended to provide feedback about school performance and provide more comprehensive information about school attributes.

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The survey tool was developed by the Urban Education Institute and University of Chicago, which identified five "essentials" that predict school success:

1. Effective Leaders
2. Collaborative Teachers
3. Supportive Environment
4. Involved Families
5. Ambitious Instruction

Initial results will be reported to school districts in Summer 2013, and to the community in the Fall as part of the Illinois State Report Card.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) ISAT Score Realignment: Dr. Condon reported that ISBE will be realigning ISAT scores this summer to equate more closely with the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). This change will be applied to scores reported in 2012. The new data will be provided to the District in late Spring/early Summer, and the School Report Card next Fall will reflect the change.

Ralph Martire gave an update on Educational Funding, indicating that there are likely to be legislative changes to the formulas used by the state to fund education.

Public Comments

Suzanne Morrison asked questions related to the new state funding formulas addressed by Ralph Martire.

Adjournment at 8:25 p.m.