

**River Forest District 90  
Committee of the Whole  
and Board of Education Organizational  
Meeting Highlights  
May 6, 2013**



**Presented by**

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

The meetings were held in the Roosevelt Middle School Learning Center. Below is a summary of both meeting highlights. Full meeting minutes will be posted on the District website once approved.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. All members were present.

**Official Canvass of Non-Partisan Election of April 9, 2013**

The results of the April 9, 2013, election were canvassed by the Cook County Board of Elections, declaring the results of the election verified and received by the District. Elected to be a member of the Board for a full term of four years were Roman Ebert, David Latham, Patrick Meyer, and Anne Gottlieb. Adopted as presented.

**Education Committee, David Latham, Chair**

1. Advanced Differentiated Learning (ADL)

The presentation was delivered by Director of Student Services Martha Ryan-Toye, teachers Louisa Starr and Lynn Voss, Roosevelt Principal Larry Garstki and Superintendent Ed Condon.

Over the course of the last year, the Superintendent's Leadership Council (SLC) has reviewed the manner in which the needs of gifted and talented students are met in District 90. The process involved identifying strengths and weaknesses of current instructional practices and programming, as well as an examination of "best practices" in serving gifted/talented students. The SLC also determined that the contemporary term "Advanced Differentiated Learning" would be used in District 90 to describe gifted and talented instruction. Finally, the

SLC established three subcommittees to review the District's programming options in more detail. These subcommittees included "Instructional Differentiation," "ATP Programming," and "Supports and Services for ADL Students." After thorough investigation in each of these areas, the subcommittees reported their recommendations to the SLC for review. After refinement, the final SLC recommendations were prepared for the Board of Education's consideration.

#### Committee Findings/Recommendations

- Hire an Instructional Specialist for each school to provide collaborative leadership in the areas of differentiation and curriculum development (three total).
- Provide appropriate professional developments for faculty and staff, over time, regarding the needs of advanced learners.
- Adopt revised ATP identification matrices and parent communication protocols.
- Provide ongoing review of the ATP curriculum to ensure adequate rigor, in context with Common Core.
- Maintain the accelerated math program in the current configuration at the elementary level.
- Increase support for academically focused extra-curricular clubs and activities.
- Increase opportunities for students to participate in outside gifted and talented programming (such as the Midwest Academic Talent Search, etc.).
- Explore avenues to provide ADL students with additional support in areas of social-emotional development.

Finally, the presentation emphasized the need for deliberate and regular program evaluation to determine ongoing effectiveness. Using data, performance targets will be established for this purpose moving forward.

Juli Geldner thanked the committee members for their work.

#### **Communications Committee, Juli Geldner, Chair**

1. Educational Foundation: Background about educational foundations was presented by Ms. Geldner. She reported that approximately \$18,500 has been contributed on behalf of District 90 over the years, which is being held on account by the Oak Park/River Forest Community Foundation. Consideration of the establishment of a foundation may be added to the Board retreat agenda.

## **Staff Appreciation from the Board of Education**

Mrs. Fischer suggested that the Board determine a small but meaningful way to recognize the significant contributions of the staff this year. Various comments were shared.

## **Resolution of Appreciation for JuliAnn Geldner**

Mr. Weiss presented a resolution in recognition of JuliAnn Geldner's contributions to the Board of Education and District 90. Approved.

## **Adjournment at 8:16 p.m.**

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Middle School Learning Center. All members were present.

## **Seating of the New Board**

The oath of office was administered to the newly elected Board members by Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities.

## **Organization of the Board**

### **A. Election of Officers – The following officers were elected:**

President	Patrick Meyer
Vice President	David Latham
Secretary	Liz Fischer

### **B. Election of Board Committee Chairs – The following committee chairs were appointed:**

Education	Anne Gottlieb
Personnel	Jim Weiss
Policy	Liz Fischer
Finance	Ralph Martire
Facilities	Roman Ebert
Communications/ Technology Liaison	David Latham

C. Motion to Approve the Slate of Board Member Roles and Responsibilities: Approved

D. Discussion of Possible Assignment of Outside Meeting Liaisons:

Council of Governments – Patrick Meyer  
OPRFHS Citizens' Council – Anne Gottlieb  
IASB Governing Board – Ralph Martire  
ED-RED – Ralph Martire  
Youth Network Council – Liz Fischer and Roman Ebert  
District PTO Council – Liz Fischer  
River Forest Service Club – Jim Weiss and David Latham  
Citizen Corps Council – Roman Ebert

**Discussion of Items and Proposals for Board Meetings, Membership, and Other District Logistics**

- A. *Board Meeting Schedule:* It was recommended that the current meeting schedule be maintained.
- B. *Board Outside Committee Representation:* It was recommended that members review the list of committees and identify those most significant to Board work and community participation.
- C. *Board Participation at School Events:* It was recommended that events continue to be added to the Board meeting agendas, with a monthly review of the calendar and identification of Board members who will attend.
- D. *Student Reports:* It was recommended to continue inviting two students to attend per meeting (one elementary - rotating between Willard and Lincoln - and one middle school), to provide a brief overview of events at each school over the past month, starting with the October 2013 meeting.
- E. *Other Board-Directed Changes:* All items approved.

**Motion to Re-adopt the School Board's Policy Manual:** Approved

**New Business**

- A. Summer Board Retreat: Ralph Martire suggested adding discussion of the role of the Communication Committee during the Board retreat. The retreat will be a day-long session in August. The agenda will include discussion of goals, objectives, and the Strategic Plan, among other topics.

**Adjournment at 8:46 p.m.**