

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
March 7, 2013**

Place: Roosevelt Library Learning Center

Members Present: Mr. James Weiss, Mr. Patrick Meyer, Mr. David Latham, Mrs. Liz Fischer, Mr. Roman Ebert, Mrs. JuliAnn Geldner

Administrators Present: Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent  
Mrs. Pam Hyde, Lincoln School Principal  
Mrs. Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Student Services  
Mrs. Merryl Brownlow, Willard School Principal  
Mrs. Karen Boozell, Director of Special Education  
Mrs. Tina Steketee, Roosevelt School Assistant Principal

Community Present: A copy of the Speakers Roster as well as the Attendance Roster is attached to the minutes.

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

Mr. Weiss called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at approximately 7:06 p.m. He welcomed visitors and prior to inviting comments from the audience, felt that it was important to say a few words. He was very impressed with the public comment representing both sides over the last several weeks. He then asked the Board members if they wished to speak. Mr. Meyer began by thanking Mrs. Fischer for her hard work chairing the Facilities Committee to get to this point and also thanked the entire Exterior Design Committee for their commitment to the project. He added that over the past month, he and his fellow Board members received hundreds of emails regarding the proposed plan; some for and an equal number against. He has recognized that many neighbors only learned of the plan recently and as a result, the Board's outreach was not sufficient. He recommended tabling the plan in order to re-engage with interested neighbors and create a plan that strikes a balance between fiscal stewardship and benefitting all stakeholders.

Mr. Latham then spoke, thanking everyone involved. He understood that there was a substantial amount of time and effort involved, yet the public attention to the plan was unusual and unexpected. He noted that perception has now become reality but stressed a need for the District to return to its primary objective and responsibility, educating students and keeping them safe.

Mrs. Geldner spoke about her perspective of the process. She acknowledged the efforts of the people involved. She spoke about the referendum process and the promises made back in 2006. She also spoke about communication and the improvements needed going forward. She noted that even if the District felt that the communication was adequate, if enough people complained that it was not well communicated, then the communication was deficient. She expressed that student safety was priority number one and in order to exhibit sound financial stewardship, she recommended that a District 90 Foundation be formed to raise private funds to finance the plan.

Mr. Ebert also recommended postponing the plan in order to give stakeholders time to express concerns and develop a workable plan.

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Mrs. Fischer thanked the Exterior Design Committee for their effort and hoped that the final plan encompasses many of the current ideas.

Finally, Mr. Weiss thanked everyone involved and stated for the record that the plan was not cancelled, merely tabled. He stressed the Board identified that there were lines being drawn and reiterated that open communication is valued by the Board. He promised that they will try to engage the community at large and hoped for a viable, agreed upon plan.

### **Public Comment**

Anna Schaidler, 1115 Ashland, spoke about her support of the Board's comments. She expressed her discomfort with such polarized opinions. She also spoke about, as President of the Roosevelt PTO, her involvement in personally beautifying the Roosevelt campus. She spoke about the exterior project as an extension of the successful interior project from last summer. She believed that everyone interested should have the chance for input, including other involved entities.

Kathleen Brandt-White, 217 Park, noted that she is a huge District 90 fan and has always been a very active volunteer. She noted that a vast majority of residents do not have children in the District. While she is proud of the District, she expressed concern that if the plan was completed as presented today and she was asked to volunteer for a future referendum, she would have reservations.

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks, appreciated the Board's reconsideration with the plan. Her three main concerns with the plan are congestion, costs and communication. She thanked the Board for its consideration for bringing the plan to the broader community.

Mary Jo Taira, 1023 Thatcher, thanked everyone for their efforts but felt that the communication was poor. She felt that the River Forest Library should have been given more consideration.

Suzanne Morrison, 7205 Iowa, applauded the Board and the Exterior Design Committee for their efforts. She noted that the communication process used for this plan was no different than ones used by other entities in town. She opined that the plan was outstanding and warned that if the plan was constructed in a piecemeal manner, the District will spend more in the long run.

Tom Smedinghoff, 823 William, spoke as a River Forest Library Trustee and in light of the Board's opening comments, thanked them for the postponement.

Harley Beck, 1335 Ashland, spoke as a River Forest Library Trustee. She thanked the Board for listening. She also noted that if the plan is truly viable then after extended public input, it will still be viable.

Allison Lundeen, 846 Forest, thanked the Board for their service to the community. She noted that she read the entire traffic study and expressed her joy with the decision to postpone. She understands the current safety hazards, but is concerned about alienating the library, parents and staff.

Gerri Humbert, 1318 Park, spoke as the Roosevelt PTO Liaison and Willard PTO Treasurer. She expressed her concern that pausing the plan would cause people to forget that parking and congestion are a study safety concern. Student safety is priority number one. She described a recent incident where a child was almost hit by a car in the north lot.

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It was moved by Mrs. Fischer and seconded by Mr. Latham that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Meyer, Mr. Ebert, Mr. Latham, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Weiss, Mrs. Geldner

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Mr. Weiss formally congratulated the Roosevelt Eighth Grade Science Bowl Team for the victory at the Regional competition and its upcoming competition at Nationals in Washington D.C.

**Student Registration, Residency Verification and Early Bird Discount/Late Fee Penalty –**

Dr. Condon spoke about the online residency process and recommended one document as proof of residency from every existing District 90 family each year. He also spoke about registration fees and the recommendation for adding a 5% early bird discount rate and a 5% late fee penalty to the registration timeline.

It was moved by Mrs. Geldner and seconded by Mr. Latham that the Board of Education approve the residency verification and early bird discount/late fee recommendations as presented.

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Meyer, Mr. Ebert, Mr. Latham, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Weiss, Mrs. Geldner

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Education Committee**

Mr. Latham introduced Mrs. Ryan-Toye who, along with Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Brownlow, and Mrs. Stekete, gave an extensive presentation focusing on Curriculum – Student Writing. The Board had several questions, ranging from the use of writing growth portfolios to the use of math/science writing as a part of STEM curriculum. The Board also asked about the inclusion of writing in long-hand, cursive and keyboarding in the current curriculum as well as articulation to District 200. Finally, there was a presentation by Mrs. Boozell about the interventions employed for students struggling with writing. Dr. Condon and the Board thanked everyone for their efforts.

**Facilities Committee**


Due to the previous Board and Public Comments, the Board decided not to hear the presentation on the Roosevelt Exterior Project from the Landscape Architect.

**Public Comment**

Greta Landis, 331 Thatcher questioned how individual registration fee amounts were calculated each year.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

  
James Weiss  
President

  
David Latham  
Secretary