

CITY/SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 24, 2019

***Evanston Township High School
1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston***

Committee Members Present:

District 202

Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent
Pete Bavis, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mary Rodino, Chief Financial Officer
Marcus Campbell, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Pat Savage-Williams, School Board President
Mark Metz, School Board Member

District 65

Paul Goren, Superintendent
Rafael Obafemi, Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Mendoza, School Board Member

City of Evanston

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager
Demitrous Cook, Chief of Police
Lawrence Hemingway, Director of Parks and Recreation
Karen Danczak Lyons, Director of Evanston Public Library
Kumar Jensen, Sustainability Coordinator
David Stoneback, Director of Public Works Agency
Jill Velan, Parking Division Manager

Call to Order/Introductions

Dr. Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of the September 26, 2018 Minutes

The September 26, 2018 minutes were approved as presented. Approved.

Safety Update

Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Mr. Demitrous Cook, the new Evanston Chief of Police. Mr. Cook reported that he has already begun working with Dr. Witherspoon on instituting some changes in how serious incidents are investigated at the high school and will begin using the detective bureau instead of SROs for investigations. He added that as a former SWAT Team Director and certified ALICE instructor, he would like to begin working on active shooter drills in both school districts as well as meeting regularly with each Superintendent to address any needs in the schools. Dr. Witherspoon complimented Chief Cook on his immediate response to a request for an emergency meeting at the high school. Dr. Goren complimented the Evanston Police Department on the excellent ALICE training that they provided to District 65. Chief Cook responded that he will work as a team with the school districts.

Sustainability

Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Mr. Jensen, City of Evanston Sustainability Coordinator, and Mr. Stonebeck, Director of Public Works Agency, to update the Committee on the Climate Action Resilience Plan (CARP), in conjunction with District 202 and District 65, and the City of Evanston recycling program.

Mr. Jensen said the CARP plan strives to serve two purposes: to evaluate what is being done in Evanston related to energy use and transportation that contributes to climate change as well as looking at and evaluating how Evanston will be impacted by climate change. He said that they are in the process of establishing a robust implementation strategy that will focus on a few areas such as storm water management and flooding risk to energy consumption and building energy efficiencies.

Mr. Bobkiewicz said that the City offers curbside recycling but they are evaluating what they should be collecting because there have been some changes in the program, within the industry, on what is collectable and its value. Dr. Witherspoon said that the market for recyclables worldwide is changing and we'll have to see how it affects the community. Mr. Stoneback explained what the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) accepts for recycling and the different program facilities they offer. The recycling program is still profitable, especially with office paper, but he added that education is required on recycling contamination, such as not mixing garbage or hazardous waste with recyclable items so as not to decrease their value. Mr. Bobkiewicz said the City also collects old and large electronics through SWANCC. Mr. Stoneback added that another market for recyclables is the concept of expanded producer responsibility where manufacturers of certain equipment would take back their used equipment versus placing the burden on the City. Mr. Obafemi said District 65 is working to reinstate recyclable trays that allow food scraps to remain on them and then used for compost. The trays are disposed of in lined bins that are collected daily. Currently, District 202 utilizes high-power dishwashers on washable trays as it is more cost-effective for the high school but Dr. Witherspoon said they are open to researching the feasibility of the compost-style recyclable trays.

Mayor's Employer Advisory Council (MEAC)

Dr. Bavis, District 202 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, provided an update on the Mayor's Employer Advisory Council (MEAC) in the absence of Mr. Neal Gambow, Director of the program. The program is focused on improving and developing sustainable career pathways for Evanston High School students and recent graduates who seek career opportunities that do not require a four-year college degree. The program shifts the language from college and career ready to *career ready*. He said that Mr. Gambow has done an amazing job at organizing and leading this program which includes major employers from Evanston, including both hospitals and various manufacturers. The program leads students into careers right out of high school. A portion of the Good Neighbor fund is earmarked for Elevate Evanston to fund a new position through the Youth Job Center that will be housed at the High School. This new person will help will strengthen relationships between students, teachers, counselors and employers within Evanston and not only help students become career ready but fill the demand that employers have. The goal of MEAC is to move 100 students per year directly into careers with Evanston employers by 2021. Dr. Witherspoon added that the jobs are career level and extremely significant. A discussion was held on also teaching students soft skills and personal responsibility such as maintaining a driver's license, etc.

Afterschool, Half-Day and Spring Break Activities

Ms. Danczak Lyons, Evanston Library Director, said they always love having children in the library and they create extra programs for students on spring break and early dismissal days. They encourage younger children as well. They are focusing on STEM activities and workshops for underrepresented groups such as students of color and girls. Dr. Witherspoon asked how the the High School is faring in communicating the Library's programs. Ms. Danczak Lyons said she believes the word is getting out since multi-day workshops during the breaks quickly fill up. They occasionally experience a capacity issue so they are exploring ways to get more volunteers involved. Girls' programs, in particular, fill up quickly. She said that the Library partners with Parks and Recreation, Family Services and Family Focus. Dr. Witherspoon asked if the racial distribution in the programs that are at capacity mirror the racial distribution of the community. Ms. Danczak Lyons responded that there is open registration for the programs targeted to Black and Latino families but they fill up quickly.

Mr. Hemingway, Parks and Recreation, reported on afterschool activities. There are traditional, parent sign-up, afterschool programs at Fleetwood Jourdain and Robert Crown and specific afterschool programs that require formal registration at the Chandler-Newberger Community Center, the Evanston Ecology Center and Noyes Cultural Arts Center. There are also two drop-in afterschool programs at Mason Park and Kamen Park through a partnership with Ridgeville Park District and targeted for kids at Chute School. On half-days of school, all regular afterschool program locations become an afterschool site. During spring break there are specific camps such as STEM Camp and Day Camp. Traditional Day Camp registration starts on February 2 at 8:00 am online and in person at the Levy Center. Black History Month programming will take place at Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre.

A discussion was held on safe, constructive activities for students when programs are at capacity during early dismissal days and breaks. Mr. Hemingway said that the City dispatches staff to target hot spots such as the downtown area, McDonalds, Starbucks, etc., in an effort to redirect students to constructive programs and opportunities. Ms. Mendoza, District 65 Board Member, suggested that the City revisit offering a service projects or sustainability education for students during breaks. Ms. Danczak Lyons added that when City programs are full, students may utilize the Library for self-directed learning. Ms. Fleming, Alderman, asked about easing restrictions on enrollment and registration fees for low-income families. Mr. Hemingway answered in the affirmative and said that they are working on scholarships for low-income families to assist with registration fees associated with programs, camps, etc.

Crossing Guard Transition

Mr. Bobkiewicz said that the transition to Andy Frain Services for school crossing guards and traffic control is going very smoothly. Ms. Velan, Parking Division Manager, explained that the transition started the first day back from winter break. Crossing guards that were employed by the City of Evanston were offered positions with Andy Frain and all accepted with one employee being promoted to supervisor. Andy Frain will also provide substitutes when a crossing guard is absent. So far, the City is very pleased with this decision.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next meeting: May 2, 2019 at District 65