

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole
on Transition of the Before School and After School Child Care Programs
to the Park Ridge Recreation & Park District
held at 6:30 p.m. on September 24, 2012
Franklin Elementary School - Gym
2401 Manor Lane, Park Ridge, Illinois

President John Heyde called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Other Board members present were Scott Zimmerman, Eric Uhlig, Sharon Lawson (participating by telephone), Pat Fioretto, Dan Collins and Anthony Borrelli. Also present were Superintendent Philip Bender, Assistant Superintendents Joel T. Martin and Lori Hinton, Business Manager Becky Allard, Director of Technology Terri Bresnahan, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services Jim Even, Director of Facility Management Scott Mackall, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, Coordinator of Extended Day & Preschool Services Leslye Lapping, Roosevelt School Principal Kevin Dwyer, and 13 members of the public.

President Heyde stated the purpose of the meeting was to review a proposal to transition the before and after school child care programs from District 64 to the Park District effective with the 2013-14 school year, to begin with a roll-out at Roosevelt School only for the after school program in January 2013. The proposal is listed as an action item at the regular meeting following the Committee-of-the-Whole. Participating in the presentation and discussion were: Business Manager Allard, Jefferson Coordinator Lapping, Roosevelt Principal Kevin Dwyer, and from the Park Ridge Recreation & Park District – Recreation Supervisor Mary Bart, Superintendent of Recreation April Armer and Recreation Program Division Manager Julie Greve.

Ms. Allard introduced the genesis of the proposal based on research and development over a two-year period, and the District's more recent outreach to the Park District. Ms. Lapping reviewed both the history of the after school child care program at Jefferson School, and the services it currently provides. Dr. Dwyer described in detail the timeline for the transition to a site-based program under Park District supervision, which would begin with a roll-out of the after school program only at Roosevelt School in January 2013 following winter break. Roosevelt was selected for the roll-out because it is the furthest elementary building from Jefferson. By August 2013, before school and after school care would be provided at each elementary school through the Park Ridge Park District.

Dr. Dwyer enumerated benefits to students including: safety; convenient pick-up for parents at each local "home" school; elimination of a waiting list; elimination of the bus ride to Jefferson for students; access to after school programs/clubs at each child's home school; support for special needs students; and the potential to increase student participation of families who might consider a local site rather than Jefferson. Ms. Lapping pointed out that special needs students also could take advantage of support offered through the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR), which is not available to District 64 as a school district. Dr. Dwyer also described how fixed facilities at Roosevelt would be used, primarily the south gym, lobby area, vestibule, washrooms and the outdoor playground, field and track. He noted the Park District would provide its own equipment for the programming. Ms. Lapping reviewed some

of the changes to expect, such as less interaction with students at other schools, higher involvement at the neighborhood school, differences in the range of activities, and a flat fee with a two-day minimum for participation.

Dr. Dwyer noted that Roosevelt's kindergarten students who are enrolled in the afternoon Extended Day Kindergarten program located at Jefferson, who also are enrolled in the after school program at Jefferson, would require special consideration and planning to meet each family's needs at the transition mid-year. He described three options that would be available, and stated he would work with each family individually to identify the best option because of the mid-year transition.

The Park District representatives then described the Park District's long service to the community and children of various ages. They reviewed the registration process for the Roosevelt program, and stated all children currently enrolled would be guaranteed a place for the mid-year roll-out and that registration for all schools would be conducted in the spring for the 2013-14 school year program. They reviewed their student to instructor ratio, safety training and certifications of staff, and standards and accreditations by professional organizations. The Park District proposed that the daily fee would be a flat rate of \$8.50 for any portion of the after school period until 6:00 p.m. The schedule would include snack and homework time, with students moving through various activity centers available both indoors and outdoors. The Park District stated it would observe the current Jefferson program and use it as a model for the Roosevelt roll-out.

Ms. Lapping then discussed a timeline for outreach to Jefferson after school program families as well as all families at Roosevelt School. Dr. Dwyer said he believes the Park District program on-site will provide a seamless transition from the school day to after-school activities, and that partnering with another governmental agency for such programs is done frequently in other communities.

President Heyde then offered Board members an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal. A lengthy period of Board discussion focused on: bus routines now used to transport students to and from Jefferson; the ability of the Park District to accommodate all interested families; outreach already completed and planned for families currently utilizing the after school program and families at all elementary schools; the timeline for the Board's discussion and approval of the proposal; the cost of the current Jefferson program in terms of bus service, staff, and other expenses; the financial impact on District 64's revenues and expenditures; the need for a written agreement between Park District and District 64, liability and insurance concerns, and the need for District 64's legal counsel to review any new agreement; the current intergovernmental agreement between District 64 and the Park District, and what it includes; concerns about equipment to be provided; the ability to accommodate kindergarten students interested in transferring to an afternoon session at Roosevelt mid-year; a review of how the extended day Kindergarten program operates; the time savings with no busing to Jefferson; the impact on other groups that currently use elementary school facilities after school, such as Girl Scouts, at Roosevelt and at other buildings; the programming offered to students at Jefferson compared to programming that would be offered under the Park District; the ratio of students to staff currently in the before and after school programs and what the Park District would provide; the impact on District 64 staff employed for these programs and possible future employment by the Park District; and whether the Roosevelt roll-out would be optional

or mandatory for all students currently enrolled in the after school program in grades 1-5.

Board President Heyde then invited comments from the public, which were received as follows:

- Ben Yatvin, a Franklin School and Jefferson after school program parent, inquired about what activities the Park District would provide for students participating in the after school program, and the qualifications of the staff to be employed.
- Scott Bennett, coordinator of Girl Scouts at Washington School, inquired about how the available spaces for after school activities at the elementary buildings would be shared with the Park District program, so that troop meetings could still be held.
- Wendy Burgess, a Field School and Jefferson after school program parent, acknowledged potential advantages to the site-based program; expressed concerns about the spaces to be utilized in each building; noted that staffing is the #1 concern; and urged that a trial period be evaluated before making a major change.
- David Breed, a Roosevelt School and Jefferson after school program parent, expressed his discomfort with busing of students to Jefferson; stated his #1 concern is safety of children; and inquired about training and supervisory control mechanisms that would be in place under the Park District program related to safety.
- Claire Ann Brammeier-Gotthelf, DDS, a current Jefferson after school program parent, inquired about the timing of outreach to parents about the proposal; described a conversation with the Park District about the program; questioned the facilities to be utilized at the elementary schools compared to Jefferson and how homework would be handled; and stated her pride in the current Jefferson program.
- Brad Olson, a parent, expressed his enthusiasm for the home school location and noted it would benefit his daughter by allowing her to transition to/from Scouts and the after school program, and urged careful consideration but not to delay past next fall.
- A parent inquired how before school care under the Park District would be provided for students in the extended day Kindergarten program.

Ms. Lapping also clarified that nurses have offices at Jefferson, but do not provide health care services as a regular part of the Jefferson program.

President Heyde concluded the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at 7:47 p.m., which was followed by a brief recess before the regular Board meeting resumed.

President

Secretary