

Board of Education
Community Consolidated School District 64

Committee-of-the-Whole: Transition of the Before School and After School
Child Care Programs to Park Ridge Recreation and Park District

Monday, September 24, 2012
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Franklin Elementary School - Gym
2401 Manor Lane

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. TRANSITION OF THE BEFORE SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL
CHILD CARE PROGRAMS TO PARK RIDGE RECREATION &
PARK DISTRICT
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
4. ADJOURNMENT

TO: Board of Education
Philip Bender, Superintendent

FROM: Leslye Lapping, Coordinator of Extended Day & Preschool Services
Dr. Kevin Dwyer, Roosevelt School Principal
Rebecca J. Allard, Business Manager

DATE: September 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Transition of the Before School and After School Child Care
Programs to Park Ridge Recreation & Park District

Background

▪ Before School Program

The program has been school-based since its founding in 1983. The program was taken over by District 64 from a non-profit corporation in the 2007-08 school year at the same time the District transitioned the elementary paid lunch supervision program to its direct control. Approximately 345 students are served at the five elementary schools beginning at 7:00 a.m. daily until the start of school. Parents may register a child to attend daily for the year. The cost is \$489 for the year if paid by July 15.

▪ After School Program

The Jefferson after school program has been in existence for 30 years. Students in grades K-6 are bused from the five elementary schools and Lincoln Middle School to Jefferson; Emerson Middle School students walk. The program is offered from after school until 6:00 p.m., with three pick-up times offered and priced accordingly. The program started with three staff members and approximately 30 students. Currently, 280 students are enrolled in the program, which is supervised by 25 part-time staff members under the direction of two administrators.

Demand for after school services at Jefferson remains high and enrollment is limited due to the capacity of the building to accommodate the program. There is currently a waiting list of 11 families, and the list has climbed as high as 20 at points this year.

Faced with this growing need, Superintendent Philip Bender and Leslye Lapping, Coordinator of Extended Day & Preschool Services, two years ago began exploring the possibility of moving to a school-based concept for after school care as a way to better meet student needs and open the program to more families. Their research of practices in surrounding communities also pointed out that schools commonly forge partnerships with their local park districts to meet the before school and after school child care needs of families. Such collaborations allow each organization to focus on their core missions, avoid redundant offerings, and provide greater benefits to community members.

As a result of this review, District 64 opened conversations with the Park Ridge Recreation & Park District to explore interest in partnering to meet the before and after school needs of students. These discussions ultimately led to the current proposal.

Current Proposal

At this time, District 64 is seeking Board approval to transfer the location of the after school child care program back to the elementary schools, and to place both the before and after school programs under the control of the Park District.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

- "Roll-out" of the after school program under the Park District will begin in January 2013 at Roosevelt School only.
- No changes will be made to the before school program through the 2012-13 school year.
- Effective with the 2013-14 school year, the Park District will operate both the before and after school programs on site at all five elementary schools.

Roll-Out of After School Program at Roosevelt School

The roll-out at Roosevelt for the after school program will begin as students return from Winter Break on Monday, January 7, 2013. Just over 50 students are enrolled in the after school program, although the count from day-to-day varies as students are enrolled from 1-5 days. The Park District will be allowed to use the south gym and will provide its own supplies and equipment. Roosevelt's outside playground and field areas will also be used. Classroom spaces will not be utilized for after school care.

Options for Roosevelt kindergarten students who are currently enrolled in the Jefferson Extended Day Kindergarten Program for the afternoon, who also participate in the After School Child Care Program, will be discussed with parents on an individual basis to find the choice that best suits their family. The options for Roosevelt during the roll-out include: being bused to Roosevelt for the after school program; remaining at Jefferson as they would currently; or transferring from morning to afternoon kindergarten at Roosevelt beginning January 2013.

Analysis

The benefits of the Park District operating a school-based program for grades K-5 are myriad:

- The safety of students is enhanced by remaining at one location.
- Eliminates the time spent on the bus ride to Jefferson for students.
- Convenient pick-up for parents/ guardians at their local "home" school, rather than driving to the northern end of the District at Jefferson.
- The waiting list for spots in the program is eliminated.
- Students can join other classmates for after school programs/ clubs at their own schools.
- Additional support for special needs students can be provided, as needed.
- Program location at local school may be attractive to other families currently using alternate child care arrangements.

Among the changes to expect:

- Students will no longer interact with students from other buildings.
- The range of activities offered by the Park District may differ from those at Jefferson.
- Grade 6 students will no longer be accommodated after school; District 64 currently serves only two students at that grade level. The significant advance notice to current grade 5 parents should allow them sufficient time to make plans for next year if they were planning on utilizing this option.

With information gained from the roll-out experience at Roosevelt, District 64 also will make a final determination on how kindergarten students enrolled in the Extended Day Kindergarten Program at Jefferson during the afternoon, who also require after school child care, will be accommodated.

Financial & Staffing Impacts

The cost of the after school program will be favorable for most families. The Park District will offer the service for a flat rate of \$8.50 per day, regardless of the time of pick-up until 6:00 p.m. This fee will be slightly greater than the \$6 per day District 64 currently charges for pick up at 4:30 p.m. However, it will be a significant savings for those who currently pay District 64 \$12 to pick up at 5:30 p.m. or \$16 to stay until closing. The Park District will require a minimum enrollment of two days per week; District 64 currently has no minimum number of days.

Overall, the District 64 budget will see a decrease in revenue from the loss of program fees collected from participants. Expenditures also will be reduced primarily for part-time staff needed to operate the program. District 64 is very sensitive to the impact on the loyal part-time staff members who work in the before school and after school programs. The Park District has committed to interviewing all current District 64 staff that may be interested in transitioning to the Park District programs; however, they would most likely be compensated at a lower rate of pay. Again, it is hoped that advance notice will help ease the impact of this change.

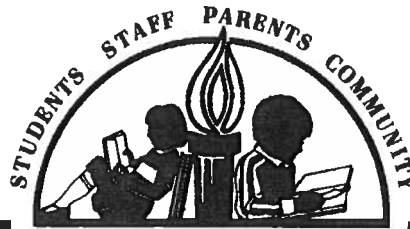
Next Steps

The attached communication has already been distributed to Jefferson parents to inform them of tonight's meeting. (Attachment 1) The preliminary feedback from parents thus far has been very positive. While many have stated that they will miss Jefferson, the benefits to their students of remaining in their own building close to their homes are seen as a significant advantage.

Communications outreach is planned jointly with the Park District in coming weeks. These initial outreach efforts will include:

- Information night at Roosevelt School for current after school program families as well as prospective users – October
- Information table at Jefferson School for current program families – October
- Direct email to parents
- New informational and registration materials from the Park District – late fall

We will present an overview of the proposal and answer questions at the September 24 Committee-of-the-Whole and regular business meetings. Please feel free to contact us in advance with any further areas you would like specifically addressed.



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September 12, 2012

**District 64 and Park District to propose new model for after school care;
Roosevelt roll out in January 2013**

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is working with the Park Ridge Recreation & Park District on an exciting proposal to offer site-based after school care supervised by the Park District at each elementary school.

Roosevelt School has been selected as the first school to roll out this new model beginning January 2013.

We believe the site-based program will benefit students by eliminating bus rides from across the District to Jefferson School, where District 64's program is currently centered. Instead, students can enjoy the familiar surroundings and expanded recreational areas at their home schools. Families also will benefit from convenient, local pick-up at day's end instead of traveling to Jefferson at the far corner of our District during the busy afternoon rush.

We will be sharing initial plans for the roll out and how the new model will be expected to work with the Board of Education at the September 24 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Franklin School, 2401 Manor Lane, Park Ridge. As for all District 64 Board meetings, the full report will be posted on Friday in advance of the meeting on our website: www.d64.org; the meeting itself also will be videotaped and available for viewing within 48 hours, too. The Board will be asked to approve the new model at the regular business meeting that evening at 7:30 p.m., so that detailed planning can begin to prepare for the roll out at Roosevelt School immediately after Winter Break.

We look forward to sharing more complete information with parents and staff about this new school-parks collaboration in coming weeks.

Meanwhile, please feel free to contact Leslye Lapping, Coordinator of Extended Day & Preschool Services, 847-318-4249 or llapping@d64.org, with your initial questions or concerns.