

**PARK RIDGE-NILES SCHOOL DISTRICT 64**  
**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting  
held at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 12, 2014  
Roosevelt School, 1001 S. Fairview, Park Ridge, IL 60068

**Attendees:**

Dr. Laurie Heinz, Superintendent	Susan Walsh, Field School Principal
Dan Collins, School Board member	Leslye Lapping, Jefferson School Principal
Chief Frank Kaminski, Park Ridge Police	Athanasia Albans, Roosevelt School Assistant Principal
Deputy Chief Lou Jogmen, Park Ridge Police	Dan Walsh, Franklin School Principal
Cmdr. Jason Leavitt, Park Ridge Police	Emily Lech, Carpenter/Franklin Assistant Principal
Adm. Sgt. Bob Tornabene, Niles Police	Tim Benka, Emerson Middle School Assistant Principal
Off. Tom Rechlicz, Park Ridge Police	Tim Gleason, Lincoln Middle School Assistant Principal
Kathy Jozwiak, Park Ridge Crossing Guard Liaison	Scott Mackall, Director of Facility Management
Mary Bart, Park District Beyond the Bell Program	Bernadette Tramm, Public Information Coordinator

Dr. Heinz called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the 2014-15 school year.

**Park Ridge Park District Beyond the Bell Program**

Ms. Bart reported that about 480 students were registered thus far among the five elementary schools for the before/after school program; registration has been slow but is picking up as the start of school moves closer. She reported on staff hiring and training; program supplies are being moved into the schools. She announced that Park District staff would wear blue/yellow shirt or lanyard with the program name. The morning program is staffed beginning at 6:30 a.m. to the start of school; the afternoon program is staffed from 2-6 p.m. She noted that specific locations had been designated at each school for drop off/pick up by car. In the morning, there is an A-frame sign placed at the drop off location from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; it is a "kiss 'n go" routine. The A-frame sign is removed at 8:30 a.m. The afternoon pickup requires parents to park and enter the building. Program cars will have a Park Ridge Park District Beyond the Bell sign on their dashboards. The designated locations are: Roosevelt - Door 13; Carpenter - Door 16 on Hamlin Ave.; Franklin - circular drive entrance on Manor Lane; Washington - Door 4 on Stewart Ave.; and Field - north gym on Wisner St. Phone calls from the program to police will indicate the Park Ridge Park District identifier; personal cell phones may also be used in emergencies. Mr. Mackall will contact Ms. Bart on the drop-off of students being transported from the Jefferson Extended Day Kindergarten afternoon session to attend Beyond the Bell at the elementary buildings.

**City of Park Ridge Police**

- Cmdr. Leavitt reported that:
  - Beat team leaders would be asked to stop by the schools and introduce themselves again to the principals.
  - The annual crossing guard training meeting will be held on August 13 at the City Council chambers.
  - Off. Rechlicz has replaced Off. Kappler as the traffic officer.
- Chief Kaminski noted that police would be actively reminding parents of traffic rules around schools, stressing cell phone use, during the first two weeks; thereafter, police would be ticketing. He also stated police would be pleased to attend the upcoming parent evenings to continue their support for schools and expand their presence in the community.

**ACTION:** Ms. Tramm is to work with police to insert a flier regarding cell phone use in the first school newsletters on August 28; she also will provide a list of upcoming parent nights to police.

- Chief Kaminski invited principals to let the department know if any students are deserving of special recognition for safety-related actions during the year; the department will arrange to present the child with an award.

### **Village of Niles Police**

Adm. Sgt. Tornabene reported similar concerns with traffic enforcement and cell phone use around schools, and will also do a two-week window of education and reminders. He also reported:

- The process has been initiated to add “No Turn on Red” signs northbound on Prospect Avenue at Oakton Street.
- Police also will be looking into placing a stop sign southwest bound on Greendale in front of Jefferson.

### **School Reports**

#### ▪ **Franklin**

Principal Walsh reported he was working with his Beat Officer to produce a short video on the correct way to drop off students at Franklin, which will be shown to parents at the upcoming curriculum night.

#### ▪ **Lincoln**

Assistant Principal Gleason reported that due to additional bus routes added this year, the school would like to have additional spaces along Crescent Ave. designated as no car parking to accommodate the buses instead.

**ACTION:** Mr. Mackall will coordinate to have the existing car striping removed and yellow no parking added to the curb area.

Chief Kaminski then asked whether the middle schools in particular could use his recent guest editorial regarding the youth unrest that occurred at one of the parks during the Taste of Park Ridge as a “teachable moment” with their children. Following discussion, Dr. Heinz suggested the District’s administrative group could explore the idea of how to integrate this with the District’s ongoing civil behavior program.

**ACTION:** District 64 will review after the school year has begun and respond to police.

#### ▪ **Jefferson**

Principal Lapping reported that summer traffic with its day camp has been very smooth. She also reported that there was very little evidence of evening outdoor use of the facilities or vandalism this year. She invited police to attend the curriculum open house for parents and students on Thursday, August 28 in the afternoon, and especially to remind parents specifically about cell phone use around schools.

#### ▪ **Carpenter**

Assistant Principal Lech delivered a letter to police from families requesting consideration of a crossing guard to be added at Dee Road and Cherry Street.

**ACTION:** Police will address the request for an additional guard.

#### ▪ **Emerson**

Assistant Principal Benka reported that due to increased routes, the number of buses staging in the parking lot will almost double. This will cause increased congestion and require greater patience from drivers. The school will be reaching out to families to alert them to this change.

▪ **Roosevelt**

Assistant Principal Albans reported that several parents have requested that a crossing guard be added to the corner of Prospect Ave. and Talcott Rd. The designated walking route through this area was discussed.

**ACTION:** Police will review the request for an additional guard.

▪ **Field**

Principal Walsh noted that construction at the school was nearing completion, with teachers allowed to return to begin setting up on August 18. Resurfacing of the blacktop and parking lot areas was continuing. She reported that the school urges parents to create car pools to lessen the traffic in the area during drop off and pick up, but with limited success. She also noted that the reading garden and Elmore Street side of the school grounds remain a popular area for older youth to congregate during the evenings/on weekends.

**ACTION:** Following further discussion, it was determined that Beat Team leaders would work with all the principals to adjust the camera views from District 64's new system so that such areas can be seen. For Field, Mr. Mackall also may try to trim bushes and improve the lighting of the specific areas noted.

**Successes/Concerns**

Board member Collins reported that double-parking at Roosevelt School is a concern along Prospect Ave.; police assistance in monitoring this would be helpful.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28 at Lincoln Middle School (Learning Resource Center), 200 S. Lincoln, at 4 p.m.

Dr. Heinz noted that going forward, agendas and minutes would be shared via a Google Docs format.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Bernadette Tramm