



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
708-771-8282

**District PTO Council Meeting
Minutes
October 23, 2015**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Dr. Ed Condon in the District's offices. In attendance were Sarah Lempia (Roosevelt), Stephanie Schrodt (Roosevelt), Marisa Green (Roosevelt), Peggy Balesteri (Willard), Sharon Barry (Willard), Diane Wood (Willard), Tammy Travis (Lincoln), Amy Dwyer (Lincoln), Casey Godfrey (Lincoln), Martha Ryan-Toye, Dawne Simmons, Barb Hickey, and Ed Condon.

Approval of September 18, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the September 18, 2015 meeting were approved.

September 23 Institute Day (Martha Ryan-Toye)

Martha Ryan-Toye reported on the Institute Day held on September 23. Lincoln and Willard faculty addressed the transition to the changing standards in writing and NGSS by spending a half day on each topic. Interactive exercises and hands-on activities were conducted to augment classroom instruction. Roosevelt faculty dealt with social emotional learning goals in the classroom and across the curriculum. Many presentations were led by faculty members. Ms. Ryan-Toye stressed that educators are embracing the significant changes required by the transition.

District Calendar, 2016-2017 (Martha Ryan-Toye)

Martha Ryan-Toye explained several of the factors that are considered in establishing the District calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. The calendar committee, which is comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators, meets several times a year. The initial meeting typically occurs in November with the goal of having a proposal for the Board in December. The committee makes an effort to align District 90's December recess with the winter breaks of District 97 (Oak Park) and District 200 (OPRFHS). The committee reviews the start of school among the three districts as well as the dates for the winter and spring breaks. There was also a brief discussion on this year's schedule change for Parent/Teacher conferences, moving them from around the Thanksgiving holiday to earlier in November.

D90 Strategic Planning Update (Ed Condon)

Dr. Condon provided an update on the framework and process that will be used to implement the Strategic Plan's action objectives. District administrators will work with volunteer stakeholder teams to prioritize the action goals across the Plan's remaining four years. According to Dr. Condon, the administration is in the process of seeking stakeholder volunteers to serve on the action objectives team. He invited Council members to spread the word among interested parents and community members. Dr. Condon also explained some of the details of serving on the action objectives teams, such as making a one-year commitment to serve and attending four meetings during the year. Efforts to reach out to various stakeholder groups will occur within the next two weeks.

Air Quality/Climate Analysis (Ed Condon)

Dr. Condon reported on architect Sven Dahlquist's presentation to the Board on October 19 regarding the analysis of the HVAC in the District's schools. The presentation offered several options to help moderate the buildings' temperature during hot days in the late spring and summer. While cost is a critical factor, Dr. Condon explained that most important issue was the effect high temperatures have on classroom instruction. The architect's presentation was designed to be simply informative and did not require any formal action by the Board. Barb Hickey indicated that the presentation was thoughtful and offered several alternatives that balanced the factors of cost and environmental considerations. Dr. Condon indicated that there will be additional discussions on the issue.

Student Bicycle Policy/Procedures (Diane Wood, Casey Godfrey)

Casey Godfrey explained that after a deliberate discussion with Diane Wood, both principals decided that second grade students could ride and leave their bicycles at school. Previously, second grade students could ride their bikes to school with an adult, but could not leave their bikes on school property, which required the adult to transport the bike home. This change in practice does not alter the practice for first grade or kindergarten students; their bikes will not be allowed to stay at school. Because the custom results from a Board policy, work will begin in the spring to amend the policy, allowing time for second grade students to take a bike safety course in the spring and begin leaving their bikes at school in the fall of 2016. There was a brief discussion on the responsibility for securing bicycles.

School Supplies (group discussion, revisited from September)

Dr. Condon reported that the issue of school supplies remained open; there was nothing new to add. The issue was initiated at the September 19 meeting.

Principal Appreciation Week, October 18-24!

Dr. Condon announced the start of Principal Appreciation Week on October 18. He commended the principals of the District's schools for their professionalism and dedication. Dr. Condon also expressed the sentiment that the District is fortunate to have the commitment of the buildings' and district administrators, and encouraged the Council members to express their appreciation to their school principals.

New Issues/Questions

Peggy Balesteri reported that she has been contacted regarding the issue of all-day Kindergarten. She inquired about the current status of the issue. Dr. Condon explained that this topic was reviewed in 2012 by the Board. More recently, a group of parents have been contacting Board members on the issue. As a result, the group has been invited to make a presentation at the November 3 COW meeting. There was some discussion on the issue of all-day Kindergarten, with many Council members expressing their sentiments on the subject.

PTO Presidents Share

Roosevelt – Stephanie Schrodts announced that Gia Fischer won the school's 7th grade Spelling Bee. November 2 is the deadline for teachers to submit grant proposals to the Roosevelt PTO for curricular support, supplies, or other materials that enable the faculty to advance classroom instruction. Ms. Schrodts also reported that the Fall Fun Fest was a great success, with preliminary sales in excess of \$7,000, nearly 1,000 people in attendance, and multiple opportunities for the entire school community to connect. She also indicated that Roosevelt will host an IMPACT meeting on November 10.

Willard – Sharon Barry reported that parents have volunteered to help taking pictures of school events for the yearbook. About 73 percent of parents are in training for the Art/Parent Program. The

program's theme this year is "I Spy," which encourages families to find examples of art in the community. Ms. Barry also indicated that Willard's Kindly Wizards, a service club, has started with 35 students. The club meets twice a month, and has already met with a representative from UNICEF. A recent fundraiser with the Potbelly Sandwich Shop raised \$300. The Homecoming Dance and the drawing of the winners of the fall raffle would occur today. The raffle and fall dance are one of the school's major fundraisers.

Lincoln – Amy Dwyer reported on the successful Community Celebration for Lincoln's 2015 Blue Ribbon Award. Nearly 400 people, along with Casey Godfrey and Pam Hyde, were on hand to sample specially made cookies and hot chocolate. According to Ms. Dwyer, the recent Movie Night, which is a fall fundraiser, was very successful. Math Night enjoyed significant success with a sizeable turnout of students and families. An upcoming Heartworks food drive alters the traditional model by requesting monetary donations, not food, are packed in student lunches. The food drive will benefit local food pantries. Willard's Pancake Breakfast and 5K run scheduled for October 31 still needs volunteers. Upcoming events include the International Fest on February 7 and the Silent Auction with e-bidding which has been moved to March 11.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10: 34 a.m.

###

The next PTO Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2015 from 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the Administration Building.