



# BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE Minutes

April 5, 2018

The Board of Education Committee of the Whole met on April 5, 2018 at 5:32 p.m. in the Library at Marie Murphy School, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The President called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll.

The following members were present:

Louise Dechovitz, Vice President  
Dan Garbis  
Gil Gibori  
Joel Raynes  
Sheryl Swibel  
Jamie Taylor  
Rick Zelinsky, President

Also Present:

Debbie Cotter, Videographer  
Beth Dever, Chief School Business Official  
Suzie Harris, Board Reporter  
Jessica Hutchison, Principal, Avoca West  
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent/Board Secretary  
Matthew Palcer, Principal, Marie Murphy  
Terry Sofianos, Director of Pupil Services  
Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

Visitors:

Jane Bailey  
Dorothy Elfring  
Beth Haugeberg  
David Hoffheimer  
Kelli Lane  
Heather Lara

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## VISITOR COMMENTS

Dorothy Elfring, an Avoca resident and founder of the Avoca Green Committee, inquired whether the Board had an intention of discussing sustainable and green initiatives on future agendas. Ms. Elfring also commented regarding her work with Friends of Avoca Park to inform more people about the issue with the Avoca Center property. Ms. Elfring requested that the Board discuss the framework for selling public land.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### **A. Technology Tools for Primary Grades**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, introduced Beth Haugeberg, District Technology Coordinator, and Heather Lara of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Team, to present a proposal for purchasing a set of iPads for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team in order to establish 1:1 student to device learning environment. Ms. Haugeberg, proposed that the Board approve the purchase of 97 iPads at \$324 per device, which includes accessories. The total cost is estimated at \$31,427. The Research & Device Team along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team believes that the tool will increase differentiation, address the lack of access to technology, enhances parent communication, give students greater ownership of their work, increase student creativity and improve 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has already experienced using the device as an instructional tool, but with only 5 iPad Minis per classroom. While this has enhanced instruction, with a 1:1 environment, teachers will be able to streamline instruction and minimize the transitions between users thus optimizing class time. Ms. Haugeberg and Ms. Lara presented the board with various examples of how they would use the iPads to improve instruction and student learning.

Ms. Taylor inquired as to whether the R&D Team had researched what the other New Trier Township sender districts were using and at what grade level. Dr. Jauch responded that Sunset Ridge 29, Kenilworth 38, Glenview 34 and Winnetka 36 all use 1:1 iPads kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Wilmette 39 uses 1:1 iPad 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and 2:1 kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Gibori inquired whether the deployment of iPads at 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is a want versus a need. He inquired whether the launch of iPads at 2<sup>nd</sup> grade would create a gap between this grade and later grade levels, which employ 1:1 laptops. The R&D Team feels that they will be addressing technology at each grade level with appropriate devices for developmental and instructional practices. Mr. Gibori also requested a framework to measure the success of the 1:1 iPad implementation to allow the Board to account for the expenditure. Mr. Gibori also suggested that the Board should take a broader look at the budget to see where there is opportunity for savings as well as a way to prioritize innovative investments.

Ms. Dechovitz inquired whether the R&D Team has taken steps to research the cons associated with introducing devices at this age and the impact they have on children with special needs. Ms. Dechovitz also stated that the budget needs to be closely looked at for opportunities for savings.

Mr. Garbis expressed his concern over the different types of devices used in the district and the gap it may create for student learning and technology experience by not piloting new devices and plans at every grade level.

Ms. Swibel inquired regarding the use of the technology lab and the need for one in the future, especially if the district is moving toward a 1:1 device plan for all students. Ms. Swibel also expressed concern over the new piloting of programs and the impact it will have on instructional stress.

Mr. Raynes inquired in to the timing for ordering the devices as it relates to the timing of the Board's decision regarding this proposal. Mr. Raynes also indicated he would like to take a closer look at the budget before making a decision.

Avoca's Technology Integration Specialist, Kelli Lane, contributed information regarding the plan for the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade pilot professional development and how that would be mirrored in second grade. Ms. Lane indicated that the teachers in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are exceptionally equipped to handle the launch of iPads due to their willingness to learn and stay ahead of best practices.

The Board decided that they would take the opportunity between now and the May Board of Education meeting to address the items discussed at this meeting and prepare for a vote on this proposal.

### **B. Teacher Technology Refresh**

Beth Haugeberg, District Technology Coordinator, presented the Board with a proposal for the teacher technology device refresh on behalf of the Technology Research and Device (R&D) Team. The teacher refresh is for the 2018-2019 school year. The R&D Team is proposing the purchase of 96 MacBook Air laptops priced at \$1032 per device, including an extended warranty, additionally, the technology staff, considered the district's power users, will need more powerful machines. Ms. Haugeberg proposed the purchase of 4 devices at \$2098 each and an additional device for \$2858 for the districts' live streaming and video editing capabilities. The total cost of the staff refresh proposal is \$110,322. This refresh occurs every five years and has been included in the budget and projections for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Garbis inquired as to whether the district should consider moving the teachers to a different type of device so that they are able to stay on top of technology along with the students' technology changes. The administration pointed out that teachers need the laptops in order to do their jobs effectively, but will also have access to the devices the students have as part of the refresh plan.

Ms. Taylor suggested piloting two middle school grade levels with iPads and giving one of the sets of laptops to the teachers in order to save the expense of a complete refresh. Ms. Haugeberg indicated that the screens on student devices would not work well for teachers, as they are smaller, she also indicated that the extra laptops have been allocated for different purposes. Ms. Taylor asked for a flow chart that illustrates where and how the extra laptops will be used.

Mr. Zelinsky noted that this is a regularly budgeted item and at this point, it would be far more disruptive to pilot another grade level with new devices or make the shift to different devices for teachers.

The Board agreed to vote on this proposal at the April Board of Education meeting.

### **C. Working Cash Bond Issuance Update**

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, reviewed the current status and upcoming dates regarding the working cash bond issuance. The Preliminary Official Statement (POS) has been

completed and was made public to investors on April 3, 2018. The sale of bonds is scheduled for April 11, 2018. A bond sale approval call will take place later that day with the authorized delegates. The final POS will be distributed no later than April 20, 2018 and the closing is set to take place on May 2, 2018.

#### **D. Orchestra and Band Programs**

Kevin Jauch, Superintendent, presented information regarding the Avoca Orchestra and Band Programs as they relate to staffing, current enrollment and programming. Current enrollment in the Orchestra Program reflects 47% of students at Avoca West and 28% of students at Marie Murphy School. The program is in high demand. To maintain the program as it stands for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, staffing needs to be 2.6 FTE. A full time orchestra teacher is retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year, but with the withdrawal of D39 from Avoca's program the district will only need to replace that full time position with a new teacher at 0.6 FTE. Dr. Jauch also presented options that would change the grade level in which students begin to enroll thereby reducing FTE.

Dr. Jauch then presented options for the Band programming. At this time, 9% of Avoca West students and 2% of Marie Murphy students participate in band. Avoca has an agreement with Wilmette School District 39 to share an instructor at 0.2 FTE and an agreement with Sunset Ridge School District 29 to participate in full band rehearsals and performances. To maintain the current level of programming, the district would need to continue the relationships with the other districts and the 0.2 FTE for instruction. Dr. Jauch presented other options to reduce FTE and limiting band to certain grade levels.

At this time, Dr. Jauch recommends maintaining the current programming. The Fine Arts programs are of great value to the district and community. Dr. Jauch indicated that due to the change in staffing, it gives the district an opportunity to examine the position and adjust FTE in the future if necessary. Avoca West Principal, Jessica Hutchison, noted that there is an instructor interested in the open Orchestra position, but she may not accept at a lower FTE.

Ms. Dechovitz stated that it is compelling to know there is someone interested in the part-time orchestra position, but prior to knowing that, it was a way to possibly realize savings and worth discussing. After further discussion, the Board agreed to maintain the current orchestra programming.

Next, the Board discussed the Band program. Mr. Zelinsky added that there is a large cost discrepancy between the Orchestra and Band programs. Currently, the cost per enrolled student in Orchestra is \$142 and the cost per enrolled student in Band is \$840. Ms. Taylor noted that participation in band drops once students transition to Marie Murphy.

Mr. Garbis indicated that he supported maintaining both programs. He stated that the Board's role is not only to balance a budget, but to provide well-structured educational environment for our children, and cutting costs for these types of programs would hinder the learning environment.

The Board agreed that due to the difficult logistics of the band program, the best solution is to bring parents along in the discussion and continue to provide that opportunity while it still works with the other districts and assess the program's impact and worth as needed. The Board agreed to continue to staff these activities at 2.6 FTE for the Orchestra program and 0.2 FTE for the Band program.

#### **E. Avoca Center Update**

Dr. Jauch gave the Board a brief update regarding Avoca Center. Dr. Jauch noted that visitor, Dorothy Elfring, who commented earlier in the meeting asked whether comments have been

received through the Avoca Center webpage. Dr. Jauch indicated that since March 14<sup>th</sup>, ten comments have been submitted to the Avoca Center webpage. The themes identified in the comments include keeping public land in public hands, green-space and for the Board to consider water drainage issues.

Mr. Zelinsky inquired whether there were any comments against keeping the land.

Ms. Taylor inquired whether all of the comments were from the Friends of Avoca Park community group.

#### **F. One Hope United Facility Use Agreement Extension for Before and After Childcare Program at Avoca West**

One Hope United requested an extension to their Facilities Use Agreement for the before and after school childcare program at Avoca West. The new agreement extends from June 2018 to June 2023. The Board is set to approve the Extension of the Facilities Use Agreement at the April Board of Education Meeting.

#### **G. Summer 2018 Facilities Projects**

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented the Board with her recommendation for the management fees and bids for the summer 2018 facilities projects. For a fee of 10.8% of construction costs, DLA, Architects, Ltd. will oversee the 2018 Summer Projects for Marie Murphy and Avoca West Elementary School. Construction projects at Avoca West include architectural finish work related to asbestos abatement in the kitchen, and classrooms 46 and 48, replacement of flooring and wall base in Room 26, replacement of casework and sinks in classrooms 46, 48, and 26 and the replacement of select exhaust fans. At Marie Murphy, projects include architectural finish work related to asbestos abatement in the stairwells, gymnasium storage spaces, gymnasium offices, and upper weight room including new flooring and wall base as well as the replacement of select exhaust fans. Midwest Services & Development is the lowest responsible bidder at \$324,000.

For asbestos abatement at Avoca West, MKA Environmental will design, manage and perform air sampling for the project for a fee of \$7,760. The lowest responsible bid for asbestos abatement at Avoca West is from Hepa, Inc. for \$26,300. The lowest responsible bid for asbestos abatement at Marie Murphy was Valor Technologies, Inc. at \$19,475.

The Board will be asked to approve the project management fees and bids for the Summer 2018 projects at the April Board meeting.

#### **H. Establish Board of Education and Committee of the Whole Meetings for 2018-2019**

Dr. Jauch presented the Board with a tentative schedule of Board meetings for the 2018-2019 school year. Traditionally, the Board has held Committee of the Whole meetings on Mondays and regular Board meetings on Thursdays. The current Board agreed they would prefer to hold both Committee of the Whole meetings and regular Board meetings on Thursdays. The Board also discussed the possibility of moving closed session meetings prior to the regularly scheduled Board meetings rather than after. The Board agreed that it was in the best interests of the district and the Board members to try this adjustment. The Board agreed to implement this change at the June Board of Education meeting.

## VISITOR COMMENTS

Jane Bailey, an Avoca Resident, commented regarding the pilot of new technology at 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and encouraged the Board to obtain a measure for success of the pilot before approving the purchase. Ms. Bailey also suggested a broader and more creative look at the budget.

## CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Taylor moved that the Board move into Closed Session for the purpose of:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Garbis, aye; Ms. Taylor, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Mr. Gibori, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; and Ms. Dechovitz, aye. Motion carried.

The Board moved into closed session at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:58 p.m.

Mr. Raynes moved that the Board return into open session, and Mr. Garbis seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried.

## MEETING ADJOURNS

Mr. Raynes moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:58p.m.

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Board President, Rick Zelinsky

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Secretary, Kevin Jauch