Committee Members Present:

**District 202**  
Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent  
Pete Bavis, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Bill Stafford, Chief Financial Officer  
Pat Savage-Williams, School Board President  
Gretchen Livingston, School Board Member  
Anne Sills, School Board Member  
Doug Holt, School Board Member

**District 65**  
Paul Goren, Superintendent  
John Price, Assistant Superintendent

**City of Evanston**  
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager  
Lawrence Hemingway, Parks and Recreation  
Jan Bojda, Evanston Public Library, Youth Services  
Richard Eddington, Police Chief  
Mark Tendam, 6th Ward Alderman  
Peter Braithwaite, 2nd Ward Alderman

**Others Present**  
Sheila Merry, Cradle to Career Director  
Martha Burns, Community Member  
India Alexander, The Daily Northwestern

**Call to Order/Introductions**  
Dr. Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Everyone was welcomed and introductions were made.

**Approval of the October 21, 2015 Minutes**  
The October 21, 2015 minutes were approved. Ms. Livingston asked to be added to those minutes.

**Community Safety**  
Dr. Goren informed the Committee about the protocol within their schools when there is an emergency, i.e. the recent shooting near Family Focus. He said the communication has been fantastic with the police department and they are poised to do additional training, if necessary.

Chief Eddington provided an update that included recent homicides resulting in the decision to provide an over presence of visible police patrol starting on Memorial Day weekend. They are also utilizing social media to let the community know what the police department is doing in
response to crisis in order to foster security in the community. Dr. Witherspoon said that anything to heighten awareness is positive and asked if there were any direct interventions planned. Chief Eddington responded that in partnership with the City’s outreach program, many situations in the community have been diffused and many have been arrested. Any direct intervention with hard core committed individuals will have to come from the Evanston Police Department. Mr. Braithwaite said that the City has had discussion about how to get guns off of the street and they are very concerned about where the shootings have been taking place with many being in the vicinity of the high school and during daytime hours; it is something that has to receive very close attention. Dr. Goren said that that administrators and principals met with the Evanston and Skokie police to review emergency plans. District 65 is also focusing interventions around social learning and creating situations where kids learn how to control emotions to avoid conflict. Dr. Witherspoon said that the topic of safety will continue to be an on-going discussion.

Summer Programming
Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Mr. Hemingway, the new Parks and Recreation Director to provide an update on summer programming. Mr. Hemingway reported that they are in the middle of camp registration with every camp imaginable being offered and added that there will be a youth job fair at ETHS on March 12. Recreational programs include basketball, roller-skating, open mic and many others. He will soon provide a flyer to both school districts for distribution on summer activities. Mr. Bobkiewicz said that the number one thing that can be done for violence prevention is to get people jobs. Currently, there is an opportunity to offer youth jobs at Great America. The City is trying to resolve how to provide transportation to get them there.

Ms. Bojda reported for the Evanston Public Library on their incentive-based summer reading program “Read to Win” and summer events. They will offer week-long camps and make sure that activities are safe and free of charge. They are working with Fleetwood Jourdain and Robert Crown to imbed summer reading as part of their regular programs. She said that August is very busy once summer camps are completed. Dr. Witherspoon took the opportunity to introduce “DEAR” (Drop Everything and Read), an incentive he learned about through the Illinois Association of School Administrators to encourage Illinois to get reading (chart attached). He distributed a chart demonstrating the impact that reading just ten minutes per day has. Dr. Witherspoon said that if you get kids hooked on a story, the reading can be accomplished. He said that ETHS would like to operationalize this incentive this summer and he would like to partner with other organizations to make this a major effort in Evanston. A discussion was held on the importance of reading and making sure there are relevant books available for young people. Ms. Bojda added that the library has many books to choose from including comic books. Ms. Merry said that one of Cradle to Career’s focus is literacy and they encourage children to read up to 20 minutes per day and that Little Libraries offers free books for the community. Dr. Goren added that the Youth Job Center plans on employing readers to assist in reading to younger children. There was great support on the committee for the reading incentive.

State of Illinois Budget and Financial Threats
A discussion was held on the State of Illinois budget. Ms. Livingston briefly shared information on Governor Rauner’s recent speech regarding the State’s budget. She said that education spending was mentioned, would reportedly not be cut and will be a priority. Other items in the speech included a lack of support for redistribution of funding between school districts and property taxes in Chicago compared to Evanston. Dr. Goren said that the State is six billion dollars short in its budget that could mean up to 12 million dollars in reductions for schools.
Shared Facilities – Total Resources and Crown
Mr. Bobkiewicz said that the City Council continues to look at options for the Robert Crown facility and how much debt to incur. He said that hopefully there will be decision by April. Dr. Witherspoon said that the City has made a great case for the need and benefit of the project.

Other
Mr. Tendam thanked Dr. Witherspoon and Dr. Campbell for the high school’s SOAR program and discussions on RACE. Ms. Sills made a suggestion for summer programming centering on cultivating gardens to encourage growing food, health and nutrition. She said it would be a great accompaniment to reading. Ms. Burns added that with the new reading initiatives being proposed and the demographics of Evanston, it is a great opportunity to give kids books that are relevant so that they are more willing to read. Dr. Witherspoon said that the two critical elements in the initiative are raising consciousness and if any reading material is relevant, the likelihood of students reading is increased.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Next meeting: May 11, 2016 at District 65

Respectfully submitted by Lisa De La Fuente
Administrative Assistant, Evanston Township High School
## Reducing the Reading Gap in Ten Minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentile Rank</th>
<th>Minutes of Reading Per Day</th>
<th>Baseline - Words Read Per Year</th>
<th>Plus 10 Minutes - Words Read Per Year</th>
<th>Percent Increase in Word Exposure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>4,358,000</td>
<td>5,028,462</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>1,823,000</td>
<td>2,686,981</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>1,146,000</td>
<td>1,953,042</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>622,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,269,917</strong></td>
<td><strong>104%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>432,000</td>
<td>1,096,615</td>
<td>154%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>282,000</td>
<td>895,043</td>
<td>217%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>825,000</td>
<td>313%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>106,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>694,889</strong></td>
<td><strong>556%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>321,000</td>
<td>1429%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Based on reading level, ~300,000 words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Distribution of time spent reading books outside of school, with estimated words read per year and projection of increased words per year if each child’s average daily time spent reading were increased by ten minutes. Adapted from Adams (2006), with baseline data from Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding (1988).*