Committee Members Present:

**District 202**
Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent
Paula Miller, Associate Principal for Student Services
Vernon Clark, Associate Principal for Educational Services
Scott Bramley, Associate Principal for Instruction and Literacy
Ahmadou Drame, Community and External Affairs Coordinator
Sam Pettineo, Safety Director
Bill Geiger, School Board Member

**District 65**
Paul Goren, Superintendent
Candance Chow, School Board Member
Judith Treadway, Parent Advocate
Geri Halfand, Social Worker

**City of Evanston**
Joe McRae, Deputy City Manager & Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Kevin Brown, Youth and Young Adult Program Manager
Mel Collier, Police Commander
Richard Eddington, Police Chief
Jane Grover, 7th Ward Alderman
Mark Tendham, 6th Ward Alderman
Jill Skwerski, Evanston Public Library

**Others Present**
Mary Gavin, Roundtable

**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 14, 2014 Minutes as Amended**
Ms. Treadway, District 65 Parent Advocate, recommended that the report on Homelessness in Evanston, made at the October 14, 2014 meeting, be revised to reflect that the reported numbers are incorrect. She noted that the minutes should read that District 65 has fewer than 400 homeless students and not the 650 as stated in the report.

The October 14, 2014 minutes were approved as amended.
Homelessness in Evanston
Mr. Geiger, District 202, recommended adding “Homelessness in Evanston” to the list of recurring topics to future agendas. The other two items are Cradle to Career and the Joint Literacy Goal. The Committee agreed.

Ms. Treadway, District 65, gave an update on Homelessness. She reported that currently out of 7,500 students in the elementary school district, 314 are homeless. She explained that sometimes families double with other families, some live in women or domestic violence shelters and some families are refugees from countries like Africa, Iraq, Syria, West Africa, Nigeria and Lebanon. Ms. Treadway said that the District is working diligently on this issue. She does the initial intake of the students, basic information gathering for the social workers who do the counseling, and makes sure they have whatever they need. Ms. Treadway said families are also referred to other agencies like Family Focus and food pantries. Ms. Halfand added that with the high number of students that need assistance, it is difficult to obtain housing so she works with Connections for the Homeless, with over 100 referrals made. She added that the City has provided some funds to assist with housing to families that have children in district 65 schools and live in Evanston.

Dr. Goren said that the goal in helping homeless families is to provide stability and significance for the child and he asked all entities present to combine efforts to help support families in need. Dr. Witherspoon said it might be useful to get a working group started before the next meeting to work on some of these items jointly with one priority being a way to get more housing for the families. Ms. Chow agreed and said that it is a difficult process and that it would be helpful if families could meet in one place for students in all grade levels, a one stop shop. She asked the group to brainstorm to see what can be accomplished beyond the referral. Dr. Witherspoon recommended that Ms. Treadway and Ms. Halfand form a small group and decide if these priorities are appropriate and perhaps report at the next meeting.

The topic of Homelessness will be a standing item for future meetings.

Cradle to Career
Dr. Witherspoon announced that Ms. Sheila Merry has been selected as the Executive Director and that she will start on February 16, 2015. Cradle to Career is in the implementation phase and is at 27 committed partners. A smaller Operations Team has been formed to oversee the Cradle to Career and the new Executive Director.

The topic of Cradle to Career will be a standing item for future meetings.

Joint Literacy Goal
Mr. Bramley, District 202, provided a Joint Literacy Goal update. He said that it is exciting to be working with Cradle to Career and the Literacy Design Team. He said he welcomed feedback from this Committee as well. He mentioned that there are two grants in progress; the Evanston Public Library’s “Big Read” and the Evanston Community Foundation’s “Literature for All of Us”. The Foundation’s grant focuses on bringing writers into the classroom. He added that the Library has made access to their excellent resources more accessible to the District by eliminating the need for staff to apply for a library card. They also allow staff to use electronic resources at the Library. All of this helps to increase literacy rates in schools and community. Mr. Bramley also reported that they are working on civic engagement from a student’s perspective. Dr. Witherspoon said that the push for literacy and proficient readers is being lifted up in this community.

The Joint Literacy Goal will be a standing item for future meetings.
Safety
Chief Eddington, EPD, reported that crimes against persons are down 20% and most statistical information is favorable. There are some crime patterns significant to school aged kids such as kids bringing BB guns to school but they are managed at the school level in conjunction with the SRO and Principal. Chief Eddington informed the Committee of other crimes committed by youth and said that the EPD is reaching out to the Moran Center and the City of Evanston to try to partner around this youth to provide alternatives to incarceration. He also informed the Committee that long time District 65 SRO Larry Davis is retiring in June and will be sorely missed. A replacement is being sought.

Summer Youth Opportunities in Evanston
Mr. McRae, City of Evanston, said he appreciates the partnership that this Committee allows and introduced Mr. Brown, City of Evanston, to provide an update on Summer Youth Opportunities. Mr. Brown reported that the Mayor’s Work Force had a banner year last year by securing 500 plus jobs for youth between the ages of 14-18 in Evanston. This year, the goal is 1,000 jobs from both private and city organizations so that all of the young people attending the job fair may leave with a job. Mr. Brown said that Northwestern University has stepped up their commitment and he asked if anyone had thoughts or ideas on how to recruit local companies, it would be appreciated especially since there are some budget restraints, as the contribution from the State of Illinois has ended.

Mr. McRae commended Mr. Brown and the City on their hard work on last year’s amazing Job Fair. Mr. Brown reported that all of the hard work in the community gained National Recognition; at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Evanston won the award for the number of increased jobs as last year, the number of jobs increased from 345 to 500. Mr. Brown said that Northwestern University has stepped up their commitment and he asked if anyone had thoughts or ideas on how to recruit local companies, it would be appreciated especially since there are some budget restraints, as the contribution from the State of Illinois has ended.

Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center
Mr. McRae reported that on January 6, 2015 the former organization Boo Coo in Evanston became the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center. It’s focus will be on culture, education and recreation and Mr. Brown will be the point person. The space is still undergoing some renovations but will host its first function for Black History Month on February 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Individualized Career and Academic Plans (iCAPS) and an update of Career and Technical Education
Mr. Drame, District 202, provided an update on iCAPS and Career and Technical Education. He said that it is the goal of ETHS that every student, upon graduation, have an Individualized Career and Academic Plan, or iCap. This new system will provide post-secondary planning and counseling for every student. Second, it will provide an important tool for families as it highlights the 16 key career clusters and will help them guide their children. Mr. Drame said that ETHS created a program of the 16 career clusters and categories and matched them with the ETHS courses students can take, including Oakton Community College classes, in a desired field. The description guide is available on the website.

Mr. Campbell, District 202, provided a Career and Technical Education update which included planned upgrades this summer to the Advanced Manufacturing Lab, thanks to a $400,000 donation made to the Educational Foundation. He also reported that Geometry in Construction is in its second successful year.
The house that was built last year is having work completed on it that could not legally be done by students and will be sold. A site is being sought for the second home and Community Build Days are ongoing. A new course, Algebra in Entrepreneurship has been developed which combines algebra and business strategies and will culminate with students presenting or pitching their business ideas.

Mr. Campbell listed the many certification programs available to students at ETHS and said that next year, 2,274 will be taking courses in CTE, up from 2,000 this year. He said he was proud of all of the offerings and work being done by this department.

**Adjourn at 6:40 p.m.**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**Next meeting: May 6, 2015 at District 65**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa De La Fuente
Administrative Assistant, Evanston Township High School