Dr. Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. Introductions were made.

**Introduction of Camielle Taylor, Northwestern Student Representative**

Dr. Witherspoon introduced Camielle Taylor, ETHS alumni, class of 2009. Ms. Taylor is a student at Northwestern University, majoring in Social Policy and Spanish. She will be observing the City/School Liaison Committee meetings.

**Clarification of Graduation Rate (including dropout rate, college attendance rate)**

In an effort to clarify questions posed by the City of Evanston, Ms. Livingston led a discussion on the graduation rate of ETHS students. She said the numbers must be put into perspective since they change, sometimes quite significantly. The most recent figures show an 82% college attendance rate for graduates, but that does not mean that 18% of students are doing nothing after high school because they do not go on to college. Ms. Livingston read the most current statistics from the Senior Graduation Survey for the Class of 2012 which showed the broad range of things that students go on to do. She also stated that the high school is better able to track students thanks to the National Clearing House system.

Mr. Brown, City of Evanston, stated that there has been confusion with the graduation rate because if you look at the surveys going back over the last 8 years the numbers for students not attending college ranges from 20% to 29% and that the City also has a concern about disengaged students. Ms. Livingston responded that there are old surveys on the World Wide Web, but the current survey is the most significant and key when looking at the dropout rate and college bound rates. Dr. Witherspoon added that ETHS is well above the national average
and above the State of Illinois average for graduation rate. He also noted that ETHS and the City must join forces on tackling the unemployment rate in Evanston which is troubling at a rate of 14.5% and 28%-29% for people of color.

Implications of TIF decision for ETHS and District 65
Mr. Stafford, District 202, said that he felt that because of the viability and success of the City’s TIF’s the economic future for District 202 and District 65 looks promising. Mr. Bobkiewicz, City of Evanston, responded that their Financial Office is in close communication with ETHS and District 65 and that a forthright and professional relationship has been formed. He said that the City is trying to be amenable to the District and with TIFs reaching maturity and moving into the tax rolls, it will be positive for the Districts.

Addition of School Resource Officer and new CTE Employee and Update on CTE Department
Dr. Witherspoon, District 202, updated the committee on the transition ETHS is making with the addition of a second School Resource Officer provided by the Evanston Police Department. The City ensured that the second officer’s personality mirrored our first officer’s and thanked the City for the match. As part of the intergovernmental agreement with the City, ETHS agreed to create a position for a Career/Job Coach to assist students who do not have post-secondary plans. Ms. Gates, District 202, explained that the position is currently posted on our website and approximately 40 applications have been received, with a closing date in one week. A Committee has been formed to review the applications with the position being filled as soon as possible. The candidate will assist students with employment opportunities and help to connect them with other organizations. Dr. Witherspoon added that this position is atypical for a high school and more commonly seen in a community college. It is a good opportunity for the high school.

Ms. Gates gave an update on the CTE Department at ETHS. She distributed a handout of Career Pathways courses offered. She reported that ten students have received National Institute of Metalworking Skills in the area of Material, Measurement and Safety. There are 52 different NIMS certification areas available to students. The Geometry in Construction curriculum will begin next year giving students the opportunity to build a house in the parking lot which will then sit in a lot provided by the City of Evanston. ETHS will also host an engineering summer camp for District 65 middle school students. Ms. Gates concluded her report by saying that enrollment has grown in the CTE Department over the last five years with 1,400 students being served.

Broad Band/High Speed Cable Grant
Dr. Witherspoon, District 202, congratulated the City on receiving a broad band/high speed cable grant. Mr. Stafford reported that the high school has increased its bandwidth capability through Northwestern University.
Dr. Murphy, District 65, reported that District 65 has contracts with cable companies but would be interested in how to be in included in this type of a grant. Mr. Bobkiewicz, City of Evanston said that the City was fortunate to have received this grant.
Former JLTF/Community Legislative Group
Ms. Livingston, District 202, explained that the Joint Legislative Task Group has been renamed the Community Legislative Group and will function in a capacity. The group formerly met monthly and meetings were interesting and productive but the general consensus was that they were meeting too often, so in following the City/School Liaison Committee model, they decided to meet quarterly. Some goals for the new committee are to align with the City and join forces to have a louder voice in Springfield and to refine matters involving the City and School in terms of finance since both government entities continue to get less funding from the State.

Alderman Grover reminded the committee that the Evanston Lobby Day in Springfield will be held on Wednesday, March 13 in Springfield and will be a great opportunity to have the school district make some lobbying points. Dr. Witherspoon, District 202, commented that he has seen a difference in how the City and School has collaborated, and the new structure of the Community Legislative Group will only serve to enhance that. Ms. Livingston reported that District 65 and District 202 created a position statement on the shift of pension costs to school districts. The statement was approved at their joint meeting in January. The statement will be attached to the City/School Liaison Committee meeting minutes of February 28, 2013.

Erie Family Health Center Signs Lease
Mr. Bobkiewicz, City of Evanston, informed the Committee that the Erie Family Health Center has been extremely successful and extraordinarily busy at the Civic Center. They have assisted many people that had nowhere to go, by connecting them with the appropriate medical care for their health conditions. Their new, official location will be at 1285 Hartrey, Evanston, beginning on July 15. The location is centrally located to Evanston/Skokie area residents. They will have 15 exam rooms and five dental chairs funded by the NorthShore Medical Group. Visits to the Health Center will be by appointment only. Mr. Bobkiewicz also noted that the City approved a contract with Presence Health through Resurrection Medical Group for mental health issues. Their services will include a 24 hour hotline and case management services.

Timeline for new lighting along Dodge Avenue and Safety Improvements around ETHS
Mr. Stafford, District 202, stated that the District is renovating the front of school and main entrance. Renovations will include enhanced lighting, emergency telephones along Dodge Avenue and an improved traffic crossing. It is also anticipated that the City will be completing their bike path along church to McCormick.

Mr. Pettineo, District 202, updated the committee on the improvements made, to date, with lighting on the entire campus of ETHS by switching from halogen to LED lighting. This lighting change also allows for a better video quality on outdoor cameras. He also said that the future installation of emergency telephones will help students feel safe.
Summer Youth Employment Program

Mr. Dorneker, City of Evanston, reported that the City was able to increase the number of positions available in the Summer Youth Employment Program thank to a committee that was started to help make additional contacts to place individuals. 160 youth have been placed into positions. The goal was 300 but the City will be happy with 250. Some changes in the program, with help of YJC, include a workshop for students at ETHS to help them learn how to prepare for jobs and a Job Fair that will be held April 20 & 27 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. They will also be moving to an on-line application process.

Mr. Brown, City of Evanston, said that a work-force development model will be implemented so that students can partake in a three day training program, prior to starting a job, to increase their chances of success. YJC will provide the training. Mr. Bobkiewicz, City of Evanston, said that good people are doing great things in Evanston and all are collaborating.

Approval of October 11, 2012 Minutes
The October 11, 2012 minutes were approved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Next meeting: May 9, 2013 at District 65

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