Meeting convened at 5:35pm

Present:

**District 202:** Pat Savage-Williams, Board President; Gretchen Livingston, Board Member; Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent; Mary Rodino, Chief Financial Officer; Keith Robinson, Associate Principal, Educational Services

**District 65:** Rebeca Mendoza, Board Member; Paul Goren, Superintendent; Raphael Obafemi, Chief Financial & Operations Officer; Adeela Qureshi, School Board Secretary

**City of Evanston:** Karen Danczak-Lyons, Director of Evanston Public Library; Teri Campbell, Asst. Library Director; Pat Efion, Equity and Empowerment Coordinator; Jessica Hyink, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator; Dwight Hohl, Division Chief Emergency Management EFD; Richard Eddington, Police Chief EPD; Erika Storlie, Asst. City Manager; Lawrence Hemingway, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services; Cicely Fleming, 9th Ward Alderman

**Also Present:** Henry Wilkins, Skokie Resident; Jan Smith, Evanston Now; Larry Gavin, Evanston Roundtable

**Call to Order and Introduction**

D65 Superintendent called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and introductions were made across the room.

**Approval of the January 25, 2018 Minutes**

The committee approved the January 25, 2018 City School Committee meeting minutes as presented.

**Summer Updates – Parks & Rec., Youth Employment, D65, D202**

Lawrence Hemingway, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services provided an update on the various summer camp and activities offered by the city this year.

The city beaches are scheduled to open on Saturday May 26th. To-date 413 beach tokens have been distributed to free and reduced lunch (FRL) eligible students, which is more than issued last year. City teens will also be offered a 10-punch beach pass which can be obtained at one of the city’s community centers or the library teen loft beginning May 31st. Additionally, some free beach days for the community are being planned.
Currently, there are approximately 3,477 available spaces in the city sponsored summer camps. This year a letter was sent out to FRL D65 families informing them that they are eligible for 50% off the cost of city summer programs.

The Evanston Farmers Market will start on Saturday May 5th.

This year, the free summer food program will run from June 11, 2018 – August 17, 2018 at the following locations: Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, King Arts School, Mason Park, the Salvation Army, Robert Crown Center, McGaw YMCA, Oakton School and Chute Middle School. Breakfast will be offered at Chute Middle School, Fleetwood-Jourdain Center, Robert Crown Center, King Arts School, Oakton School and the Salvation Army.

There is a full line up for the 2018 Starlight Concerts & Movie schedule including two showings of Black Panther.

Other shows to keep in mind: the upcoming Spring Ice Show, Mystery on Main, from May 5-6th and three summer productions at Fleetwood Jourdain Theater: From the Mississippi Delta, Topdog/Underdog, and Crowns.

The community picnic is scheduled to be held on August 26th.

D65 Superintendent noted that the partnership with the Park and Recreation department offers an opportunity to keep students engaged throughout the summer. Additional community partnerships with the McGaw YMCA and YWCA can offer summer school in the morning; Foundation 65 provide support for a reading program and are currently setting up books to be distributed to students over the summer. Additionally, the YMCA has saved 30 spots at Camp Echo for students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

D202 Superintendent expressed that ETHS will be a beehive of programming with various summer sports camps, summer school and then fall sports. D202 is a partner of the City’s Summer Youth Program and has promoted and held the Summer Youth Job Fair. D202 also hires students over the summer for various opportunities within operations, the book depository and grounds. Additionally, D202 provides $25,000 to the ABC Booster program which in turn supports summer jobs for teenagers that work with D65 students in summer reading programs.

The Director of Evanston Public Library described the ABC Booster Program as a great program in partnership with D65, D202 and the city. The library creates the material for the Reading program, D65 helps to identify struggling readers in early grades – several D65 teachers and librarians help coordinate the program, and several D202 students work with D65 students to encourage reading.

This year’s summer reading program, Reading Takes you Everywhere, is designed for the whole family. To encourage greater participation and completion, the reading program was extended to August 19th and offers a variety of qualifying activities.

D65 Board Member inquired whether there were still middle school camps offered at ETHS. It was mentioned that several years ago there was a booklet of compiled summer programs aimed at low-income families which would continue to be useful if still available.
D202 Superintendent noted that ETHS offer several sports and STEM based camps which have been publicized through basic avenues. ETHS also offer incoming 9th graders an emersion opportunity over the summer through Access ETHS.

**Transportation Issues – Busses, Bikes, Routes**

*CTA/Pace* – City of Evanston Transportation and Mobility Coordinator provided an update on the proposed Pace/CTA North Shore Coordination Plan that would discontinue Pace #205 and redirect Pace # 208 to travel along Golf Road and extend Pace #213 bus line down to Howard. Essentially, Pace would replace the direct service to the high school with one-route service from southeast Evanston in the morning and one from ETHS back southeast in the afternoon. While city workers had been part of the steering committee that worked on studies and analysis that led to the plan they were not previously made aware, or asked to weigh-in, on the details of the service discontinuations and proposed route changes.

A public hearing was held on April 24th at which students and community members voiced their concerns, a public hearing comment period will be open until the end of this week, April 30. The City Council is asking Pace/CTA to delay implementation of the route change, which is proposed to go into effect this fall. D202 Superintendent acknowledged the City’s effort in batting the issue on behalf of Evanston residents and especially ETHS students. D202 will be out counting the number of ETHS student getting on and off the 208 bus this week, to quantify the true affect. The Transportation and Mobility Coordinator encouraged continued email and mail public response to CTA and Pace.

*Bike Routes* – The City Transportation and Mobility Coordinator informed the committee that the City is in the final phase of the Chicago Ave./Sheridan Road Corridor Project. The project includes a new protected bike lane and will make downtown Evanston and the Northwestern campus areas safer for bicyclists and pedestrians, while improving traffic flow and traffic safety. The city is also aware of future grant opportunities that would help to extend the Church/Davis bike route, and on Chicago Ave. from Howard to Main.

The City is working with Divvy to launch an income-based program by June 2018 which would allow families to pay an annual membership fee of $5 versus the regular cost of $99. The program will be available for residents 16 and older. D65 board member was assured that D65/202 FRL families who show a qualifying letter would be eligible for the program. Other forms of advertising of the program will also be pursued.

**Equity Update**

District 65 superintendent noted that the D65 2018-19 school year starts a couple of days early to allow staff the opportunity to attend Beyond Diversity training. He also noted that an outside organization criticized affinity groups organized by the principal of Nichols Middle School and he along with the D65 school board stand in strong support of the Nichols principal. D65 is finalizing a statement that sings the support of equity across Evanston. The statement, signed by local community partners, NU, and other local organizations, will be finalized in the coming days and shared with partners, the press and posted on the district website.
D202 Superintendent expressed his support of D65 equity work and expressed shock that entities outside of Evanston are trying to dictate what values Evanston should have. D202 continues to keep their hands on the pulse of what is happening in the nation, especially as racists have launched a visible campaign against Evanston and D65- he encouraged everyone to ‘stay wide awake’.

Director of Evanston Public Library noted that the library has hired an equity consultant to work with staff and board, recognizing that equity inclusion work and how underserved communities are engaged is everyone’s responsibility.

The City’s Equity and Empowerment Coordinator provided equity-based updates from the City. The City has affinity groups, also advertised on the City website, which have received lots of push back from the community. Additionally, the City, to more intentionally address issues of access, equity, and empowerment has held five Beyond Diversity training sessions and will host a series of Equity and Empowerment Town Hall meetings. On May 29th the City will offer an opportunity for community members to view the video of the Starbucks incident and discuss ways in which the community can stay engaged around such difficult issues.

The City of Evanston Mayor in December 2017 hosted the first *Just Folks*, an intimate and diverse gathering of staff and residents who come together over a meal to discuss a variety of equity issues. The event is broadcast live and recorded on City Channel 16 and the City’s YouTube account. Recently *Just Folks* televised a conversation on race; in May the conversation will be with the Latino Community; and in June the conversation will be with the LGBTQ community. The group is open to topic suggestions and discussions.

Tomorrow, at the Civic Center, library, YWCA or police department the community has an opportunity to participate in the YWCA sponsored event, *Stand Against Racism*.

**Evanston Police Department in Schools**

D65 and D202 each have two School Resource Officers (SROs). The Police Chief informed committee that while there is pending legislation in Springfield regarding SROs and funding, Evanston meets or exceeds training required for SROs. Addressing community concern Police Chief explained that SRO turn over may be the reason for increased presence at Dawes and Chute.

**Emergency Preparedness**

D202 Associate Principal, Education Services manages emergency preparedness for ETHS and recently after the Florida tragedy, worked with ETHS SRO, Officer Cameron, on a staff active shooter training. D65 will host ALICE: Active Shooter Response Training for staff instead of making up a snow day on June 5, 2018. After the NU incident, both districts and the police department had a healthy debriefing on how to communicate in emergency situations, reviewed proper intervention and will continue to meet regularly to ensure safety of students and schools.
D65 Board member questioned how information regarding emergency situations and actions are communicated to parents and community. Police Chief explained that as a follow-up conversation with the 5th ward, police realized that there was not good communication via social media in the Eventbridge Alert System, a mass communication system used by EPD and they are currently working on a better method of communicating externally. Communication with the districts is in real time, EPD is acting once a text is sent to the districts.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

D202 Board Member and Chair of Ed-Red Executive Board made note that Ed-Red is looking at the legislation regarding SROs and it is more of an unfunded mandate and while it will not add value to the SROs, most districts are already completing proper training.

**ADJOURNED**

With no further business the City School Liaison Committee was adjourned at 6:39pm.