Present:

Evanston High School District 202
Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent
Mary Rodino, Chief Financial Officer
Pat Savage-Williams, School Board
Pete Bavis, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Evanston/Skokie CC School District 65
Paul Goren, Superintendent
Rebecca Mendoza, School Board
Raphael Obafemi, Chief Financial Officer

City of Evanston
Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor
Cicely Fleming, Alderman
Peter Braithwaite, Alderman
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager
Patricia Efiom, Chief Equity Officer
Richard Eddington, Police Chief
Johanna Leonard, Director of Community Development
Jan Bojda, Youth Services Manager, Evanston Library
Melissa Parker, Administrative Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Laura Antolin, Children’s Outreach Librarian Evanston Library
Susie Hall, Executive Assistant to the City Manager
Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst

Other
Jan Smith, Evanston Now
Kelley Elwood, Roundtable

Call to Order and Introductions:
The September 26 City-School Liaison Committee meeting is called to order at 5:40 pm by City of Evanston City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz. Introductions were made and Mr. Bobkiewicz welcomed everyone. A quorum was present.

Mr. Bobkiewicz requested items to be discussed out of order so a large amount of City staff in attendance can leave.
Summer Recap:
Melissa Parker, Special Projects Assistant with the City’s Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department (PRCS) stated that there were: 146,901 camp scholarships, 42,872 summer meals served, 21,341 beach tokens sold, and 5,370 enrolled campers. 550 youth were employed through the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program with 45 private employers.

Jan Bojda and Laura Antolin from the Evanston Public Library stated that the Library’s ABC Boosters Program completed its 7th year with 110 kindergartners and PRCS camp participation (22 summer camp sites). Families are provided with tool kits to take home and continue the program. In addition, teens are matched with the kindergartners which provide a great learning experience for both. Dr. Paul Goren, Superintendent of District 65, said how it is a model of good partnership – Early Childhood, District 65 and District 202.

Police Chief, Richard Eddington, noted that the summer went fairly well. There was a shooting last Thursday; schools were notified through the system as it affected bus routes. There is increased gang activity that the Police Department (EPD) is keeping an eye on the situation and receiving more intelligence. The City Manager authorized overtime to address this issue.

Chief Eddington added that the Traffic Division has a lot of new information regarding school drop-offs and pick-ups. Dr. Goren thanked the EDP for a quick response to the shooting. Dr. Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent at District 202, added that it is a good system. Dr. Goren noted that King Arts elementary school has a better parking area.

Minutes:
Minutes from the April 26, 2018 were approved.

Transportation:
Mr. Bobkiewicz advised that he and Dr. Goren have talked about funding concerns regarding crossing guards. Mr. Bobkiewicz said he knows that they must keep them, but the cost associated is hard. The City’s proposed budget will be released October 5. Alderman Peter Braithwaite said that issues have come up at King Arts, but asks if EPD could come 30 minutes before and after school to provide support. Dr. Goren noted that he, Erika Storlie (Assistant City Manager) and Sergeant Tracy Williams visited King Arts and that the situation has improved.

Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Johanna Leonard, Community Development Director, to answer questions about the CTA bus changes. Dr. Witherspoon said that the changes have affected families but they seem to have figured it out. He has received less complaints recently, but noted that residents are still disappointed with the changes. Pat Savage-Williams, School Board with District 202, added that she hopes that concerned residents are speaking to PACE directly.
Equity:
Dr. Patricia Efiom, Chief Equity Officer, said the Library’s equity report will be out at tonight’s Library Board meeting. Dr. Efiom also noted that the last of the Beyond Diversity training will be held this week, and that three City employees attended the SEED training. The Equity and Empowerment Commission is beginning to come forward with policies and Resolutions. They meet once a month and invite all to attend.

Dr. Witherspoon noted that he appreciates how District 202, District 65 and the City are creating an equitable community for the youth. He hopes this will help reduce the safety issues in Evanston.

Dr. Efiom recently returned from the International City-County Manager’s Association (ICMA) Conference, where she met with the other Chief Equity Officers. Mr. Bobkiewicz noted that many cities have hit a brick wall with their equity work because the communities don’t want it all.

Dr. Goren and Dr. Witherspoon noted that they would like to attend one of the Commission meetings. Dr. Witherspoon added how Evanston has over 40 partners in this work.

Dr. Goren said the District 65 board authorized two days off for teachers to attend Beyond Diversity training. Dr. Goren noted that 100% of his staff are trained, and that he has 8 SEED cohorts. They have also added 30 people to the Sprout program. In addition, District 65 PTA has added equity as part of their agenda. Rebecca Mendoza, District 65 Board Member, stated that everyone is missing out on the Spanish speaking community. Beyond Diversity and SEED are only offered in English. Dr. Efiom noted that there is work in the National level on this issue. She added that the Commission is working on a translation policy which is on the agenda for tomorrow, and Mario Vela at Northwestern is trying to assist with this, as well.

Ms. Mendoza stated that the movie “America to Me” brings up issues similar to this. Dr. Goren and Dr. Witherspoon agreed that it is an effective documentary to start conversation. Dr. Witherspoon added that different communities have different standards. Dr. Efiom said the City has offered a Conversations on Race event, and would like to have the next meeting with the Latino community.

Sustainability
Mr. Bobkiewicz advised that Kumar Jensen, Sustainability Coordinator, is out of the office. The Climate Action Resilience Plan (CARP) is moving forward with the draft and seeking community input. The Mayor attended a forum last week, and there is a Citizens’ Greener Evanston and Ward meeting at the Ecology Center coming up in the next few weeks.

Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty stated that he asked for this item to be on all agendas for this committee going forward. The CARP is on its third reiteration, and needs big community and corporation partners. Mayor Hagerty asked for everyone to step it up.
Dr. Goren said District 65 is finalizing a letter to the Mayor regarding their new sustainability commitments. He will add this letter to District 65’s board packet. Ms. Mendoza met with Kumar Jensen last week and asked if a glossary could be added to the manual to get more residents to understand. She said that the outreach was taken to the Streets Alive festival and asks that it be taken to the schools. Mayor Hagerty added that many classes have added curriculum about sustainability. Ms. Mendoza also asked that the schools shift curriculum to include knowledge about the lake/water. Dr. Goren said that 6 schools have Green Teams and are working to get information out to students.

**Affordable Housing**

Mr. Bobkiewicz advised that the City Council has made Affordable Housing a priority. The Council will discuss this at the October 29 Special City Council meeting.

Savannah Clement, Housing Policy and Planning Analyst, said there is a lot of energy around Affordable Housing this year. An amendment to the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance will be discussed at the Planning & Development committee meeting on October 8. The City Council has requested an Affordable Housing Plan; a steering committee will help with this work.

There are 41 units coming online with the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. There is a waitlist ([www.cityofevanston.org/ih](http://www.cityofevanston.org/ih)) and applications are being accepted. The City also has a new contract with Metropolitan Tenants Organization to assist with landlord/tenant issues. They are even able to provide legal services for low income residents. In addition, 16 units for supportive housing are currently being constructed at Dempster/Pitner – 12 units for people at/below 30% AMI, and at/below 50% AMI for the remainder.

Dr. Witherspoon is thrilled to see this movement. People need stability. There are many homeless families and even homeless teenagers that could use support. He thanks the City for their work.

Alderman Braithwaite said the problem is that the community wants affordable housing but many do not want it in their backyard. He hopes the City will continue to work on this issue. He asked Ms. Clement to see if residents from Evanston can get preferential treatment for these new units. Dr. Goren adds that this is a big issue. There are 165-200 students in District 65 that are homeless or in transitional housing.

**Adjournment**

Meeting is adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Submitted by Susie Hall
Executive Assistant, City Manager’s Office