



## MEETING MINUTES March 5, 2024

### Call to Order

- Called to Order by Megan Seliga
- Motion to Approve Minutes from 2/6/24 - Motion Approved

### D90 Superintendent's Report: Dr. Ed Condon

- **Inclusive Preschool:**
  - **Additional Classroom:** D90 is adding another classroom, based on increasing enrollment. It will be at Lincoln because there is space in the building, not because we wanted a preschool at both schools. The advantage is that while we can't guarantee kids will end up in their attendance zone, it would be ideal for continuity. There will be a year or two of transition as we make sure kids are where they should be.
  - **Enrollment:** We're expanding it based on students who need supports. There are more kids in the lottery and we'll be doubling the number of families who can participate. Kids were enrolled in lottery before we knew about the expansion. Inclusive preschool tuition rates need to be reasonable but competitive.
  - **Mission:** Inclusive preschool is designed to serve atypically-developing students. Evidence shows that a classroom with a mix of students is best for all kids. Inclusive preschool is required by Illinois. It is expensive, but we need to make sure we give kids what they need.
  - Thanks to Diane for mentoring the new team at Lincoln.
- **PowerScholars:** Approved by the board.
  - The span is narrowed to Grades 2-4 because we can better meet their needs at these ages.
  - Kids qualify for this summer program if they receive Tier 2 services
  - 20-30 kids can participate.
- **Staffing report:** Principals and Assistant Principals work with teachers to discern coming staffing needs. We plan to hire and place great new teachers as early as possible.
  - **Budget:** The Board is working toward budget deficit reduction mindset and is seeking efficiencies. This will not result in large class sizes or elimination of

programs, we're just being smarter about how we spend. 80% of our costs are salaries and benefits.

**Parent Question:** Will a larger inclusive preschool increase D90 enrollment? Dr. Condon: Great question. We don't know. We're looking carefully at forthcoming K enrollment and gathering data from our partners. Currently, ours is the lowest cost inclusive preschool in the neighborhood, but there are a variety of schools for every need. If a student qualifies, inclusive preschool is free.

**Parent Question:** What happened with a potential Willard building plan? Dr. Condon: There was never a plan. A good principal will fill their building and use the space available. There are places in this building where there could be efficiencies, but we're trying not to use them. We can compress at both schools.

### **Principal's Report: Diane Wood**

- **Achievement:** We have group planning every 6-8 weeks for data reviews at every grade level. We watch the growth and there is a lot to celebrate.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Thanks for the awesome conferences. Teachers felt very positive and they appreciated parents asking great questions.
  - Thanks to Megan Seliga for the olive oil cakes from Broken Tart. Such a gift for the teachers during a long day.
- **Field Trips:** We're grateful for the gift of field trips. Thanks to PTO fundraising, we've sent 349 kids on a field trips this year, including 4th Grade field trips this week.
- **Willard @ OPRF Art Show: (3/13):** A group of Willard students will have artwork on display at OPRF on March 13th from 6-7:30pm, along with student work from Lincoln, Roosevelt, and D97 middle schools. It's a gift that this community values that arts. Kids will find out this week their work has been chosen.
- **Switch Days:** Due to having several Mondays and Fridays off, we've had a few "switch days" to even out Art and STEM lessons. For example, we might run a Monday schedule on Wednesday or Thursday. We look at instructional days versus the days that we have and we even it out.
- **Erin's Law Presentations. (3/21):** Requirement of all schools. The presentations are really kid-friendly and are scaled for each grade. Each grade has its own tweak so the kids don't tune out because they've heard it before. Please reach out to Diane Wood if you have questions. You can also look at website ([erinslaw.org](http://erinslaw.org)) and talk to kids ahead of time.
- **5 Essentials Survey:** Please take survey and say how you think we're doing. If we have 20% of the numbers we get a report, so please respond to help us get there. You can do one for each kid. The window closes during Spring Break.
- **Oops Table:** The table in the foyer is working well. You can email the teachers if you've dropped something off.

### **Presidents' Report: Megan Seliga**

- Thanks to the nominating committee - they've done an awesome job filling rolls.

### **Treasurers' Report: Megan Seliga for Emily Nash**

- **Fundraising:** We've had some great months of fundraising and are doing well.
- **Upcoming items:** Teacher gifts, Buddy Bench, field trips, ice cream social, and family culture fest.

### **VP-Volunteers Report: Courtney Healy**

- **Year-End Class Parties:** We're gearing up for the next round of parties.
- **Teacher Gifts:** We want them to be fair across the board, including specials teachers. Mary Joplon will be retiring, so keep her in mind.

### **VP-Technology Report: Nikki Kidd**

- **New PTO Website:** It's on Squarespace and will be built and transitioned over by next school year. Working on small quirks and an awesome design.
- I might add a "Made Possible by the PTO" section to detail what the PTO is doing. People don't understanding the full scope of what the PTO does, from facilities enhancements to library murals, etc .

### **School Board Liaison Report: Erin Dowdall**

- **School Improvement Plans:** Checking in to see how plan is evolving and changing with our kids. Focus on additional math challenges for all students and increased K-8th reading and math growth. Also discussed Group Problem Solving (GPS), where the entire support group meets to discuss a kid who needs help and support. This is used for used for ELA and Math and kids roll off of as they reach benchmarks.
- **Belongingness.** We excel at this and at building community and empathy. We want to create a space for kids to say it's okay to not be okay. Adding books and resources on diversity and inclusion in the classroom.
- **IAR Testing for Grades 3-4 in April.** Teachers will be sharing schedules soon. Goal is that the tests will be staggered.

**Parent Question:** Where is the audio for the Board meeting from 2/20? Answer: Audio and video links are now in the Agenda, not in the D90 dropdown. Dr. Condon: This was moved to scale back website in advance of website revision that's launching this summer. Maybe we could use a placeholder?

### **Nominating Committee Report: Corina Davis**

- **Incredible Progress.** Courtney Healy, Erin Dowdall, and Jen Ierardi helped a ton. 75% full.

- 3 positions still to solidify:
  1. Staff Appreciation & Hospitality.
  2. School Pictures: We'd love a incoming Kindergarten or 1st Grade parent to take this on.
  3. Fundraising Committee : We have someone for chair role, but would love a committee around her.
- **Next Steps:** Collecting information on roles and committees. We'd like information available to encourage people to participate. There's lots of institutional knowledge.
- PTO Open House Evening in April so that working parents can come.

### **Yoga: Megan Seliga**

- **Next Session:** There's demand for another session of yoga. Stay tuned for new dates and info.
- Note from Diane Wood: Mrs. Beck says the new yoga teacher is amazing. Great at class management and kids love it.
- PTO provided mats several years ago.

### **Legacy Sports: Megan Seliga**

- **Behavior:** It's come to our attention that there has been some aggression. We spoke to Dan and have a new way of handling things: 1st infraction: Asked to sit out for 10 minutes; 2nd infraction will result in removal. Dan will send out an email.
- We want to ensure that these are places kids are safe and happy.

### **School Dance (3/8): Andrea Cheronis**

- We have 165 tickets (133 last year.)
- Souvenirs for everyone and a water bottle stickers.
- DJ is set, as is DJ liability insurance and building use insurance.
- 2-3 janitors will be there.
- **Quiet Room:** Board games and sensory things. We need to balance quiet room so it's not a social club. We could reach out to Dads who helped last year.
- Note from Diane Wood: We used to raffle off 1st row seats to the Orchestra/Band Concert, which was a success.

### **Science & Invention Fair (3/21): Corina Davis**

- **Registration:** 42 kids signed up. (30 last year). Registration is closed, but unregistered kids can come see projects.
- **Mentors:** we still need some mentor volunteers. You don't need to be a rocket scientist, just enthusiastic.

### **Spirit Wear: Megan Seliga for Deka Von Ende**

- Deja had an idea about some ideas for a new design and a new look.
- We've had students vote on what they like best.
- We'll have some stock for Family Culture Fest on 4/18
- We do need a volunteer for the Spirit Wear table.

### **Family Culture Fest (4/18): Megan Seliga**

- Planning is going well.
- 7-8 families are hosting tables so far.

### **Family Care Book Drive: Megan Seliga for Ashley Graves**

- We did collect a lot of books.
- Decent portion will go to OPRF Infant Welfare Society.
- Might have a book sale for the rest.

### **Big Hearts, Little Hands (5/3): Rachel Dardis**

- New Date: 4/26.
- It's the morning of the half day, so will be the focus for the day.

### **Willard 5K (5/19): Megan Seliga for Amber Kardosh**

- Registration is open
- You don't need to run! Walking great too.

### **Green 4 Good: Virginia Sarah**

- **RF Community Bike Exchange: (4/13)**
  - Willard gets a portion of the proceeds.
- **Bike and Walk to School Week (Week of 4/15)**
  - Would be fun to get a classroom or a grade to be the cutters for the t-shirt ties. Maybe 2nd Grade?
  - Waste-free Lunches. Maybe kids get a stamp for waste-free lunches that week? Let's talk to teachers about what that might look like.
- **School Supply Boxes:** Emily Gass will do ordering throughout the spring, Melissa Fasano and Dana Grant will take over next year.
  - Parent Comment: There's an organization that collects used crayons. We could do something like that with used materials.
  - Let's be green conscious and aware for these supply kits.

**Yearbooks:**

- We're in the final push for photos.

**Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:54am

