

I sent the previous email to the BoE as well. However, I will make this be your “official” email for written communication purposes. And I will restate my previous reply.

Thank you for sharing this email, as school safety continues to be a priority in D39. We will be reviewing all of our safety practices in D39. I am also discussing with township Superintendents and actions we may/may not take as a group.

Ray



Dr. Ray Lechner
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools District 39
www.wilmette39.org | 847.512.6030

On Feb 21, 2018, at 8:04 PM, Jeff Axelrod <jeff@theaxelrods.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Lechner:

Thank you for your earlier and very prompt responses; I apologize for my unclear initial email.

What I was trying to say was that I support District 39 students and staff participating in the 17-minute [National School Walkout on March 14th](#). I would also like to specifically offer to help organize beforehand and/or help during any formal event at Central School. I also support doing this at other District 39 elementary schools in an age-appropriate way.

Please forward this on to each of the members of the school board.

Thank you,
Jeff Axelrod

From: Mark Steen <steenm@wilmette39.org>

Subject: Re: Actions against gun violence

Date: February 21, 2018 at 6:23:27 PM CST

To: Jeff Axelrod <jeff@theaxelrods.com>, Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>

Mr. Axelrod,

Thank you for your thoughts on this issue. Certainly, we on the Board and in the Administration think a lot about the safety of the children in our schools, both inside and outside D39. For those inside D39, we act as best we can - you may recall that we upgraded all of our school main entrances to double-buzz systems a few years ago. For those outside D39, we are as frustrated as all of our fellow citizens by the tragedies we see far too frequently.

Because of the Open Meetings Act, I cannot forward your email to the other Board members, but I am copying Dr. Lechner, who can. Just for your future reference, I am always happy to get emails from D39 residents - but, mechanically, the best way to get a message to all Board members is to include the Superintendent in the address line.

Thanks again for your support and thoughts,
Mark

On Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 2:01 PM Jeff Axelrod <jeff@theaxelrods.com> wrote:

Hi President Stein:

I just wanted to express my full support of staff and or students of all ages to participate in the actions against gun violence. I would also like to offer help organizing if needed. Would you please forward this to the other board members?

Thanks,
Jeff

Good morning Ann,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing this information about a National Walkout on March 14th. I absolutely understand the significance and concern many have surrounding the shootings in Florida.

My administrative team will begin reviewing this today. Additionally, I reached out to New Trier Township Superintendents, and we are scheduling a meeting to review as well. (Incidentally, I communicated with Paul Sally about this and NTHS has not decided about this either).

Once we have decided a course to take, there will be very clear parent communication to follow.

Ray



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On Feb 19, 2018, at 2:02 PM, Anne Stevens <anne.h.stevens@gmail.com> wrote:

To the District 39 School Board,

I am writing to encourage the D39 schools to participate in the 17 minute [National Walkout on March 14th](#) to honor students lost in school shootings and to call for stricter gun control regulation. The link above indicates schools in the area who are already planning participating, including New Trier High School.

This walkout is a powerful opportunity to show students how they can contribute to a larger voice for peace and security. It also is a rich teaching moment to discuss and unpack the impact that these security measures have on a school community. Our student and staff voices can join those of students and staff across the country calling for sane gun control measures. Amplifying the voices of our students will empower them to go on and make positive change as 21st century global citizens.

If there is anything we as parents can do to support this walkout, please feel free to ask me to mobilize our parent resources. We are so encouraged by these student and staff voices rising together, and we wish to support you and honor you as stewards of our children's education.

Thank you,

Anne Hayden Stevens
WJHS parent

From: JEA Consulting <julie@jeaconsulting.org>
Subject: Re: Full Day Kindergarten

Thank you Ray

As you know, I am a huge champion for D39 and know you are all doing due diligence on this and other important topics. I look forward to reviewing the report.

Julie

Hello Ms. Adrianopoli,

Thank you for sharing this detailed information. I am happy to report that we have been doing similar homework, and are presenting a Kindergarten update at our next Board of Ed meeting. I hope our report addresses most of these questions/concerns.

Ray



Dr. Ray Lechner
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On Feb 12, 2018, at 12:29 PM, JEA Consulting <julie@jeaconsulting.org> wrote:

Dear D39 School Board Members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the recent survey about kindergarten enrichment that went out and to encourage the district to move quickly to offer full day kindergarten (not enrichment) in the district.

Concerns about the Survey

As someone who has helped design many surveys on a variety of topics, I felt that the letter that was sent out was misleading in that it did not articulate the full scope of discussions that have been happening about expanding kindergarten in the district. For example, the letter failed to acknowledge parents' interest in the district offering a full day kindergarten option (not paid enrichment) - something that has been discussed but not acted upon for over a decade. In addition, the letter merely suggests that parent interest in kindergarten enrichment is due to transportation and logistics not being ideal when in fact many parent's primary interest in a full kindergarten program is the academic benefits to the child - not the convenience the full day option offers parents.

I was also disappointed with the second question on the survey: *If D39 offered a kindergarten enrichment option and the cost was annually approximately \$6,500 (\$37.00 a day), would you participate in the program at your kindergartners' home school? Yes/No*

—First and foremost, the survey did not ask if the respondent's preference would be full day kindergarten, kindergarten enrichment or half day kindergarten. Perhaps the district didn't want to ask this question knowing that the majority might favor full day kindergarten rather than the current option?

— Second, this question fails to take into consideration a respondent's ability to afford the currently proposed kindergarten enrichment option. The survey should have asked the respondent two separate questions - one about interest in participating **and** another about ability to participate given the proposed fee. In other words, I might be forced to say No, even though I am interested, because I couldn't afford the proposed fee.

Families Are Currently Supplementing the Half-Day Kindergarten Program or Opting to Find a Private Full Day Option outside of D39

As the letter introducing the survey suggests, "many District 39 parents pay private tuition for a kindergarten enrichment program" and the survey should provide some insight into just how many are getting enrichment outside of the district already. From my experience families are seeking supplemental education because they know that the rushed half-day of kindergarten that children in D39 are getting is not enough to ready children for the expectations of 1st grade in D39. Because the district has not been able to successfully find a way to offer a full day kindergarten, families are forced to come up with their own solution - sometimes even opting to send their kids to a private school to get a full day option. Given the amount Wilmette residents pay in taxes, it is unfortunate that so many have to pay for supplemental education because the district hasn't found a viable solution to offer a more robust kindergarten program.

Full Day Kindergarten in the Norm

[Full-day kindergarten classes are close to the norm in Illinois](#) school districts, with 79 percent of 859 districts in the state offering extended-day programs in 2015.

This data doesn't account for nearby school districts who have recently started full day programs:

- [D36 Will Switch to Full-Day Kindergarten in 2017-18](#) (Winnetka)
- [District 35 prepares for the upcoming school year with a new full day of kindergarten](#) in 2016-17 (Glencoe)
- [District 109 readies for full-day kindergarten](#) in 2016 (Deerfield)
- [D-112 Full-Day Kindergarten Taking Shape](#) in 2018-19 (Highland Park)

Charging \$6500 Tuition for Kindergarten Enrichment is Out of Line

The idea of paying for public school is hard to stomach, but the district's proposal to charge \$6500 is outrageous and out of line with other school districts that charge a tuition. Based on some quick research here is what I found:

D65 (Evanston) - full day, tuition free
D35 (Glencoe) - full day, tuition free

- o [Glencoe opts not to charge for full-day kindergarten](#)

D36 (Winnetka) - full day, tuition free
D38 (Kennilworth) - full day, tuition free

Additionally, [this November 2107 article highlights](#) other school districts with full day options that do charge tuition - but MUCH LESS expensive.

- Barrington 220 - \$3,500
- Deerfield 109 - \$1,040*
- Kildeer 96 - \$1,750
- Lake Bluff 65 - \$2,650**
- Lake Forest 67 - \$4,800
- Lincolnshire 103 - \$3,710
- **Fee average: \$2,914.00**

*100 percent district funded for 2018-2019 (Approved)

**100 percent district funded for 2018-2019 (Recommendation)

Full Day Kindergarten is the Best Path Forward

While I appreciate the D39 administrators and the board exploring a kindergarten enrichment option, I encourage the board to more seriously explore a full day kindergarten option.

Kindergarten is an important entryway into academics. Half-day kindergarten programs are rushed forcing teachers to move through mandated curriculum quickly; In full-day kindergarten classrooms, teachers have more time to get to know kids and identify and address learning challenges early—saving money and resources over the long term and increasing the odds that children will be successful later in school. ([Center for Evaluation and Education Policy](#))

It is important to note that D39 students do well (test well) for a variety of reasons. We cannot overlook the benefit the students and the district as a whole gets because of the investment families are making to ensure their students have full day kindergarten. Now that so many other New Trier feeder schools are offering full day kindergarten, shouldn't D39 to ensure our students are equally positioned for academic success?

Financing Full Day Options

Following conversations about the levy, it is my understanding that the D39 board is going to do a deep review of all expenses. It is my hope that through this process, there will be an opportunity to identify options for funding full day kindergarten.

In addition, it might be good to revisit projections on what it would cost to build-out spaces at the four elementary schools for a full day kindergarten option and come up with a master-plan for school construction projects over the next 5 years - one that includes full day kindergarten. While not ideal, in the short-term, perhaps there is a way to utilize modular classrooms or external sites near neighborhood schools so that the full kindergarten program can get rolled out in the district all at once but the construction can take place over several years.

Thank You

I apologize for the long email, but I am passionate about education and feel strongly that a full day kindergarten should be prioritized. My kids will no longer benefit from this option (they are all beyond kindergarten!), but I think our community wins when we invest in strengthening, innovating and advancing our local education system.

Sincerely,

Julie Adrianopoli
711 Central, Wilmette

Hello Ms. Hanahan,

I wanted to clarify that we are not ending Friday after school care. Rather, we are limiting the care to families who have a clearly identified need. Again, these services are not ending, and will continue to be available to families who truly need this care. This year, when we offered this support, we didn't expect the number of situations where parents used D39 as an inconsistent "drop in" baby sitting service. This was never our intent. Our intent last year, this year and next year is to provide Friday after school support to families who have a clearly identified need, on a consistent basis.

As you know, we have already identified that children attending After School Rec programs, and children who have siblings will need this support. If you have a consistent need for after school care, that is separate from ASR or kindergarten, please reach out to your principal.

Next, regarding the school calendar, below I have attached the email I sent you explaining how the D39 school calendar is established. You will see that my reply to you is consistent. The NTHS calendar is always our starting place for determining our own calendar. This year NTHS is starting school before Labor Day and NTHS has a longer school year than we do.

As indicated in my email below, I prefer an after Labor Day start of school. Last year we had an opportunity when NTHS, because of school construction, shortened its school calendar and started after Labor Day. This is not the case this year. Additional details below describe in detail how the school calendar is constructed.

What has changed since my January 5th email to you, is that NTHS actually changed their own start date. NTHS is now starting school on Monday, August 27th, only 3 days before D39. In fact, all but one school district in New Trier Township are starting school the week of August 27th.

I hope this information helped. Please reach out to your school principal about your own need for Friday after school care.

Ray



Dr. Ray Lechner
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools District 39
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: 2018-19 Calendar Question
Date: January 5, 2018 at 9:18:09 AM CST
To: Julie Hanahan <jrhanahan@gmail.com>

Morning & Happy New Year!

I have been trying, for years and years, to get the first day of school to start after Labor Day. I have numerous parents requesting this annually. Last year when NTHS started after Labor Day the opportunity presented itself...and we were able to make it happen. However, last year, as I said numerous times, an after Labor Day start was not a sustainable practice; there are too many variables at play. (And as you indicated below, NTHS is a very real factor.) Right now, I have numerous parents appealing for an after Labor Day start. I understand that this is not what you are asking, I just wanted to give you a little background.

The later start we experienced this year provided one of the very best and seamless school openings that we have ever had. (The school administration & staff had adequate time to prep for the return of teachers/students....much less stress and way fewer issues....) We had minimal complaints and did a very nice job meeting the needs of almost everyone. And, because our schools aren't air-conditioned, we avoided a few hot days too. On our end, this was an excellent beginning; teachers have been clamoring for an after Labor Day start (sorry I can't make that happen, without cutting into holidays).

Regarding child care, We have a fixed number of student attendance days, so the number of summer days that require families to organize child care is constant. Many years ago (for reasons I simply can't recall) we needed to start school a bit earlier than normal, which meant we needed to end school earlier too. I received the same feedback about June summer child care; we ended school before summer Park District, NTHS and private camp programs began. It wasn't a pleasant experience.

Since that time, when we build our calendar.....we literally begin working backwards from the NTHS summer program. Our aim is to avoid any "gap" in June. Kids can have a seamless transition right into summer school/programs etc. Next, we align holidays with New Trier etc..... The June transition has been a priority, as parents have less flexibility at the end of a school year. Parents tend to schedule vacations in late July/August.

The State of Illinois has a school calendar deadline June 15th. June 15th is when calendars are due. However, because we understand that parents have child care needs, we post our Draft calendar in December and then approve in January.... giving parents a full 8-9 months to plan their August schedule.

As you can imagine, the school calendar is one of those "no win" scenarios. There is definitely a diversity of opinion. I definitely understand your concern about 1 & 1/2 days of attendance before Labor Day weekend. However, for teachers and staff, a transition like this is a good one. Kids have a decent amount of time to adjust to a new teacher, school, etc, then get a little break before we "dig in" to the next school year.

Thank you for sharing your view points, I hope my response helped a bit.

Ray



Dr. Ray Lechner
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On Feb 1, 2018, at 6:06 AM, Julie Hanahan <jrhanahan@gmail.com> wrote:

Dr. Lechner —

I'm writing to express my dismay about the ending of care for elementary students during the hour-long early dismissals every Friday. Last year when the board voted to make this change to the elementary school schedule, parents objected, and you responded by instituting care until 3:15 p.m. To have that care discontinued after one year feels like a bait and switch.

I realize you plan to continue care for students who are enrolled in ASR and those with siblings in afternoon kindergarten, but what are those of us who need coverage just until 3:15 (or whenever the bus gets them home after that) supposed to do? The older kids all will still be in school, and finding child care for one hour in the middle of the day one day a week is nearly impossible.

In my personal situation, I work part-time so I can meet the bus after soon and am paid hourly. Losing one hour of work a week will cost me quite a bit of money. The teachers I know whose kids attend Romona are in a similar boat but without the option of just ducking out of work an hour early every Friday.

I don't understand how this unilateral decision could be made when it was clearly a significant enough issue for parents last year that this solution was introduced before the board voted. And now after one year we are out in the cold.

My last email to you was regarding the school start date being a full week after New Trier's despite last year's assertion that we have to stick with the New Trier schedule for the sake of families with kids in both districts as well as New Trier math. Your response to me was that you've wanted to move the start date after Labor Day for years. If that's the case, then why was New Trier the reason given last year?

Now we have this issue come up — last year we were assured that the weekly early dismissal could be covered, and now that the schedule is in place, that is no longer something the district is willing to do. I find this incredibly frustrating, and in the future such solutions will be difficult to accept as actual solutions rather than just short-term adjustments to get policy changes approved.

I understand that arranging the supervision may be complicated. I object to the idea that the answer is to shift the complication onto the shoulders of every individual family that needs their 6-to-10-year-olds to be supervised until 3:15. There has to be some sort of group solution here. Even if you have to go to a fee-based system like the early bird care, I'd much prefer that to losing pay every single week.

Please reconsider this decision.

Julie Hanahan
847-729-0827
jrhanahan@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Dean,

I appreciate your letter regarding the proposed dissolution of Youth Connection in June. I want to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude for the many years of services, support, and programming that Youth Connection has provided to the students and families of District 39.

I clearly understand some issues you have faced, and know this has been a difficult decision for all involved. Your thoughtfulness in working to anticipate and address the effects this dissolution will have on District 39 students and families is much appreciated.

District 39 is committed to offering options for after-school programming for students; we want to continue to support the needs of the families who have taken advantage of Youth Connection programs such as RAD, the DEN, and Homework Club. We are committed to developing a specific plan for replacing these programs. Offering input and transition from Cristina during this process will be most helpful. We will have a plan developed before students return to school next fall. As with many D39 programs, we will continue to provide support for families when there is a financial need.

Our administrative team will also work closely with the HMS and WJHS PTOs to investigate options with respect to the special events that Youth Connection has traditionally sponsored. It is our aim that students will continue to have a wealth of opportunities available.

Again, thank you, and the entire Youth Connection Board, for your service to the families and students of Wilmette, and for all you have done for so many years to enrich each child's experience at HMS and WJHS.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can do.

Ray



Dr. Ray Lechner
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools District 39
www.wilmette39.org | 847.512.6030

On Jan 10, 2018, at 12:25 PM, Kristen Dean <mrs.kristendean@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Lechner,

I am attaching a letter regarding the proposed dissolution of Youth Connection. Also attached is an electronic copy of my agenda from our Dec. 15th meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you and others about how the community might be served if Youth Connection is absent from the District 39 environment. Youth Connection's next board meeting is Feb. 12th.

Sincerely,

Kristen Dean
Youth Connection, President, Board of Directors

816 Oakwood Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

January 10, 2018

Dr. Ray Lechner
Superintendent, Wilmette Public Schools District 39
615 Locust Road
Wilmette, IL 60091

Dear Dr. Lechner,

Thank you for making the time to meet with me on December 15, 2017 to discuss ongoing concerns regarding Youth Connection's programming within Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School. Your prompt call to Kelly Jackson resulted in a productive meeting with Kelly, Aaron Dubnow and Doug Wernet during which Youth Connection's Executive Director Cristina Castro, parent volunteer Cara Gaziano and I worked through details pertaining to the upcoming Highcrest Variety Show and Battle of the Bands at WJHS. I am confident these two events will go more smoothly as a result.

Regardless, the Youth Connection Board continues to have concerns about the sustainability of Youth Connection and its ability to offer free and low-cost after school programming within District 39.

History and Current State of Affairs

As you know, Youth Connection was established as a non-profit organization in 1988 in response to findings outlined in a report by the New Trier Township Committee on Youth. Its mission is to serve all Wilmette 5th through 8th graders with free or low-cost, safe, after school activities. Doing so on school premises has resulted in significant usage of these services by District 39 families for a variety of reasons. On almost any full day of the school year, you can find two dozen or more 5th/6th graders in RAD, the free drop-in center at Highcrest; 10 or more 7th/8th graders in the DEN, the free drop-in center at WJHS, and 10 or more students in the Homework Clubs at each HMS and WJHS.

Youth Connection fulfills its mission with an annual operating budget of about \$90,000. Funding comes from grants from New Trier Township, the Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club, and the Wilmette Optimists' Club; gifts from the Highcrest PTO and the WJHS PTO; an annual benefit; miscellaneous small fundraisers via local businesses; individual donations, and participation fees from special events such as theater productions and the Battle of the Bands. The organization is managed by a paid part-time Executive Director and a small volunteer board of directors. We employ six part-time employees who supervise Homework Club, RAD and DEN, and we bring in outside vendors to direct special events.

Traditionally, Youth Connection relied on special events to raise awareness of its mission, to make a case for grants, and to raise money to fund the free drop-in programs RAD and DEN. Unfortunately, the Board of Directors has reached the conclusion that theater programming is no longer viable, realistic, or

successful in District 39. Numerous problems that have arisen over the years between Youth Connection and District 39 regarding auditorium facilities and related resources, even with heavy effort to communicate with District personnel, to operate within District policies, and to follow District protocol regarding facility usage has also led the Board of Directors to vote to discontinue *any* special events at District 39 going forward.

Consequently, Youth Connection is heavily disadvantaged in regards to grants, brand recognition, ability to attract new board members, and ability to raise important revenue. At its simplest, it is left without the critical means needed to fund RAD, DEN and Homework Club.

The Board does not feel confident it can retain and attract qualified staff and board members without direct and ongoing support from a senior representative of District 39. Without more shared leadership, the Board suspects Youth Connection will repeat the problems of the past.

Finally, Youth Connection's Board will see major turnover this year in key positions (president, treasurer, personnel director, and fundraising). We are concerned that Youth Connection will also lose Cristina Castro, the new Executive Director who has been outstanding during her first six months despite inheriting a challenging situation not of her making.

Accordingly, as president, I plan to formally submit a motion to dissolve Youth Connection during our March 2018 board meeting. Dissolution would take effect June 30, 2018, which is the end of Youth Connection's financial year.

Future Funding and Operation

Youth Connection's Board believes popular special events such as the Battle of the Bands or The Variety Show can be assumed by the PTOs or even discontinued without major impact on Wilmette families. The discontinuation of RAD and DEN, however, is gravely concerning and we hope District 39, the HMS PTO and the WJHS PTO will consider ways these important programs might continue or be transformed in Youth Connection's absence.

Can District 39 offer RAD and DEN in some low-cost, drop-in format? A comparable 5-day after school program for fifth and sixth graders at the Wilmette Park District costs \$4,277 annually. No such program exists at the Wilmette Park District for seventh and eighth graders. The Warming House, a non-profit serving Wilmette youth, offers after school programming to children as young as sixth grade; however, its location and older student population may deter younger or higher-need students from participating.

Can the Highcrest PTO and WJHS PTO offer an After School Club similar to RAD or DEN from dismissal until 5 or 6 pm? Because there is no structured curriculum in either program (with the exception that Youth Connection has encouraged service initiatives) the staff-to-child ratio can be lower than in a curriculum-based program. Additionally, the pay to staff these programs may be considerably lower than other teacher-led After School Clubs. RAD and DEN supervisor salaries range from \$12-\$15/hour. Homework Club salaries can be as high as \$25/hour if run by a certified teacher.

Can the District extend its ability to subsidize these programs for families who do not meet Angel Fund criteria? While some families who use RAD and DEN qualify for District Angel Funds, we believe many families who use our programs do not. Some are undergoing short-term financial or family crises, such as job loss, health crisis, divorce, elder care issues, or a death in the family. Other families may recognize their child requires more support in social opportunities and they may already be spending considerable

financial resources to support these children therapeutically or medically. Still others may unexpectedly find they should not be leaving their adolescent home alone (or with undesirable companions) without having budgeted for the scenario.

This need for RAD or DEN can arise suddenly and there are many situations when a fifth through eighth grade student may abruptly seek a safe place with caring adults and friends during after school hours. RAD and DEN have met this need for nearly 30 years.

The current Youth Connection Board strongly recommends Cristina Castro help during the transition. Cristina is familiar to students and staff, and has proven herself a reliable, caring director of these programs. Any historical problems are not the result of Cristina's efforts or qualifications. If the programs can continue in some form during the next school year, we think she is a capable, strong candidate who would serve District 39 well.

Closing

It is with mixed feelings that I respectfully submit this letter to you. It is not the result I envisioned after devoting so much time and effort on behalf of Youth Connection and Wilmette families. I know many Youth Connection board members feel the same. However, I am a huge fan of District 39 and have experienced how well it can respond to the needs of its young people, both in spirit and in action. I hope this will be true for those who rely on RAD and DEN.

I am copying this letter to the attention of the Wilmette PSD39 Board of Education; to Denise Thrasher, Administrator for Student and Special Services; to Jennifer Finger, the Highcrest Middle School PTO President; and to Robin Cook, the Wilmette Junior High School PTO President, as Youth Connection's future directly impacts stakeholders in all those organizations.

Sincerely,

Kristen Dean
President, Youth Connection Board of Directors

Agenda
Meeting with Dr. Ray Lechner
Friday, December 15, 2017

Youth Connection continues to experience significant problems administering programs at Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School, and seeks answers to the following questions:

1. Does District 39 still want an outside partner agency (e.g., Youth Connection) to administer after school programs in the form of RAD, DEN and Homework Club?
 - a. **If yes**, how can Youth Connection be better assured that:
 - i. Facility contracts will be honored
 - ii. Executive Director will be granted the freedom to develop and administer programs without excessive District interference but with moderate District facilitation
 - iii. An engaged and empowered member(s) of District administration is involved in Youth Connection and serves on its Board
 - iv. Special fundraising programs (e.g., Theater Experience, Variety Show, Battle of the Bands) will receive District endorsement and promotion, as well as a spirit of cooperation and facilitation. (more below.)
 - b. **If no**, should Youth Connection:
 - i. Pursue board discussions to dissolve as a 501(c)(3) at the annual meeting (June 2017)
 - ii. Enter discussions with the District 39 School Board, The Warming House, and/or the Wilmette Park District to transition families currently served by free Youth Connection after school programming to fee-based or District-subsidized programming.
2. Does District 39 value participation by students in Youth Connection-led service projects, The Highcrest Variety Show, the Battle of the Bands, and the annual Youth Connection Theater Experience (play or musical)?
 - a. **If yes**, how can Youth Connection be assured that:
 - i. Executive Director is not required to micromanage or babysit capable, approved outside vendors hired by the Board to run these programs
 - ii. Outside Vendors will receive the District support they need in order to make the events experientially meaningful to students and financially meaningful to Youth Connection
 1. "Mudpie" issues
 2. Variety Show Concerns (Tech Crew, Parent Volunteers, etc.)
 3. Battle of the Bands (available drum set, tech help, etc.)

- iii. Program participants, almost all of whom are District 39 5th through 8th grade students, are allowed reasonable use of space and equipment.
 - iv. Communications to District 39 families about these programs will be freely shared throughout the school and via District communication vehicles
- b. **If no**, Youth Connection is severely limited in its ability to appeal to potential grant-givers, advertisers/major sponsors, and individual donors. Operating expenses will need to be covered entirely by charitable giving and Youth Connection would need to develop a completely different model of direct appeal.
3. Does District 39 recognize:
- a. Students who participate in Youth Connection programs are **a mix of students** who have and do not have financial/emotional/other support at home?
 - i. When the District encourages children to collect money in homerooms to support Hurricane victims in TX and students in the DEN ask to host a fundraiser after school, is it understood this may be how and where they are able to participate in such an initiative?
 - b. Our Board is active, but it is **very small** (17 vs. the PTO's 70, and half of that 17 is more advisory in nature than active)?
 - i. Despite our size, we support an *annual* Operating Budget of roughly \$90,000.
 - c. The same people who report feeling underserved or "left out" in District 39 as a result of **socioeconomic factors** in the recent CRC Culture Survey are people Youth Connection can and should be serving through its free and low-cost programs?
 - i. How can Youth Connection and District 39 partner together better to "invisibly" serve these families, integrate parents and students alike into broader community efforts, and better blur the lines that make people feel isolated or alone?
 - ii. Angel Funds
 - 1. District vs. PTO Angel Funds
 - 2. Availability for Youth Connection programs