



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2019

District 157-C February 20, 2019 Board of Education Meeting Recap

FRANKFORT, IL — The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of February 20, 2019, was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:00 p.m. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the Open and Closed Session minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2019.

No one spoke during the Public Forum portion of the meeting.

During reports to the Board, Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Kirsten Frankovich reported that during School Improvement Day on March 1, reading specialists will meet with teachers to discuss lesson planning, and social workers will meet with teachers to review trends with social emotional learning. She added that the school's Report Card Committee is working to review report cards and discuss potential improvements.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Doug Wernet reported that teachers focused on academics during the Institute Day on February 15, and the school plans to cover social emotional learning on School Improvement Day March 1.

Hickory Creek Principal Will Seidelmann reported that the school has an educational technology camp planned for School Improvement Day, during which technology coaches will help teachers plan content and the implementation of tech tools.

Director of Technology Jacob Nelson reported that he and his team participated in a webinar reviewing the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, which is replacing the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test. He said the IAR will use the same testing platform as PARCC.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that the district recently provided Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 with its annual listing of supports needed. She said she anticipates the district needing the same level of support from District 843 in the upcoming school year, with no major changes. She added that this summer, District 843 will oversee the Extended School Year Program, which has been overseen by District 157-C in the past. The program will still be hosted at Grand Prairie, and it will be open to neighboring districts. "This will be extremely beneficial for all of our feeder districts, and we will still have the consistency of housing it here," Bajda said.

Director of Human Resources Shayna Cole said she is working on standardizing staff evaluation processes across the district, including for district-level staff and administrators, and she is focusing on staffing needs for the upcoming school year. "Early posting and screening has yielded quality candidate pools," she said. She added that the district will participate in two job fairs in March.

Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds Rodney Davis reported that the winter weather has been a challenge for his team, and he recognized his staff for their hard work. He said his staff members have reported to work around 4 a.m. some days, staying until students go home to ensure their safety. During the Polar Vortex, Davis and members of his team stayed overnight at Hickory Creek to keep an eye on and warm up pipes that were prone to freezing. At Hickory Creek, a sprinkler pipe failed in a hallway, doing some damage to drywall. Davis commended the staff for responding promptly when this triggered the fire alarm. "Everybody did the best they could, and I'm proud of my team for that," Davis said. He added that FGM Architects assessed problem areas so that the district can address these in the future. Board President Gina Briese thanked Davis and asked him to extend thanks to his team.

Education Foundation President Allison Marketti announced that the Foundation's annual Casino Night fundraiser is set for March 8 at The Odyssey in Tinley Park. She said the Foundation has sold more than 300 tickets for the event, and ticket sales have been extended through Friday, March 1, because of some previous difficulties with RevTrak. "If anyone tried to purchase tickets and couldn't, I encourage them to go back to try now," she said. She added that the Foundation has a variety of exciting trips and sports packages to bid on, as well as great raffle baskets. Marketti thanked the Foundation's corporate sponsors, donors and parent volunteers for their support. "We look forward to the event," Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni said. "You guys are doing a great job."

Zinni read a statement from Band and Orchestra Boosters, and Chorus Boosters President Cori Chojnacki thanking parents, students and staff who volunteered at and performed at the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble contest for District VI held February 9 at Hickory Creek. The school hosted roughly 4,000 people and 900 performances that day, and Booster sales generated more than \$1,000 for the district. Chojnacki's letter also recognized the boards of both Boosters organizations for their preparation for the contest and Seidelmann for being present during the entirety of the contest.

Board Member Edith Lutz said the District Insurance Committee is working to plan wellness activities for future institute days and looking into additional screenings that can be added for staff members. She said the committee is happy that 90 percent of staff members who are insured through the district's plans participated in health screenings this year.

Board Secretary Edie Adamski provided the Board with the January 14 Advisory Board regular meeting and February 5 Governing Board special meeting minutes from Lincoln-Way Special Education District 843. She said District 843 announced that the SELF program that was held at Hickory Creek will be moving to Mokena Junior High School for the 2019-2020 school year.

During the superintendent's report, Zinni said the district continues to remain steady at 12 class sections per grade level. She made the recommendation of the addition of a dean at Grand Prairie. Currently, the school has a part-time staff member in this type of role, but part of the day is uncovered. Briese asked if having a dean at the elementary school level was common practice, and Zinni said it is common practice to have that level of support in a building of Grand Prairie's size. Adamski asked what the dean would spend his or her day doing, and Zinni said the person would respond to minor behavior incidents and facilitate schoolwide spirit-boosting activities. Frankovich said responding to behavior incidents is often time-consuming, as administrators take care to ensure students understand why something was not appropriate and what the expected behaviors are. Board members agreed they were comfortable with the full-time dean position.

Also during her report, Zinni said the district's administrative team participated in implicit bias training and is exploring updating the district's 21st Century Continuous Learning Plan to include a social emotional learning focus with an emphasis on cultural competence. The district completed the majority of the academic focuses of the plan over the past few years and is now looking to further enrich students' learning with a greater focus on social and emotional components of growth. Administrators attended a training led by Troy Cicero, a leader in the field of cultural diversity who develops inclusive practices for schools, and they are looking into other consultants to choose one who would fit well with the district's students, parents and staff. Zinni said the district is in a great place to begin this work, and she believes the district will have great success in this area, given its positive record of goal attainment.

Zinni reported the district participated in Run, Hide, Fight training in each building, with help from the Frankfort Police Department. She said teachers were very appreciative of the training and are feeling confident when it comes to drills.

Zinni also reported that longtime district Administrative Assistant Sandy Pechtold announced her intention to retire on July 2. Zinni thanked Pechtold for her 25 years of service to the district and her dedication.

Director of Business and Operations Kate Ambrosini provided the Board with the January 2019 Treasurer's Report and Graphs. In January, the total fund balance decreased by \$1,411,433. Monthly revenue receipts totaled \$655,568, primarily due to state funding, evidence-based funding and a transportation claim. Monthly expense disbursements totaled \$2,068,686, primarily due to payroll and accounts payable.

There was one Freedom of Information request for commercial purposes that was responded to in a timely manner.

In discussion, the Board heard a proposal regarding the adoption of updated Carnegie Math curriculum for grades 6-8. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Janet McClarence said the district is nearing the end of a six-year agreement with Carnegie Math for its current materials, which are now out of print. These materials have been replaced with a new edition of materials, which have been piloted by a group of Hickory Creek teachers. Math teachers learned about updates to the materials from one of the textbooks' writers and participated in professional development during the district's January 7 Institute Day. Going forward, the district has the option of purchasing old textbooks for next school year or adopting the newest edition of the materials. McClarence said teachers would like to use the newest materials, and the district met with a Carnegie representative who could provide further professional development to teachers around the new materials. With the updated textbooks, students would receive a skills practice workbook, student edition book, and online access to materials. Additionally, the district would receive 210 MATHia student licenses for blended learning classrooms. The cost of the new materials for 2019-2020 is \$73,150.80. Following a successful first year, the district could consider extending the contract for an additional 2-4 years at between roughly \$48,000 and \$43,000 per year, depending on contract length. Math Teacher Dawn Gaertig said the updated materials address all Common Core State Standards and offer stronger content and structure. The materials have a spiraling review of concepts, where students are presented reminders of content learned earlier in the year throughout the quarters, she said. "Parents need spiraling reviews, as well," Board Vice President Tom Reidy said. Math Teacher Maggie Sayles said she enjoys teaching out of Carnegie materials, as the books do a good job of having students discover math through the process and work together to learn collaboratively. The School Board is expected to vote on the textbook adoption at a later meeting.

In discussion, Cole presented the Board with a few proposed updates to the 2019-2020 Personnel Manual and the annual salary range and hourly wage recommendations for non-teaching work groups. Cole said the district added an additional week of time off during Winter Break and aligned language to state retirement system applications. In salaries, Zinni said the district would like to raise the substitute teaching rate from \$100 a day to \$110 a day.

In discussion, Zinni said the district is asking for two seasonal clerical assistants to help the Special Services, Curriculum and Human Resources departments.

In discussion, Nelson recommended the district purchase new Lenovo 300e laptops for fifth-graders and complete a technology refresh at Grand Prairie and the District Office for the 2019-2020 school year. The refresh would include additional laptop carts, allowing the school to store 12 laptops per cart so that teachers can more easily use these for small group projects and borrow additional laptops for individual projects. The refresh would also include new laptops for teachers, new laptops and desktops for respective staff members, and new SmartBoards. It has been five years since the last technology refresh at Grand Prairie.

In discussion, Nelson said it is time for the district's recertification of compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. He said the district is still in compliance with the act, which is necessary for the district to receive E-Rate subsidies for connectivity and technology funding from the federal government.

In discussion, Ambrosini provided an overview of the district's three-year capital improvement plan. She said the majority of items for fiscal year 2019 have been completed, and there have been no changes to previously discussed fiscal year 2020 projects, which include roofs, lighting upgrades, parking lot repairs and more. Fiscal year 2021 projects have not been fully added to the plan yet, but will also likely include roofs, lighting upgrades and parking lot repairs, as well as a new playground for Grand Prairie, Ambrosini said.

In discussion, Ambrosini provided tentative revenue projections for fiscal year 2020. She said she anticipates revenues to be similar to past years, with the district receiving 91 percent of its revenue from local sources, 7 percent from the State and 2 percent from federal sources. "Overall, we will be relatively in line with this year's revenues, which is a good trend," she said. Reidy asked how the district might fund potential improvements at Chelsea, and Ambrosini said the Board might decide on a lower abatement.

The Board took action to approve updates to the following policies: 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct, to reflect state law; 2:120 Board Member Development, requiring school districts to provide ongoing professional development about supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement; 4:45 Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery, reflecting the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act; 4:170 Safety, requiring schools to conduct active shooter drills no later than 90 days after the first day of the school year; 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria, to reflect state law and update legal references; 5:60 Expenses, to reflect the Illinois Wage Payment Collection Act; 5:120 Employee Ethics, Conduct, and Conflict of Interest, regarding district employees who engage in employment or volunteer work outside of regular district work hours; 5:220 Substitute Teachers, to permit substitutes who are TRS annuitants to teach up to 120 paid days or 600 paid hours each school year, establish a short-term substitute teaching license, allow TRS annuitants to return to teaching in a subject shortage area until June 30, 2019, and allow schools to require new substitute teachers to provide evidence of physical fitness to perform duties and evidence of freedom from communicable diseases; 6:60 Curriculum Content, to update language and reflect the requirement to make education available to students in grades kindergarten through eight regarding methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling; 7:70 Attendance and Truancy, regarding ongoing professional development on supportive services to promote student attendance and engagement, and prohibit punitive action unless

these services have been provided; 7:100 Health, Eye and Dental Examinations, Immunizations and Exclusion of Students, to include updates to The Communicable Disease Prevention Act, The Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law, and state law; 7:190 Student Behavior, to incorporate amendments to state laws; 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education, to respond to updated state law; 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students, to reflect updates to state law and incorporate Ashley's Law, regarding the administration of medical cannabis; 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention, to reflect the requirement of in-service training on warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior at least once every two years for all licensed school personnel and administrators who work with K-12 students; and 7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, to reflect the requirement for schools to distribute an Illinois Department of Public Health brochure to any child who may have sustained a concussion and that child's parent or guardian.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Kim Zuccato as a full-time long-term substitute kindergarten teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School with a start date of March 8, 2019, and tentative end date at the completion of the 2018-2019 school year, or until the assignment ends, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Mara Palmer as a full-time school psychologist at Hickory Creek Middle School with a start date of the 2019-2020 school year, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Alex Popek as a full-time assistant network administrator at the District Office with a start date of February 21, 2019, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve a change in Dawn Davis' FTE from 10-month employee to full-time, 12-month employee.

The Board took action to approve a change in Amy Steele's FTE from 1.0 to 0.8.

The Board took action to approve a request from Sean Bouck for an unpaid leave of absence for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Board took action to approve the intention to retire submitted by Diane Bunnell, full-time teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, following the 2022-2023 school year with the incentive option per the agreement between Frankfort School District 157-C and the Teachers' Association.

The Board took action to approve the intention to retire submitted by Lynn Winans, full-time teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School, following the 2022-2023 school year with the incentive option per the agreement between Frankfort School District 157-C and the Teachers' Association. Adamski abstained.

The Board took action to approve the Chelsea School Student Council for third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students. The Student Council will meet once a week for one hour. The program will begin on Thursday, March 7, 2019 and end on Thursday, May 30, 2019. The stipend for the Chelsea School Student Council will be a maximum of \$360 per sponsor, and the amount of sponsors will depend on enrollment. Wernet said more than 100 students have applied to the Student Council, requiring at least three sponsors upfront.

The Board took action to approve the payment of bills for January 2019 as presented.

In the consent agenda, the Board approved the Special Services Coordinator job description; changes to the Personnel Manual for 2019-2020; annual salary range and hourly wage recommendations for non-teaching work groups; the hiring of two seasonal employees to be shared with the Human Resource, Curriculum and Special Services departments; and the certification of ongoing compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act as required by federal E-Rate regulations.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 8:16 p.m. and began Closed Session at 8:23 p.m. for the purposes of personnel issues of specific employees, a student issue, pending litigation and collective bargaining.

The Board adjourned Closed Session, returned to the regular meeting and adjourned the regular meeting at 10:03 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on March 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, 10482 W. Nebraska St. in Frankfort, Illinois.