



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2018

District 157-C September 19, 2018 Board of Education Meeting Recap

FRANKFORT, IL — The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of September 19, 2018 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:01 p.m. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the Open Session minutes of the regular meeting of August 15, 2018.

No one signed up to speak during the Public Forum portion of the meeting.

The Board heard the final presentation of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget. The tentative budget was presented at the Board's August 15 regular meeting and has been on display in the district office since that time. Currently, the district's revenues are estimated to be approximately \$36.1 million, which represents an expected increase of roughly \$750,000 from local, state and federal sources. Additionally, the district's expenditures are estimated to be \$36.6 million, which represents an expected increase of roughly \$1.7 million in comparison to the fiscal year 2018 budget. Most increases are reflected in the district's Education Fund and Operations & Maintenance Fund. Increases primarily come from salaries, supplies and capital outlay.

A public hearing for the district's fiscal year 2018-2019 budget was opened at 7:08 p.m. No one was present to speak on the budget. The public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

Following the public hearing, the School Board unanimously approved the final budget as presented and its certifications to effectuate adoption of the budget and to direct the district to file the documents with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies, as required by existing law. Board President Gina Briese said, "Thanks for all of your hard work on this budget. I'm looking forward to seeing it through this year."

During their reports to the Board, all three school principals reported a successful Institute Day in September.

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann said the school is working on getting more students into honors math and continuing into honors courses their freshman year of high school.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Doug Wernet said the school is providing more opportunities for students after school through athletics and extracurricular activities, like its Coding Club, and the school's new intramural program is a success, with more than 200 students signed up. The school is also offering morning professional development sessions for teachers twice a week.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Kirsten Frankovich said the school has roughly 250 students involved in its Running Club that operates Mondays and Wednesdays before school. She said the school is also working on how to use data from FastBridge to drive instruction and meet the needs of students.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence said the district's target date to get FastBridge reports to parents is October 9. Parents are to receive these reports three times a year in reading and math. She said Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) test scores will go home September 21 for students in fourth through eighth grades. McClarence added that at the district's October 5 Institute Day, it will have math educator Greg Tang speak. Tang will also conduct Math Mania workshops for students and family on October 3 and 4, thanks to the support of the Frankfort 157-C Family School Partnership.

Director of Special Services Jennifer Bajda said Dynamic Learning Maps assessments scores will go home September 21 for 17 students who take the alternative assessments. She added that the September Institute Day was also successful for Special Services staff, who worked on trainings, planning, individual goals and more.

Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds Rodney Davis reported that his department has installed backflow preventers in selected custodial closets in district buildings. Chelsea's new boiler will be started for the first time on October 5. Additionally, the department is looking into upgrading the district's nine automated external defibrillators. Davis said that the district may receive rebates for replacing the AEDs while they are still operable.

Director of Human Resources Shayna Cole reported that her department is preparing to kick off district health and wellness initiatives, including flu shots, insurance meetings and health screenings. The goal for employee participation in health screenings is 90 percent this year, she said. She added that the school year started off great with the majority of positions filled.

Director of Technology Jacob Nelson reported that the summer was packed with large projects, including the assembling, labeling and distribution of laptops at Hickory Creek for fifth through eighth grades, and replacing 240 district phones. He said his department is looking ahead to a refresh of Grand Prairie's technology next summer.

Board Member Edith Lutz said the district's Insurance Committee meeting on September 13 was productive, and she learned the district has no control over some factors affecting health insurance costs. Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni added that she thought the committee was very engaged and came together as a team to discuss options.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Zinni updated the Board on a new assessment the State of Illinois approved to replace PARCC. The new assessments are from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). She said administrators just received word of the change on September 18, and they will find out more about the assessments. "As always, we will continue to be more concerned about teaching standards and not the test," she said. Dr. Zinni also reported on some transportation challenges the district has had during the beginning of the school year. She said she and Ambrosini met with Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 Superintendent Dr. R. Scott Tingley and District 210 Transportation Director Mike Leone to discuss these challenges. She said District 210 has struggled to find bus drivers and is working to create incentives to attract more, as well as to communicate with District 157-C when a route might be delayed. Dr. Zinni said the district is fortunate to have a transportation contract with District 210, as it saves the district money and builds community. Dr. Zinni reported that the district is planning, in partnership with District 210, "How to Raise an Adult: A Presentation by Julie Lythcott-Haims" October 18 at Lincoln-Way

East, and hopes families from both districts attend. Dr. Zinni recognized former Public Relations Coordinator Nancy Neuzil's service to the district, following Neuzil's recent retirement. "She has done a remarkable job of telling our story for us," Dr. Zinni said. "She's a large part in our success, and we appreciate the work she's done for us."

Director of Business and Operational Services Kate Ambrosini provided the Board with the September 2018 Treasurer's Report and Graphs. In September, the total fund balance decreased by \$2,649,369. Monthly revenue receipts totaled \$1,163,400 primarily due to Will County property tax receipts, evidence-based funding receipts and student registration fee receipts. Monthly expense disbursements totaled \$3,796,531 primarily due to payroll and accounts payable, which included payments for summer capital improvements projects.

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

In discussion, Beth Ishmael, client executive with The Horton Group, and Michael Wojcik, senior vice president with The Horton Group, presented an initial employee insurance plans renewal proposal. They presented that average employee enrollment is stable from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2018, but the year-to-date costs have increased by 30.9 percent, or roughly \$515,000. Wojcik explained that there were seven claims greater than \$50,000 each through August versus two such claims in the prior year. He said that more large claims came during the latter part of the year in fiscal year 2017, so he expects year-to-year comparisons to be closer. Wojcik said The Horton Group approached 20 stop loss and traditional markets for medical coverage, and half declined because of product match or performance. He said Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois is the most competitively priced program, and The Horton Group awaits responses from markets on dental, life and vision insurance quotes. For 2019, premiums are expected to increase to 18.34 percent, resulting in a \$430,878 cost increase to the district and a \$120,723 cost increase for employees. Wojcik said factors affecting the market, including increased six-figure claims because of innovation in health care and the cost of specialty drugs are impacting premiums. Some board members questioned the value of the district's reinsurance, and Wojcik said it protects the district against any catastrophic costs. "This year being a tough year doesn't mean next year will be," he said. "Rarely are conditions the same." Wojcik and Ishmael noted the benefits of the district's wellness program. They said that early detection and prevention can keep costs down. Ishmael also discussed Blue Cross Blue Shield's Benefits Value Advisor program that can help employees compare costs at different providers, schedule appointments, file pre-certification when required and review online educational tools. The cost of the tool is \$2.50 per employee per month for those who have PPO plans. Following the presentation, the Board came to a consensus in favor of continuing wellness initiatives in the district and pursuing the addition of the Benefits Value Advisor program in 2019. Board Vice President Tom Reidy asked The Horton Group representatives if they could discuss the value of switching to higher-deductible plans for employees in good health when they meet with employees in October. "Show everyone involved how they won't be less insured but can lower the overall cost for themselves and the district," he said. "High premiums are a huge thing for everybody to absorb. The majority of our employees are probably paying for something they're not utilizing."

In discussion, Ambrosini reviewed the District's three-year capital improvement plan with the Board. She said that in fiscal year 2018, the district budgeted about \$1.3 million on capital improvements projects, and was roughly \$300,000 under budget. For fiscal year 2019, the district has replaced one condensing unit, completed a roof overlay, upgraded switches, installed a playground safety gate, and plans to replace a portion of carpet at Grand Prairie. It is completing mechanical upgrades and completed a playground safety gate installation at Chelsea. It also plans to install LED lighting upgrades, upgrade switches, complete flashing and tuck-pointing and obtain a core sample for parking lot repairs at Chelsea. At Hickory Creek, the district is replacing parking lots and upgrading stage lighting. For the overall district, it plans to complete 10-year health, life and safety upgrades, replace phones and complete

generator upgrades. The grand totals for fiscal year 2019 projects are estimated between \$2.1 million and \$2.5 million, and the district has spent \$1.9 million so far. For fiscal year 2020, the district plans to add a painting and ceiling tile replacement schedule to its plan for Chelsea, as well as door replacements at the school, in addition to site and mechanical improvements at all three buildings.

The Board took action to approve the replacement of the district email system at a total cost of \$33,602.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Joanna Plummer as a full-time Teacher on daily assignment at Grand Prairie Elementary School with a start date of August 21, 2018, 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 Janice Wirth as a full-time Special Education Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School with a start date of August 21, 2018, 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 Sherril Gardner as a part-time Lunch/Recess Supervisor at Grand Prairie Elementary School with a start date of August 29, 2018, 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 Anna Vestfal as a part-time Lunch/Recess Supervisor at Chelsea Intermediate School with a start date of September 24, 2018, 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 Charles Riemma as a full-time Long-Term Substitute Seventh-Grade Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School with a start date of August 27, 2018, tentatively ending December 7, 2018, 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 Jacqueline Lily St. Clarie as a full-time Paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School with a start date of September 24, 2018, 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 Ben Clark as a part-time (.75 FTE) Paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School with a start date of September 24, 2018, 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 Leslie Walton as a part-time (.50 FTE) Paraprofessional filling an FMLA leave at Hickory Creek Middle School with a start date of October 1, 2018, tentatively ending November 1, 2018, 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 Adam Turlakes as a part-time (.50 FTE) Paraprofessional filling an FMLA leave at Hickory Creek Middle School with a start date of October 1,

2018, tentatively ending November 1, 2018, 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 Deborah Calliccoat as a Consultant School Nurse for Vision/Hearing and Substituting for the District with a start date of August 15, 2018, 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 payment of bills for August 2018 as presented.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the recognition of public gifts to the district from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Employee Compensation Over \$75,000 report.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits report.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 8:45 p.m. and began closed session at 8:48 p.m.

The Board adjourned closed session and returned to open session at 10:35 p.m.

The Board took action to approve a resolution directing the issuance of a notice to remedy to Felicia Bysina, as presented.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:37 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on October 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Chelsea Intermediate School, 22265 S. 80th Ave. in Frankfort, Illinois.