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PRESS RELEASE

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#### District 157-C November 18, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of November 18 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:10 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 October 21 and the open session minutes of the October 21 work session.

Three people signed up to address the Board during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. They all expressed their concern to the Board about the fact that the Lincoln-Way Area District 843 Special Education Cooperative will no longer provide a Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at Grand Prairie. The Board heard their concerns and Board President Gina Briese thanked them for coming stating, "Thank you for coming out. We always appreciate hearing from you."

The Board saw a presentation from Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence and the District's Teacher Leaders Sarah Margalus, Colleen Reiser, Tricia Dotson and Barb Shanahan. The new Teacher Leader role in the District was implemented this school year and is intended to improve instruction and support the teaching staff at all schools. The Teacher Leaders support the following building goals: English Language Arts grades K-2 for small group writing and conferring in the writer's workshop at Grand Prairie, English Language Arts grades 3-5 for literacy in guided reading instruction at Chelsea, and English Language Arts grades 6-8 for literacy in scaffolded reading instruction at Hickory Creek. The role of the Teacher Leader was crafted over last summer using data to set goals for teachers. The Teacher Leaders worked with a consultant and have continued professional development throughout the year. Teacher Leaders serve as a resource provider, data coach, instructional specialist, classroom supporter and mentor, leader and learning facilitator and a catalyst for change. Ongoing formal and informal sessions with the Teacher Leaders are scheduled for teachers at all schools so the teachers can discuss areas of concern and learn new teaching strategies. Planning sessions with the Teacher Leaders include analyzing student work, reviewing Common Core standards, goal setting for students, personal goal setting, reflecting on lessons, discussing best practices in terms of lesson delivery and other pertinent topics. During the first quarter since implementing the Teacher Leaders, the district has already seen gains in reading by the students, in some cases 100 percent improvement in increased knowledge in at least one area. Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson stated, "Working with the Teacher

Leaders makes the teachers feel more confident. It is extremely helpful as an administrator to have the extra support.” Teacher Leader Colleen Reiser pointed out the advantages of bringing strategies that are working well in one building to another building. She stated, “The biggest benefit of this is the vertical articulation and working together collaboratively is essential.” The Teacher Leaders thanked the Board for implementing the new program. Teacher Leader Tricia Dotson stated, “I thank the administrators at all levels for working to support us. We will grow and progress and continue to impact students and teachers through participation, brainstorming and becoming a think tank.” Chelsea Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote stated, “The best thing is that once our teachers are trained they can become trainers themselves.”

In a written report, Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that on October 30 the Grand Prairie classroom teachers worked with Teacher Leaders and administration to enhance their understanding of one-on-one conferring. Teachers were challenged to role play conferring sessions. Staff also met in grade levels to renew first quarter Outcome Assessment data.

In a written report, Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that a staff presentation was conducted by the social work team about Erin’s Law on November 13. This is an age-appropriate prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program required by the state. Chelsea students will participate in the educational program during the weeks of December 7, January 25 and February 22.

In his written report, Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that the school has an outstanding number of parents scheduled to come to conferences this year. He also reported that teachers have been reaching out to parents via phone and email to provide positive feedback about specific actions the students have made. This additional communication is intended to help bridge the gap between home and school.

In her written report, Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that the special education staff explored two different websites to use as resources, IEPQ and Myinfinitec. IEPQ, or the IEP Quality Project, is a research grant at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences and is free to any individuals with a school district email. The site provides information on how to write Individualized Education Programs (IEP’s,) how to align goals objectives to standards, accommodations/modifications, behavior support and much more. Infinitec’s website encourages potential through technology.

In a written report, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results and Terra Nova results are being reviewed. She also reported that first quarter Outcome Assessments are completed. These are internal assessments that teachers designed to check student progress against state standards in both English Language Arts and Math.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported on a number of technology projects that will be completed over the Thanksgiving holiday and winter break. He also reported that the SchoolMessenger parent notification system is up and running for phone and email, with text messaging capability being added over the next month.

The Board heard a report from liaisons of the Family School Partnership (FSP) and the Education Foundation.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meeting of October 27, 2015 and the Advisory Committee meeting of October 13, 2015.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni reported that School Board Members Day was observed on November 15. She commended the Board members for all the work that they do on behalf of the students. She stated, "I am fortunate to work with you and you do an excellent job." She reported that American Education Week is being observed November 16-20, 2015 at all schools. She reported that the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results are in and the Illinois State Report Card has been published by the state. She reported that administrators are going through the PARCC results following a period of correction by the state. Additional results are scheduled to be received in December. Of concern is the fact that the assessment was given to students in two different formats, the online version and the paper/pencil version. The state wants to report test results as if this was the same test and it was not. Dr. Zinni stated, "The online version required significant skills that could have been technical skills rather than knowledge skills." Dr. Zinni submitted a letter to the State Superintendent and the Director of Assessment pointing out the discrepancy in counting the two assessments given as one assessment. She continued, "There were not the same questions on both tests. There should have been a set of standards and cut scores for each version." Board member Mike Turner said he hopes that local newspapers will put a separate column on their charts showing assessment scores stating whether the school used the online version or the paper/pencil version of the PARCC test. Dr. Zinni also reported that a new parent/student handbook is being compiled by a committee of parents and administrators and teachers from each building. A draft of the new handbook will be presented to the Board in December.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. The District paid out about \$2.175 M in expenses during October which is at the normal expected monthly range for the year of \$2.0 M - \$2.25M. He reported that the District collected about \$2.3 M in revenues for the month with most of the receipts coming from property tax collections (\$2.1M.) Board Bills for the November meeting are \$2,265,529.73.

There was one Freedom of Information request.

In discussion, the Board discussed the district continuous improvement of school goals. The district's five-year strategic plan identified five goal areas with action plans and it has now expired. These goal areas for the district continue to be relevant, however, as the district moves from a period of significant growth to a consistently stable student population, the action plans for each goal area need to be updated with a maintenance approach rather than completing a full strategic plan process. Dr. Zinni's recommendation is to create a District Continuous Improvement Plan aligned to the district's five strategic goal areas of growth, student outcomes, technology, professional development and financial stability. The plan would include input from the community, as was the practice with each previous strategic plan process. The new plan would be presented as a component of the State-of-the-District presentation that is presented to the Board on an annual basis each January. Based on trends, the action plans would be updated yearly to more accurately address the needs and desires of the district. Following the conducting of a community survey November 23-November 30, 2015, the survey results will be analyzed and updated action plans would be drafted before the end of 2015. The Continuous Improvement Plan would then be presented to the Board as a component of the State-of-the-District Presentation on January 21, 2016. The Board reached consensus to implement the new Continuous Improvement Plan, beginning with the launching of the community survey.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with a report on the annual Health, Life, Safety, Inspection Report and Update. The Will County Regional Superintendent of Schools Office conducts an annual life safety inspection of all school districts in Will County. On October 5, 2015 Larry Surges and Frank Perucca of the Regional Office conducted the annual survey of the Frankfort School District. There were no violations at any of the district's three schools.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with information on the preliminary tax levy. For the past four years, the Board has held the line on the school district's tax levy and it indicated that it would like to do so again this year by using a combination of debt service fund abatements from existing reserves and ongoing cost containment strategies.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with an update on tax appeals and the Frankfort Area Taxing Body Coalition.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided a presentation of the Annual Statement of Affairs FY 2015 as required by the Illinois School Code.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented the Board with information on the recommendation to dispose of surplus items.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board approved the resolutions for the Truth in Taxation Act & 2015 Tax Levy Information. The Board set the date, time and place for the levy hearing as December 16, 2015, 7:10 p.m. in the Board Room and directed the administration to post a notice for this public hearing. Board direction will be requested regarding the levy amount to finalize and Board approval of said finalized levy would then occur in December after the public hearing.

The Board held the second reading of the following Board of Education Policies: 2:160 School Board: Board Attorney, 2:260 School Board: Uniform Grievance Procedure, 4:50 Operational Services: Payment Procedures, 5:50 General Personnel: Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition, 5:170 General Personnel: Copyright, 6:140 Instruction: Education of Homeless Children, 7:10 Students: Equal Educational Opportunities, 7:20 Students: Harassment of Students Prohibited, 7:40 Students: Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students, 7:260 Students: Exemption from Physical Activity, 7:310 Students: Restrictions on Publications, 7:325 Students: Student Fundraising Activities, 8:10 Community Relations: Connection with the Community, 4:170-AP6, E1 Operational Services: Exhibit - School Staff AED Notification Letter.

The Board approved the employment of Ellen Rohlings as a Long Term Substitute Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School tentatively commencing on November 9th through February 22, 2016 contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board approved the employment of Sarah LeBeau as a Long Term Substitute Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School tentatively commencing on November 30th through February 16, 2016 contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board approved the employment of Cynthia Jonkman as a Part-Time Medical Paraprofessional at an hourly rate of \$20.00, at Grand Prairie Elementary School for the 2015-2016 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 approved the implementation of Orchestra Program for the 2016-2017 school year for fifth grade students at an approximate cost of \$7,300 as presented.

The Board approved the hiring of an assistant wrestling coach with a stipend of \$2,391 for FY 2016 if participation exceeds 30 athletes.

The Board approved the Hickory Creek Cheerleading Squad's participation in the IESA State Competition on January 23, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.

The Board approved the following three Consent Agenda items:

The Board took action to accept the results of the Will County Regional Office of Education's Annual Health, Life, Safety Inspection report of the district's buildings. Furthermore, the Board acknowledged that no violations were found at any of its facilities, and that the school district is therefore in full compliance with Illinois' Health Life Safety Codes.

The Board approved and directed the Business Office to finalize, publish and post the Annual Statement of Affairs for Frankfort School District 157-C, as required by law, in a local newspaper of general circulation, and submit said document to the Illinois State Board of Education, along with all associated and required detailed listings of staff salaries and vendor payments. Furthermore, that the school district should maintain a copy of said Annual Statement of Affairs and the associated detailed reports on file in the District Office for the public to inspect on demand.

The Board accepted the resolution of the Board of Education for Frankfort District 157-C to declare unneeded items as surplus.

The Board went into closed session at 10:19 p.m. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal of specific employees; student discipline; student residency; student issue; reclassification of employees; and pending litigation.

The Board returned to open session at 11:19 p.m.

Following closed session, the Board approved the legal option for the pending Tax Obligation Lawsuit with the Taxing Body Coalition.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort, Illinois.