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PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C January 20, 2016 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of January 20 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 December 16, 2015.

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

The Board heard a report from Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon on the Capital Improvement Plan for ongoing facility improvements, building renovations, major preventative maintenance projects, and major equipment and vehicle replacements. Mr. Saindon recommended a new plan to address these types of items that will be needed for the buildings over the next six year timeframe.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that staff has been researching the results of the Terra Nova tests and developing ways to “stretch” the abilities of the school’s average readers. Resources have been developed where each grade level will have an anchor book utilizing characters to help students relate more to the story. In her written report, Mrs. Nelson also outlined numerous professional development opportunities that have been provided for staff. She reported that first and second grade classroom teachers participated in sessions designed to enhance their student observation skills, administrators are participating in a book study utilizing the text “Pyramid Response to Intervention,” the School Leadership Team met to begin dialogue and documentation regarding process in place for Response to Intervention (RTI,) and Administration meets weekly with the Teacher Leaders to plan staff development and engage in dialogue regarding school improvement initiatives.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that Chelsea staff has been going over the standardized test results for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Terra Nova to help students understand what is expected and develop ways to improve. She reported that teachers are explaining what the expectations of the tests include and encouraging the students to make the best choice, and not just the first choice, when answering a test question. Dr. Paver-Nepote also reported on a number of recent programs taking place throughout the school. These included a Wax Museum for third graders, a district-wide Exploration Night hosted by the Family School Partnership and a collaboration

between schools where the Hickory Creek Jazz Band came to Chelsea to kick off the fourth grade unit on perseverance and played songs from composers that persevered during the Great Depression.

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that following a study of the PARCC and Terra Nova test results, the staff has been identifying ways to impact learning and sharing them with the students. He reported that an effort is underway to get the students more engaged in reading for enjoyment and that they are being asked to participate in an additional 20 minutes of reading each night. He also reported that he is working with staff to capture more math time and ways to modify the school schedule to get every minute out of each day to use for education, particularly by tightening up Advisory class and the bell schedule. Mr. Seidelmann further reported that each student now has a Khan Academy online account free to them where they can incorporate more math at an individual level. Finally, Mr. Seidelmann shared his plans for revising the student schedule next year so that middle school students receive more instruction time in math. The schedule will not impact the start or end times of the day.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported on the English Learner program. The District has 29 English Learners speaking over 10 different languages. She stated, "Over the years we have seen many students transition out of these classes and we are very proud." Mrs. McClarence also reported that the PARCC results were analyzed by the District administrative team to better understand the baseline year. On January 12, a Tiger University parent education workshop was offered for parents about their child's individual PARCC and Terra Nova results. During the January 15 School Improvement Day, teachers had an opportunity to analyze their students' data and create a plan to help support the students in their classrooms.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that she is very pleased that the State "Preschool For All" grant of \$106,000 has been extended to District 157-C for one more year. She reported that the District has been working on ways to better serve Special Education students in physical education and plans to implement a peer mentor program next year. She also reported that 18 staff members from across all three buildings participated in a Diabetic Care training session. The purpose of the training was to provide basic information to non-medical staff regarding diabetes and how to support students within the school environment.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the Pearson Education Company has launched a new site that allows school districts to cache standardized tests in case of a technology failure during the testing times. He also reported on several technology projects that have been successfully installed recently. These included a new District Intranet Site, replacing copiers at all three buildings, completing the wireless installation at Hickory Creek Middle School and an ongoing effort to implement the Education Foundation grant items.

The Board heard reports 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 Advisory Committee meeting of December 8, 2015 and the Governing Board meeting of December 15, 2015.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board on the parent education workshop on PARCC and Terra Nova scores that was held on January 12. She provided the Board with the updated 2016 "State of the District" presentation. She reported that the Cabinet members will be going to each of the buildings to meet with staff to present this annual "State of the District" presentation on the following dates: January 28 Grand Prairie Elementary School at 8:00 a.m., February 4th Hickory Creek Middle School at 7:15 a.m., and February 9th Chelsea Intermediate School at 8:35 a.m. She also reported that the Cabinet members will present the annual "State of the District" presentation to parents and community members on February 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Tiger's Den at Grand Prairie Elementary School.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report and reported that the District has again placed in the "Financial Recognition" category from the State. The District's total fund balance reserves decreased in December by about \$5.15M (from \$39,914,425 at the end of November to \$34,766,902 at the end of December.) He reported that this large decrease in reserves is normal for this time of year as the District made its annual bond and interest payments in December (about \$3.8M), as well as tax abatement payments (\$500K), a third payroll (about \$750K) and the annual Property and Casualty Insurance Premium payment (about \$65K.) The District paid out about \$6.65M in expenses during December, but after factoring out these atypical payments, there were just over \$2M of regular/recurring expenses which is in the normal and expected range of \$2.0M - \$2.25M. Board Bills for the January meeting were \$2,699,580.29.

There were four Freedom of Information requests and all were responded to in a timely manner.

In discussion, Dr. Zinni provided the Board with the draft of the 2016-2017 school calendar. Dr. Zinni met with the Calendar Committee, which included teacher representatives from each school, and the District leadership team to discuss their recommendations regarding the 2016-2017 school calendar.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented the recommendations for 2016-2017 school fees. He recommended only a small increase in some pass-through reimbursements for recorder books, heart rate monitor straps and constitution books. However, it is recommended to keep the basic registration fees and activity participation fees the same for next year. He stated, "We continue to have some of the lowest fees in the South Suburbs, and our fees only cover a fraction of the actual cost to provide for the various goods and services the fees cover."

In discussion, the Board reviewed the Closed Session minutes from June to November 2015. As required by law, every six months the closed session minutes must be reviewed and those approved by the Board will be made part of public record.

In discussion, the Board went over the verbatim destruction of Closed Session minutes. As required by law, the audio recordings of closed session meetings older than 18 months may be destroyed.

The Board took action to approve the Parent and Student Handbook 2016-2017 with the edit of one item.

The Board held the second reading of the following Board of Education policies: 5:100 General Personnel: Staff Development Program, 6:160 Instruction: English Learners, 7:100 Students: Health, Eye, and Dental Examination; and Exclusion of Students, 7:130 Students: Student Rights and Responsibilities, 7:140 Students: Search and Seizure, 7:290 Students: Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention, 7:340 Students: Student Records, and updating policies to replace certificate, certified or certificated with license, licensed or licensure to reflect legislation and School Code.

The Board approved the employment of Leslie Walton as a Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School commencing on January 13th and will continue tentatively until April 4, 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 position re-assignment of Christopher Hanson as a Full-Time District Building and Grounds employee at an hourly rate of \$18.50 commencing on January 21, 2016.

The Board approved the Administration going out to bid for a partial roof replacement for Grand Prairie Elementary School. This section of roof is over a large part of the original building and is 20 years old.

The Board approved the Administration to renew and extend the Management Services Agreement with Aramark Management Services, LLC, of Oak Brook, IL, for a five year period. Aramark has provided custodial, grounds and maintenance support services, along with construction management, strategic planning and other support services to District 157-C since 1993.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board approved the following Consent Agenda items:

Closed Session Minutes - June through November 2015. The Board acknowledged that the closed session minutes from June 17, 2015, August 12, 2015, October 21, 2015, and November 18, 2015 were reviewed and they are not released for the public record. The review on closed session meeting on August 27, 2015 was reviewed and it will be released for public record.

Verbatim Destruction of Closed Session Minutes. The Board approved the destruction of audio recording of closed session meeting minutes from March 2014 until August 2014 due to the fact 18 months have passed since being made and the written minutes of the closed sessions have been approved by the Board of Education.

Authorize to Prepare FY2017 Tentative Budget. The Board authorized the Superintendent and his/her designee to prepare a tentative budget of fiscal year 2017.

Seniority Lists. The Board reviewed and authorized the comprehensive seniority lists detailing all areas of classifications for distribution. According to the Illinois School Code, copies of the list must be distributed to the exclusive bargaining representative on or before February 1st of each year.

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:22 p.m.

The Board adjourned the Closed Session meeting at 10:05 p.m. and adjourned the regular meeting at 10:06 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on February 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska Street, in Frankfort, Illinois.