

March 17, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Nancy J. Neuzil, Frankfort School District 157-C Public Relations Coordinator, 815-469-9235, njneuzil@aol.com

District 157-C March 16, 2016 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of March 16 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.

There was no correspondence.

The Board approved the Open and Closed Session minutes of the regular meeting of February 17, 2016.

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

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson, Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote and Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported on their efforts to ease transition for students as they progress through each of the schools. Grand Prairie Elementary School serves kindergarten through second grade students, Chelsea Intermediate School serves third through fifth graders and Hickory Creek Middle School serves sixth through eighth grade students. Chelsea Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that an effort is being made to help parents and students understand the transitions and that they need not be worried as students begin at a new building. She provided information on a pen pal program and two Step-Up Days that are held for Grand Prairie students transitioning to Chelsea. She reported that several transitional programs have been held that had middle school students coming to Chelsea to share information and see performances of various Hickory Creek programs such as band. Hickory Creek Principal Will Seidelmann reported that the school has hosted many events that are open to the students from the other schools in an effort to get everybody involved. This includes inviting them to an upcoming event on March 23 at 6:30 p.m. featuring the Lincoln-Way Special Recreation Wheelchair basketball team. Grand Prairie Principal Eileen Nelson reported that similar efforts towards a smooth transition for students includes "Kindergarten Here We Come" scheduled for incoming kindergarten students on April 5 and May 3 at 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the school at 10480 West Nebraska Street.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that efforts towards good transitions for special education students are also being conducted. She reported that information about each student is passed on to case workers as the students transition to the next school level. She also reported that District 157-C works closely with Lincoln-Way District 210 for eighth grade students transitioning to Lincoln-Way East High School.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that District 157-C has been working towards the alignment to new Illinois standards in science for all grades. She also reported that next year K-5 teachers will be researching new mathematics resources.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the technology team has been finalizing its spring and summer work plans. He reported that Grand Prairie and Chelsea will go “wireless” if grant funding is approved.

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

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Advisory Committee meeting of February 9, 2016 and the Governing Board meeting of February 23, 2016.

In the Superintendent’s report, Dr. Maura J. Zinni provided the Board with Staffing Projections for 2016-2017. She reported that enrollment has been stable. She stated, “We watch class sizes carefully from the time we close school in June for summer until it starts again in the fall. We currently have nine sections of kindergarten planned for next year but as soon as we hit the 200 mark in enrollment we will add another section.” Dr. Zinni also provided information pertaining to the Superintendent's Evaluation. Additionally, Dr. Zinni also highlighted the District’s Continuous Improvement Plan. The new plan maintains the original Strategic Plan goals while including parent, staff, student and community input through the 5Essentials survey, Parent Satisfaction survey and best practices. The Board members will read over the draft of the plan, provide their input and then it will be forwarded to a committee to develop the final plan.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer’s Report. The total fund balance reserves decreased in February by about \$1.46M (from \$32,848,397 at the end of January to \$31,385,460 at the end of February.) Mr. Saindon reported that this decrease in reserves is normal for this time of year as the District typically collects minimal receipts (less than \$600K this month,) but spends at normal levels (just over \$2M in February.) He reported that the District paid out about \$2.05M in expenses which is right at the expected levels for this month. Board Bills for the March meeting were \$1,804,315.61.

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

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board tentative budget expenses for the 2016-2017 school year. As the District moves through the budgeting process this spring and summer, Mr. Saindon will provide updates on both projected revenues and expenditures accordingly.

The Board held the first reading of Board of Education policies 7:300 Students: Extracurricular Athletics and 7:305 Students: Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries.

In discussion, the Board reviewed Board Policy 4:60 Operational Services: Purchases and Contracts.

The Board took action to adopt the resolution authorizing notice of dismissal of non-tenure certified staff other than final-year probationary teachers at the close of the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board took action to adopt the resolution authorizing the honorable reduction of teachers at the close of the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Julie Cholly as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School commencing on February 24, 2016 through the end of 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 employment of Sandra Reader as a Long-Term Substitute PE Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School commencing on March 1, 2016 and will continue until May 2, 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 request from Nicole Holthouse leave of absence for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:02 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 adjourned the Closed Session meeting at 9:59 p.m. and adjourned the regular meeting at 10:00 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on April 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska Street, in Frankfort, Illinois.