

April 21, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

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

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of April 20 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:05 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 March 16, 2016.

The Board recognized Grand Prairie Elementary School Physical Education Instructor Rob Seibert and congratulated the school for earning the Blue Ribbon Award for its physical education program. (SEE SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE.) On behalf of the Board of Education, Board President Gina Briese thanked Mr. Seibert for all of the hard work completed by Grand Prairie staff to attain the Blue Ribbon status.

Parent Kris McGuire signed up to address the Board during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. She asked for clarification on how charities are chosen as efforts to be supported by the district's schools. Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni will contact Mrs. McGuire with clarification and information on the district's Charitable Giving Committee.

Curriculum Director Janet McClarence and members of the K-8 Science Committee presented information regarding the new science adoption for the 2016-17 school year. Along with Mrs. McClarence, the Science Committee members include Jill Beckes, Leah Brunius, Colleen Jorgenson, Katrina Hyland, Brenda Strutzenberg, Kristen Kora, Tracey Lazzo, Gigi Lemmons, Cindy Lang, Marc VanAssen, Jennifer Campos, Karen Graf, Cari Mills, John Ferraro, Diane Bunnell, Dan Finan, Matt Zemke and Cheryl Wojnarowski. During the science adoption process, the science committee was formed, the members learned about the new Illinois Learning Standards in Science, they developed the K-8 science scope and sequence, explored resources and programs, visited other school districts to observe their science programs, developed units of study and created hands-on opportunities. District 157-C has budgeted \$132,490 for the funding of the complete science adoption for grades K-8. Education Foundation and outside grants will be written for wireless sensors and science and engineering kits. Based upon acceptance of the grants, the total dollar amount will be adjusted within the district budget. Estimated yearly recurring costs amount to \$68,026 and grants will be written for additional recurring costs. During the process, all science committee members were given the opportunity to review three to four different resources to support the new science curriculum. Teachers in grades 6-8 participated in a survey and chose "Investigating and Questioning Our World Through Science and Technology" (IQWST) from

Activate Learning for the science resource to support the new Illinois science standards. After thoughtful review, K-5 teachers determined that currently there are no resources available that are fully aligned to the new science standards. Therefore, K-5 teachers have begun to develop custom science units that are aligned to the new standards, complete with hands-on learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as well as building content knowledge through selected readings. Mrs. McClarence provided a large display of textbooks, workbooks, science kits and additional science resources for the Board to see prior to the science adoption.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson, Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote and Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that all schools are working together to help students transition from grade to grade, particularly as they move on to the next building. Mr. Seidelmann also reported that Hickory Creek Middle School works closely with Lincoln-Way District 210 for a smooth transition for students. He provided information about the placement criteria for Honors classes at both Hickory Creek and Lincoln-Way East. Dr. Paver-Nepote explained how eligible students will be serviced for the advanced English Language Arts program for grades three through five. Additionally, she explained that the advanced math program will be available to eligible students in grades three through five next year. Mrs. Nelson reported that Grand Prairie's staff differentiates instruction for the entire class and that the school also provides guided reading and math, second grade literature circles and math interventionists.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that Special Education teachers worked collaboratively with teams of English Language Arts teachers to modify some units of study for special education students. She reported that by the end of this school year they will have units modified for fourth through sixth grade classes. Over the summer additional units will be completed and then the team will move on to the math units.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the technology team configured all student computers for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing at Hickory Creek and Chelsea. He also reported that school registration for next year is going well and that good progress is being made on setting up next year's schedule in the PowerSchool student information system for Hickory Creek.

The Board heard a report from the Family School Partnership (FSP) liaisons about the organization's year end projects and their efforts in getting their board and co-chairs in place for next year.

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Advisory Committee meeting of March 9, 2016 and the Governing Board meeting of March 22, 2016.

In the Superintendent's report, Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board on the progress of the District's new Continuous Improvement Plan that will align to the goals of the previous Strategic Plan, incorporate feedback from students, staff and parents, and provide a vision and action plan that promotes District 157-C as

an exemplary 21st Century learning community whose students are prepared to excel in college and career pathways. At this time feedback is being gathered from the Leadership Team at each of the schools to create the action plans for the Continuous Improvement Plan. Dr. Zinni reported that National Teacher Appreciation Week will be observed the week of May 2 and plans are underway by the Family School Partnership (FSP) organization to recognize the district's teachers for their dedication on behalf of the students. Dr. Zinni reported that the End-of-Year reception to recognize retirees and staff with benchmark years will be held on Wednesday, May 25. Retirees include Joseph Vonch and Katherine Snitowsky. The district will also be recognizing a number of staff members who have completed benchmark years of service. Dr. Zinni also reported that the Hickory Creek graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 26, at Lincoln-Way East High School 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. The total fund balance reserves decreased in March by about \$1.49M (from \$31,385,460 at the end of February to \$29,892,827 at the end of March.) Mr. Saindon reported that this decrease in reserves is normal for this time of year as the District typically collects minimal receipts (less than \$330K this month,) but spends at normal levels (just under \$2M in March.) He reported that the District paid out about \$1,82M in expense, slightly below normal and expected levels. Board Bills for the April meeting are \$1,873,404.71.

There were two Freedom of Information items and they 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 of Education adopted the Resolution honoring the dismissal of educational support personnel at the close of the 2015-2016 school year. These two para-professionals are paid through the District's Title 1 grant. Each year, the district must honorably dismiss positions paid for through the grant. Once grant monies are released this summer, the District will determine the best way to utilize these funds for the coming school year.

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

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

The Board took action to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

The Board authorized the Superintendent to file with the regional office a revised calendar for the 2015-2016 school year as follows: 2016 Last day of school and SIP Day - Friday, May 27, 2016.

The Board approved the Transportation Agreement with Lincoln-Way High School District #210 for the 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years as provided therein.

The Board approved the purchase of a 2016 Dodge 2500 Tradesman 4X4 pickup truck with an eight foot service body and other features, as requested, from Bettenhausen Auto Group of Tinley Park, IL, for the net purchase price of \$29,061, including a \$4,500 credit for trade in value on the 2002 Dodge Ram Pickup Truck that is being replaced in the fleet. Funds for this purchase will come from the Operations and Maintenance Fund Capital Equipment and Vehicles expenditure line and are available and budgeted to cover this purchase.

The Board approved contracting with Vortex Commercial Flooring of Addison, IL to replace some the old, stained and worn out hallway carpeting in the North end at Chelsea (upstairs and downstairs for \$25,835) with new VCT tile, and also to replace some old, cracked and dented VCT tile in the North end of the Cafeteria with new VCT tile (estimated cost is \$10,000 depending on the final area to be replaced, as certified and approved by the school district). Funding for this project will come from existing Operations and Maintenance Fund Balance Reserves.

The Board approved the proposed service contract amendment with FGM Architects to have them complete the District's required Ten Year Health Life Safety Survey this summer and submit the appropriate paperwork to the Illinois State Board of Education this fall as required, at a cost of \$38,280. Funding for this work will come from the Health Life Safety Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund, as available.

The Board adopted the tentative schedule of audit work for Klein Hall and Associates of Aurora, IL, the District's independent auditors, to complete the FY16 school district audit, and directed the Administration to complete all tasks and prepare all reports as necessary to effectuate the completion of said audit and review, as well as the review of Frankfort School District 157-C Education Foundation financial records, accounting systems and internal controls.

The Board waived the second reading and approved Board Policy 4:60 Operational Services: Purchases and Contract; 4:150 Operational Services: Facility Management and Building Programs.

The Board approved contracting with Precision Control Systems and Schneider Electric to replace the old, outdated network controllers at all three schools (seven network controllers in total) with new network controllers, and also to program and tie in these new devices to the Tridium Energy Management System, for a cost of approximately \$112,000, depending on final programming and graphics tie in time. Funding for this project will come from existing Operations and Maintenance Fund Balance Reserves.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:49 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 11:26 p.m. and adjourned the regular meeting at 11:27 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on May 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska Street, in Frankfort, Illinois.