

May 19, 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 May 18, 2016 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of May 18 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 April 20, 2016.

During the Public Forum portion of the meeting, community member Tom Powers addressed the Board. He said that the music program in the district is phenomenal and asked that the Board carefully consider the value of that asset to be sure that it is fully staffed for the long term.

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 one of their goals this year was to make the transition easy for students moving up to the different buildings. The Board viewed a Lip Dub video created by Chelsea School for those students transitioning to the school from Grand Prairie. Chelsea Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote thanked the other two building principals for making students feel as “welcome as could be.” Board President Gina Briese thanked Dr. Paver-Nepote for sharing the video at the Board meeting.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that things are winding down and that a lot of Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings have been taking place. Ms. Bajda reported that the focus now is on the Extended School Year program that will take place over the summer from July 11 to August 11.

The Board heard a report from Jennifer Dore, liaison for the Education Foundation, regarding \$96,000 in new funding that was just granted. Additional donations were made to the Foundation in the amount of \$4,500 from Triple R Childcare and \$1,500 from a district family. The Foundation Board carefully considered proposals requested in the amount of \$126,000 including an outdoor classroom at Chelsea which will be partially funded. Mrs. Dore reminded the Board of the upcoming Education Foundation golf outing on July 11 and the fact that they are seeking donors and golfers. Questions should be directed to her at yunks2@msn.com or 815-557-1909.

Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni provided a report for the Family School Partnership (FSP) organization. She reported that the FSP provided two \$1,000 scholarships to Lincoln-Way East graduates.

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Advisory Committee meeting of April 12, 2016 and the Governing Board meeting of April 26, 2016. Mrs. Adamski also provided information about District 843's Life Safety projects.

In the Superintendent's report, Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board about the End-of-Year reception to recognize retirees and staff with benchmark years of service on Wednesday, May 25. 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 April by about \$1.14M (from \$29,892,827 at the end of March to \$28,748,461 at the end of April.) Mr. Saindon reported that this decrease in reserves is slightly less than would be expected (normally about \$1.5M or more.) He reported that the District received some unexpected mandated categorical payments from the State in April totaling about \$485K while expenses remained slightly below the normal and expected range. He reported that the District paid out about \$1.81M in expenses, slightly below normal expenditure levels. Board Bills for the meeting were \$1,928,722.22.

There was one Freedom of Information item and it was responded to in a timely manner.

In discussion, the Board discussed the proposed 2016-2020 Frankfort Community Consolidated Schools 157-C agreement between the Board of Education and the Frankfort Teachers' Association. Dr. Zinni stated, "The teachers and the Board representatives worked very hard and very collaboratively. It was a terrific process. We dug in and had some thoughtful conversation to develop an outstanding agreement that respects the teachers and promotes them to learn." Board President Gina Briese agreed, saying, "As a Board we want to be fiscally responsible and keep our great standing in the community." Frankfort Teachers' Association President Kellie Aranowski spoke, saying "Thank you so much. We really appreciate the contract and the teachers are very happy. Thank you for allowing us to have that time with you." Board member Mike Turner stated, "Teachers are very important to us. Thank you."

In discussion, Dr. Zinni provided a report to the Board on the surveys conducted at Grand Prairie Elementary, Chelsea Intermediate and Hickory Creek Middle School regarding the Teacher Leader program. The program was implemented this year as a two-year pilot. Dr. Zinni stated, "We can see from the myriad of responses in various activities by the teachers with the Teacher Leaders that this program is just what we hoped it would be. Teachers are very comfortable with the Teacher Leaders and wanted even more time with them." Board Secretary Edie Adamski expressed her desire for the Teacher Leaders to receive adequate training to be ready to support Math and Science. Board member Edith Lutz requested that the Board start the process of determining what the future of the Teacher Leader program would be now that the district is halfway through

the pilot. Dr. Zinni said that she would provide the Board with more information and that they are welcome to observe one of the Teacher Leader sessions to see their “think tank” kind of approach being utilized.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented a tentative budget Combined/Overall Fund Estimate and Review.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Nicole D. Veazey as a Full-Time Psychologist (MA + 30) at annual salary of \$54,577 for the 2016-2017 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 took action to approve the employment of Alexandra Arcella as a Full-Time Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher (MA + 0) at an annual salary of \$52,177 for the 2016-2017 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 took action to approve an increase for Sean Connolly from .83 to 1.0 Full-Time equivalent (FTE) Physical Education Teacher at Hickory Creek at the annual salary of \$46,613. Sean Connolly has served as a physical education teacher for .83 FTE and a para-professional for .17 FTE. This year Joe Vonch was covering one section (.17 FTE) of physical education at Hickory Creek to allow Jen Rodgers, the athletic director, her contractual additional plan period to perform athletic director duties. Joe Vonch will be retiring at the end of this school year, thus creating the need to fill this .17 FTE position in physical education. The .17 FTE para-professional position that Sean Connolly has been doing will not need to be filled next year due to reduced needs.

The Board took action to approve the increase for Cynthia Jonkman from .26 to .35 Full-Time equivalent (FTE) 1:1 Medical Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$20.00 for the 2016-2017 school year. The increase is needed to meet the needs in the preschool classroom.

The Board approved the hourly rate for Ryan Meade, Payton Lang, Tom Cotta and Chris Scott, the custodial/cleaning/grounds summer workers they had approved earlier in the year.

The Board took action to approve the leave of absence request from Lindsay Kline for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

The Board took action to approve the K-8 Science adoption.

The Board took action to approve the amended 2016-2017 District 157-C Parent and Student Handbook.

The Board took action to approve the Board of Education dates, times and place for 2016-2017 meetings. All meetings will take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort. The meeting dates are June 15,

August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 21, 2016 and January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17 and June 21, 2017.

The Board took action to approve the 2016-2020 Frankfort Community Consolidated Schools 157-C Agreement between the Board of Education and the Frankfort Teachers' Association as presented. (SEE SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE.)

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

The Board approved the Resolution declaring miscellaneous technology items from all three schools, workroom cubicles from Hickory Creek, teacher desks from Chelsea, student desks and chairs from Chelsea and miscellaneous overhead projectors, pull down screens, file cabinets and easels currently housed at Grand Prairie, as surplus and unneeded for school districts purposes. The Board directed the Assistant Superintendent and District Office to dispose of any surplus items from time to time, in accordance with established State statutes and Illinois School Code provisions.

The Board approved renewing with the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) for the District's worker's compensation insurance coverage as presented by the Ryan Insurance Group, effective for the July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 plan year, for estimated annual premiums of \$108,298 (subject to verification via an annual payroll audit). These premiums reflect a \$22,357 (17%) decrease over this year's premiums, and are an excellent renewal for effective worker's compensation coverage. With the approval of the Board of Education Mr. Saindon will complete all paperwork necessary to renew with ICRMT for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Board approved contracting with Pavement Systems Inc. of Blue Island, IL, to complete the sewer line repair work as outlined above for the base cost of \$4,770 (with no sewer line replacement) and a maximum cost of \$25,000 (with complete sewer line replacement), as appropriate. Funding for this project will come from Operations & Maintenance Fund Reserves.

The Board approved contracting with Pavement Systems, Inc. of Blue Island, IL, at a total cost of \$35,669 to prep, crack, fill, seal coat and restripe the asphalt parking lots and play areas at Grand Prairie Elementary School. The work will be completed this summer after the sewer line repair project is done, and funding for the work will come from the Operations & Maintenance Fund preventative maintenance budget for fiscal year 2016-2017.

The Board approved the renewal of service provider agreements with Progressus Therapeutic, Therapy Care and Reidy Pediatric Therapy for the provision of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy services for the 2016-2017 school year as outlined. With Board approval the Administration will move forward to execute the contract renewal documents and schedule for the provision of these services, as needed, for the Extended

School Year program (summer school) in July and early August, and then the regular school year beginning in late August.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:24 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 10:27 p.m.

Following Closed Session, in discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented to the Board of Education his recent review of current salary ranges for Administration staff, as well the hourly wage ranges for non-certified support staff. After closed session, the board took action to approve the administrator salaries in the amount of \$888,332.44.

Mr. Saindon discussed initial, estimated projections for FY2015-2016 results from operations and the impact these projected results could have on existing fund balance reserves. A Board discussion ensued about potential future uses of available fund balance reserves, including but not limited to, future tax abatements, technology/infrastructure upgrades, capital improvements and curricular upgrades. The Board agreed to continue this discussion at future Board meetings as the district closed out the current fiscal year and determined the level of reserves that may be available.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 11:01 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on June 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska Street, in Frankfort, Illinois.