

June 22, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C June 21, 2017 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of June 21, 2017 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:03 p.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The correspondence included a letter from the Chelsea Physical Education Team of Kay Elam, Randy Klosowski and Matt Dykema regarding the new lighting that was installed in Chelsea's North and South Gyms, thank you letters from Sue Kazmierczak, Kay Elam, Rosanne Landow, Eileen Larsen, Sue Scott and Cindy Heath regarding the retirement gifts they received at the End of the Year Celebration, a thank you letter from Char Ruhbeck, regarding the 10 years of service gift she received at the End of the Year Celebration and a thank you letter from Elaine Roupas, regarding the book donation for Chelsea library that was made in memory of her father.

The Board approved the Open Session minutes of the Regular Board of Education Reorganization Meeting of May 17, 2017.

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

Director of Curriculum Janet McClarence and school principals Will Seidelmann, Dr. Sharon Paver-Nepote and Eileen Nelson provided a presentation on the preliminary Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) scores. While these are the unofficial results, they look very promising, particularly in Math. In grades 3 through 8 in Math, all grades showed improvement when comparing the 2017 results to the 2016 results. Hickory Creek showed great improvement in both Math and English Language Arts. Principal Will Seidelmann stated, "We are really excited about where we are going. We had remarkable results in ELA and Math with double-digit growth." The principals outlined a detailed plan that is in place at all schools for the ongoing engagement of the students. The official PARCC student reports will be coming later this summer and will be distributed to families soon after the district receives them.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence and Director of Special Services Jen Bajda provided a report on grants received by the District. They included the federally funded English Language Learners TBE/TPI grant in the amount of \$10,025, the federally funded Title 1 Basic in the amount of \$74,890, the federally funded Title IIA Teacher Quality grant in the amount of \$19,100, the federally funded IDEA Part B Flow-Through grant in the amount of \$414,808, the federally funded IDEA Part B pre-school grant in the amount of \$11,004, the state funded State Childhood-Preschool for All grant in the amount of \$113,300, the privately funded Ecolab/NALCO Vision for Learning grant in the amount of \$6,612, the state funded Alliance Mini Grant in the amount of \$800 and the state funded State of Illinois Library Grant in the amount of \$1,500.

Mrs. McClarence and Ms. Bajda also provided the Board with an assessment calendar for the upcoming school year. In the past, the District has given both the PARCC and Terra Nova assessments. Beginning this fall, the District will use the FastBridge assessment in place of Terra Nova. It offers curriculum-based measurement and computer-adaptive tests, resulting in shorter assessment time and immediate test results. Mrs. McClarence stated, "Other districts have been using FastBridge and have great results so we are excited about that."

Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni stated, "We are always keeping an eye on how much assessment we are doing and this takes less time and provides immediate results."

Director of Building & Grounds Rodney Davis reported that all schools are being fitted with the same monitor and alarm systems this week and that the Chelsea roof will be replaced next week. He reported that numerous inspections and projects are going on at all schools that will be completed for the new school year.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the summer technology work is off to a good start. The team has been working on installing new laptop computers at Chelsea. They have also been working on building entry badge access at Grand Prairie, with the other two buildings to follow.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided a report to the Board about the recent actions in the Business Office.

Board member Edith Lutz provided a report on the most recent meeting of the District Insurance Committee.

Board member Brett Cosich provided reports on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education 843 Advisory Committee of May 8 and the Governing Board meeting of May 23.

Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni provided the Board with staffing updates, drinking fountain lead testing results and a Hickory Creek masonry update. She also reported on the recent Chelsea and Hickory Creek library retro-fit projects funded by the Education Foundation and the Family School Partnership (FSP.) She stated, "With new furniture and carpeting, these are cool spaces and a long-lasting hallmark right in the middle of both schools that show off the great fundraising efforts of these two organizations."

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report and Graphs. The total fund balance reserves increased in May by about \$1.5M (from \$33,145,753 the end of April to \$34,652,909 at the end of May.) This increase is expected as the district received its first round of early tax receipts from Will County (about \$3.1M) in addition to other normal revenues of about \$400K and paid out normal operating expenses of about \$2M. The bulk of the early tax receipts will arrive in June, inflating the year-end fund balances, but the district will still be owed three quarterly FY2016-17 mandated categorical payments from the State totaling just over \$1.5M. The District collected \$3.518M in revenues in May with most coming from Advanced Tax Receipts (\$3.158M) followed by General State Aid (\$90K), Builder Donations (\$81K), IDEA Reimbursements (\$53K), Registration and Activity Fees (\$40K), CPPRT Receipts (\$30K), Demand-Response Electric Rebates (\$20K), Interest Income (\$12K), Medicaid Reimbursements (\$10K) and Field Trip Reimbursements (\$8k). This represents over 99.5 percent of all revenue collected with remaining revenues related to miscellaneous items under \$5,000. The district paid out just over \$2M in expenses during May and this is at the low end of normal and expected levels for a typical month this year. Normal expenses are typically about \$2.0M - \$2.4M per month. Board bills for June are \$2,149,134.84 and were presented at the June 21 Board meeting for review and approval.

There were two Freedom of Information requests and they were responded to in a timely manner.

In discussion, Superintendent Dr. Zinni and Beth Ishmael, Client Executive from Horton Benefit Solutions, provided the Board with Health Insurance options that are available to the District. The Board expressed its interest in obtaining more information from Horton and having them provide educational sessions for the staff on the various insurance options.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented the FY 2017-2018 tentative budget update.

The Board took action to approve an increase from .67 to 1.00 Full-Time equivalent for Maggie Sayles as a Math Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School for the 2017-2018 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 a decrease from 1.00 to .50 Full-Time equivalent for Mary DeFrank as a Speech Pathologist at Hickory Creek Middle School for the 2017-2018 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 Oreluk as Assistant Principal at Hickory Creek Middle School at an annual salary of \$61,000 for the 2017-2018 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 Rebecca Schumacher as a Full-Time Science Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School (MA+7) at an annual salary of \$53,596 for the 2017-2018 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 Erin Johnson as a Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary (MA+7) at an annual salary of \$53,596 for the 2017-2018 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 Amanda Young as a Full-Time School Nurse at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$24.00, 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 Walter Klein as a Full-Time Maintenance/Custodian at an hourly rate of \$21.00, 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 Non-Renewal of Educational Support Personnel as presented.

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

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved Disposal of Surplus Property. This includes the following items being declared as surplus and unneeded for school district operations: circulation desk and book display shelf at Hickory Creek Middle School and old library books at Chelsea Intermediate School and Grand Prairie Elementary School. The Board also directed Assistant Superintendent and District Office to sell these surplus items, as appropriate, for their fair market value in accordance with established State statutes and the Illinois School Code, and if necessary to dispose of any unsold, unusable and unneeded surplus items as may be appropriate from time to time.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the partial repayment of the outstanding inter-fund loan from the Capital Projects Fund to the Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$300,000. Additionally, the Board approved the Resolution reaffirming the outstanding, year-end balance of the inter-fund loan from the Working Cash Fund to the Capital Projects Fund at \$925,000, and reaffirming the Board's desire to repay this loan as soon as possible when monies become available in the Capital Projects Fund.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the Resolutions authorizing the Prompt Payment of Bills, as well as for Employee Salaries, Recurring Benefits and Contractual Obligations for the time period from June 21, 2017 through August 16, 2017.

In the Consent Agenda, 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 2017-2018 school year. The Board also approved continuing to utilize BrightStar Care, Pediatric Services of America, Inc., and CAIRS in the absence of District nurses, 1:1 medical paraprofessionals, or sign language interpreter. 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 the regular school year beginning in late August.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved a Policy of the Community Consolidated School District 157-C, Will County, Illinois Ascertaining the Prevailing Rate of Wages for Laborers, Workmen and Mechanics Employed on Public Works of Said School District.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board adopted the Resolution regarding the appointment of Kate Ambrosini as School Treasurer for fiscal year 2017-2018 and authorized the Board President and Secretary to sign same.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the appointment of Melissa Theobald as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education for the 2017-2018 term.

In the Consent Agenda, according to Illinois School Code the Board designated the District depositories for the fiscal year. Presently the following depositories are being used and are on the bid list for banking purposes. They include Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund (ISDLAF), Harris Bank – Frankfort, First Midwest Bank – Joliet, Fifth/Third Bank – Mokena, Illinois Funds (US Bank - Springfield), First American Bank - Metro Southwest, N.A. – Joliet, PMA Financial Network, Inc. – Aurora, Federated Investors - Boston, MA, First National Bank – Frankfort, First National Bank of Illinois – Mokena, Marquette Bank - New Lenox, Old Plank Trail Bank – Frankfort, Homestar Bank – Mokena, and FirstMerit Bank – Frankfort.

In the Consent Agenda, the Board approved publishing the announcement of legal notices with 21st Century Media, Frankfort Station, Tribune Group, or the Southtown Star Publication newspapers.

The Board adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:42 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on August 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10480 West Nebraska Street, in Frankfort, Illinois.