

September 16, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

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

District 157-C September 15th Board of Education Meeting

The Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education held its regular meeting on September 15, 2014.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of August 18.

During the Public Forum portion of the meeting, the Board heard from Tara Moustis of the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Parent Advisory Council. She thanked the Board for its ongoing support of District 843, including the use of the Hickory Creek Middle School Cafetorium for its annual fundraiser each year. District 157-C Board President Christopher McFadden stated, "Thanks for coming and letting us know. It is nice to hear we are doing a good job."

The Board participated in a presentation and training session provided by Dennis Rohlifing, BoardDocs representative. Mr. Rohlifing explained how to access and navigate the new electronic board packet software that will replace the paper board packets used in District 157-C.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal, Eileen Nelson, reported that the school was awarded three grants from NALCO ECOLAB that will be used to continue work on its greenhouse project and next generation science standards. She reported that community grade level teams will again be reviewing and dialoguing in regard to three varied ability writers in their classroom during collaborative team time. She also reported that community cross grade level articulation will occur during the January in-service date. These efforts coordinate with the district's Strategic Plan goals for good student outcomes.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal, Kristin Simpkins, reported that the school was awarded three NALCO ECOLAB grants that will be used to support curriculum. She reported that teachers were able to learn from their peers who attended the training for Writer's Workshop in New York this summer. Mrs. Simpkins reported that the school has held three additional Leadership Team meetings since August. The team is generating feedback regarding the professional development opportunities for Writer's Workshop to continuously adjust and refine the plan to ensure the needs of the staff are met. She also commended new Assistant Principal Dorian Woods for doing a great job. She stated, "Dorian has immersed herself in the community and we are happy to have her." These efforts support the district's Strategic Plan goals for good student outcomes.

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal, Kevin Suchinski, reported that the school was awarded three grants from NALCO ECOLAB that will be used to continue the school's STEM (the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) resources and materials. He reported that students are currently participating in the fall sports program which includes cross country, baseball, softball and volleyball. In addition, school clubs have started again including Student Council and Drama Club. He also reported that the school's third annual Sunrise Run was a huge success. Despite an outdoor temperature of 39 degrees, some 120 students and family members participated, followed by coaches and administrators preparing breakfast for them. These efforts support the district's Strategic Plan goals for good student outcomes.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Janet Goggins, reported that she met with Tim Reilly, Assistant Superintendent from Lincoln-Way District 210. In the meeting, Mr. Reilly said that Lincoln-Way will be implementing its math pathway for high school and that Lincoln-Way administrators will communicate the information through the hosting of a parent night at each feeder district. The District 157-C parent night will be held on October 22, with the time still to be determined.

Director of Special Services, Jennifer Bajda, reported that the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Cooperative held Easy Individualized Education Program (IEP) training for new special education staff and staff members requesting a refresher course. This coordinates with the district's Strategic Plan goals for technology. Ms. Bajda also reported that she has met many students and parents throughout the district and said that it is nice to start being able to know some of the community members.

Director of Technology, Jake Nelson, reported that he reviewed an online demonstration of Cisco's Informacast product at the request of the crisis planning team. This product would allow the district to organize phones in a zone to use in the event of a crisis. Paging can be made over the phones to notify staff of an emergency. Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni stated, "We went through our emergency crisis plan for a 'dangerous intruder' drill. We will be meeting with the Frankfort Police and Fire Departments to see if there are areas where we can improve our plan. We will then review the plan with the Board next month." These efforts support the district's Strategic Plan goals for technology.

Dr. Maura Zinni provided the superintendent's report. She presented the Board with a diversity report that included a summary of certified positions that were filled for the current school year. She stated, "When filling a position sometimes we receive thousands of applications. We keep our eye out for the very best candidate

while continuing to explore opportunities to attract and retain employees from diverse backgrounds representing our student population.” Dr. Zinni said that a goal of hers is to take a look at the best ways to measure our student achievement. She reported that the district leadership team analyzed Terra Nova assessment results to develop district goals in both reading and math. She stated, “We are a very high-achieving district. We are pleased with our assessments but want to see if we could do even better.” Goals were determined for identified students that the team believes could be accelerated to the next higher quartile of performance. The results of these goals to improve will be reported at the November Board meeting when the district receives the fall 2014 results. Dr. Zinni continued, “This is exciting work and I believe we can move some of these kids to higher achievement.” Dr. Zinni reported that District 157-C will host Lincoln-Way High School administrators on October 22 to share with parents what Lincoln-Way’s plan is in response to the Common Core State Standards PARCC testing. Dr. Zinni reported that The Board of Education and Frankfort Teachers’ Association Executive Board will meet as the Collaborative Council on October 20 at 6:00 PM. Dr. Zinni also reported that ECOLAB/NALCO has notified the district that Grand Prairie Elementary School has been awarded three grants for a total of \$4,420, Chelsea Intermediate School has been awarded three grants for a total of \$8,600, and Hickory Creek Middle School has been awarded three grants for a total of \$5,890.

Dr. Zinni congratulated Board President Christopher McFadden for achieving Master Board Member Level II recognition. This is a professional development program offered by the Illinois Association of School Boards for a school board member to gain the knowledge, skills and resources to become an effective school leader. Mr. McFadden will be recognized for this accomplishment at an IASB awards dinner. Dr. Zinni stated, “We thank you for your commitment.”

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer’s Report. He reported that \$2.64 million in expenses was paid out in August, above normal but expected, due to the fact that the month of August included three payrolls instead of the normal two. Board bills for September were \$2,531,643.85. Mr. Saindon reported that most of the district’s reserves were invested in fixed rate instruments and securities or fixed fund asset pools, however, to date interest rates have remained very low. He also reported that several capital projects were completed at all three schools this summer.

The Board heard a report from Board Vice President, Patrick Usher, on the August 26 meeting of the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board and the August 12 and September 9 Lincoln-

Way Area Special Education District 843 Advisory Committee meetings. The Board heard a report from Board member Gina Briese on the most recent Frankfort Township Planning Commission meeting. The Board heard a report from Board member Cari Mills on the most recent Education Foundation and Family School Partnership organization meetings.

There were no Freedom of Information items.

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Hickory Creek Middle School Principal, Dr. Kevin Suchinski on implementing a school wrestling program. He reported that he conducted a student interest survey for a wrestling program that indicated there are 19 students interested in participating. Dr. Suchinski provided the breakdown of costs to start up a wrestling program for the Board's consideration.

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Director of Technology Jake Nelson regarding consideration of online student registration options to replace the current paper-based process. He reported that research has been conducted on four online registration companies that are pre-approved to coordinate with PowerSchool, the district's web-based student information system. He reported that InfoSnap seems to have the best integration as far as capturing and polishing the data. It also has a workflow that the district currently uses requiring proof of residency before registration. Further research will be completed before this will be brought back for the Board's consideration in October. Dr. Zinni stated, "This would truly be a convenience for our families and would save the district time."

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon regarding the results of the FY14 audit as prepared by independent auditors Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm. The auditors noted no material findings or significant internal control weaknesses during the course of their fieldwork. Based upon the district's finalized Annual Financial Report, the auditors have estimated that the district's financial profile score will be 3.80 for the third year in a row, placing it in the Financial Recognition category with the Illinois State Board of Education.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided information regarding the district's current electric supply contract and requested approval to prepare for an electric Request for Proposal if market conditions become favorable.

The Board held the first reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20 School Board: Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification; 4:60 Operational Service: Purchases and Contracts; 5:30 General Personnel:

Hiring Process and Criteria; 5:260 Professional Personnel: Student Teachers; 5:330 Educational Support Personnel: Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; 7:20 Students: Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:180 Students: Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; and 7:240 Students: Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities.

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

The Board approved the creating of a wrestling program at Hickory Creek Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year as presented.

The Board accepted and approved the audited financial statements and footnotes, associated audit reports and audit letters, the management discussion and analysis, the related supplementary schedules, the annual financial report, as prepared by independent auditors Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

The Board approved the administration to complete an RFP review for audit services for District 157-C.

The Board approved the administration to complete an electric supply RFP for 2016 through Energy Purchasing Services (EPS) of Naperville, IL, at a cost of \$2,600 if market conditions become favorable during the next twelve months. Additionally, the Board allows and directs the Business Office to contract with the low responsible supplier based on the results of this RFP, assuming pricing and terms are agreeable/favorable and based on the recommendation of EPS.

The Board approved the 2014-2015 Illinois State Board of Education application of recognition of schools for District 157-C.

The Board accepted the administrative salary/compensation report to be presented to the Regional Office of Education for official purposes as required.

The Board approved the administrator and teacher salary and benefit report as presented.

In compliance with policy 8.080 (Community Relations – Public Gifts to District) the Board graciously accepted the gifts/contributions in the amount of \$130,103.69 presented to Frankfort School District 157-C within the period September 2013 through June 2014. They included: Frankfort Athletic Boosters \$17,098.32, Band Boosters \$21,119.34, Chorus Boosters \$1,125.26, the Frankfort Education Foundation \$68,911.42, and the Frankfort Family School Partnership \$21,849.35.

The Board adopted the resolution authorizing notice of dismissal of educational support staff due to reduction in force effective September 15, 2014.

The Board approved the re-employment of Katie Pechtold as a full-time paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Christina Blumthal as a .50 Title 1 Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Dawn Schmitt as a part-time lunchroom supervisor at Grand Prairie Elementary School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Deanna Santoro as a full-time paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Briana Heckler as a full-time paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Kathleen Duffy as a full-time paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board approved the employment of Amy Vlastelica as a full-time paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board accepted the resignations of paraprofessionals Lisa Davi, Tina Hajjar, Kimberly Gerhardt and Susan Haberman as presented.

The Board accepted the family medical leave request for Mary Sopha, social worker at Hickory Creek Middle School.