

April 21, 2015

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 April 20, 2015 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 Christopher McFadden at 7:02 p.m. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present. Several people signed up to speak during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. They were primarily parents of special needs children who were concerned about a Board agenda item for consideration of a resolution honorably dismissing educational support personnel.

The Board went into closed session 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 returned to open session.

The Board approved the employment of William Seidelmann as Principal of Hickory Creek Middle School at a yearly salary of \$90,000 for 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. (See separate press release.)

The Board accepted the resignation of Kristin Simpkins, Principal at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective June 30, 2015 as presented. Dr. Zinni stated, "We are happy for Kristin as she is up for the new challenge she sought after and received. She has a long standard in the District of doing what is best for the students. Kristin passed her Superintendent Endorsement in the spring and is on the road to continue her impact on public schools." Board President Chris McFadden agreed, stating, "You are beloved at your school and Chelsea's high achievement is a tribute to you. I know if you want to be superintendent somewhere else you will. We're going to miss you."

The Board unanimously approved the resolution honorably dismissing educational support personnel as presented. District 157-C will no longer have its own Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists on staff but will hire contract personnel for these positions. Dr. Zinni thanked the parents in the audience for their input and stated, "Anytime we are making personnel decisions they are highly emotional. Much thought, preparation and data collection went into this decision. This data is not made public to respect the personnel. We heard good comments tonight and in the meeting with parents on Friday. I will continue to be transparent and have an open door policy so parents have the information they need. We would never make a recommendation that is not in the best interest of our students." Board member Mike Turner agreed, stating "The seven of us on this Board take this job very seriously. This team challenges the administration on all kinds of things and debate a long time on the right thing to do. We looked at this for a year. Some 40 districts have contractors including Naperville,

Homewood-Flossmoor, District 843 and others. There is continuity and student Individualized Education Program (IEP) minutes are set and no one will lose them.”

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of March 16.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that Grand Prairie welcomed over 80 parents and their children for a Kindergarten Round Up presentation on April 2. Parents met with Mrs. Nelson and staff members, while the incoming kindergarteners enjoyed a story in the library “story pit” and visited a classroom for calendar and singing. Parents were reminded to join Grand Prairie with their child for “Kindergarten, Here We Come!” on April 23 and 30 at 1:00 or 6:15 p.m.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Kristin Simpkins reported on several professional development opportunities recently presented at the school. These included a training on Socrative an interactive software program, Front Row Math, blogging in the classroom to support writing goals, Close Reading video model lesson and an overview of sensory processing.

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Dr. Kevin Suchinski reported that he had just come from the annual Student Government Day program. He stated, “I want to publicly thank Mayor Jim Holland, Trustee Cindy Heath and the Village of Frankfort for providing this great opportunity for our students.” He also reported that on May 5 the fifth grade students will be visiting Hickory Creek to participate in various transition activities. They will tour the sixth grade wing, engage in sixth grade classroom activities, experience Encore classes and attend a presentation by the administration. In the evening, parents will attend a presentation by the administration and teachers on transition to middle school. Topics will include moving to the middle school, expectations and concepts. There will also be an opportunity for parent connections.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that the building psychologist is updating policy and procedures and creating a manual for the process to be consistent throughout the buildings. She reported that she worked with Director of Curriculum and Instruction Janet McClarence to develop 2015-2016 professional development plans for the staff. The focus for special education staff for the next school year will be on differentiated instruction and structuring balanced literacy time within the classroom. She also reported that special education teachers attended Orton Gillingham training at the end of March.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that the Science Committee met with all of the Lincoln-Way High School District 210 feeder districts. Lincoln-Way hosted day 3 of alignment with the science standards. She stated, “There has been absolutely incredible work being done over the past two years with the Lincoln-Way administration team to bring learning to us.” She also reported that courses for Honors English Language Arts at Hickory Creek and Advanced English Language Arts at Chelsea are currently being designed to meet the needs of the District’s highest achieving students. The courses will be designed around the CORE curricular expectations with higher level text selections, enriching activities, extension of writing and in depth research. Rebecca Trsar, the current gifted teacher, will assist with the design of these courses and work alongside the teachers to ensure students are challenged appropriately. Student placement is currently being

determined and the District hopes to post criteria to its website of changes in program and placement closer to the end of the year when everything is finalized.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the District's new Remote Access Server has been up and running for the past month and that the staff has noticed increased speed when connecting from home, especially on those days with a high volume of connected users.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board on newly posted certified staff positions. She reported that a "Meet & Greet" will be held for the new Hickory Creek Middle School Principal William Seidelmann on April 29, 2015 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Hickory Creek Library. She also reported that the End of Year Celebration is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at CD & Me from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. At this event the District will be recognizing benchmark years of service and staff retirements.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. Board bills for March totaled \$2,009,875.10. He reported that this is typical for March, and on the low end of the normal and expected range of \$2.0 to \$2.25M. He also reported that enrollment stayed flat in March at 2,490 students.

The Board heard a report from Board Vice President Patrick Usher on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Advisory Board meeting of April 14 and the Governing Board meeting of March 24. The Board heard a report from Board Member Cari Ann Mills on the most recent Family School Partnership and Frankfort Education Foundation meetings.

There were no Freedom of Information Requests.

In discussion, Dr. Maura Zinni and the Board of Education discussed with the newly-elected Board candidates the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Education member. A special Board reorganization meeting will be on April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon presented a budget update to the Board.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon updated the Board on the refresh of the five year old Hickory Creek Middle School computers. Final pricing quotes from Dell, Staples and Tiger Direct were received with Dell being the recommended vendor for 84 Dell Desktops at a total price of \$53,884.62 and 350 Dell Laptops at a total price of \$232,753.50. The District will reuse the existing monitors and speaker bars and will have a resale of the old equipment for additional savings.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon updated the Board on the lease options for the refresh of the new computers at Hickory Creek. The recommendation is for Providence Capital to provide a four year municipal lease with a \$1 buyout at the end of year four, at a 2.23% tax exempt interest rate, \$999 of documentation fees due at closing, a front loaded repayment schedule and a rebate/resale guarantee of \$34,440 for the recently purchased equipment.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon updated the Board of the need to convert the temporary transfer to a permanent partial abatement of \$75,000 for Working Cash to Debt Services.

The Board took action to authorize the superintendent to file with the regional office a revised calendar for the 2014-2015 school year as follows: Three emergency days of January 7, January 8 and February 2, 2015, change from a School Improvement Day to a full day of school on Friday, May 22, 2015 and a change of the last day of school and School Improvement Day to Thursday, June 4, 2015.

The Board took action to approve the purchase of 84 Dell Desktops for a total price of \$53,884.62 and 350 Dell Laptops for a total price of \$232,753.50. Funding for this purchase will come from the Lease Fund and Lease Levy. Implementation will take place in the summer of 2015.

The Board took action to approve the use of Providence Capital for a four-year technology lease with a \$1 buyout option in year five for Hickory Creek Middle School. The Board directed the Administration to execute any finalized lease/financing paperwork and other documents, as necessary, based on negotiation of all final lease and resale terms and conditions. This lease will be entered into in May of 2015 with funding occurring in June of 2015 and repayment occurring in July of 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively. The \$1 buyout, if enacted, would occur at the end of the fourth year just prior to the lease's expiration in June 2018.

The Board took action to accept the tentative schedule of audit work for Klein Hall and Associates of Aurora, IL, the District's independent auditors, to complete the FY15 school district audit, and directed the administration to complete all tasks necessary to effectuate the completion of said audit and review, as well as the review of Frankfort School District Education Foundation financial records.

The Board took action to approve the resolution to declare Items as surplus as presented. i

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

The Board took action to approve the resolution to effectuate a \$75,000 permanent partial abatement of Working Cash Fund to the Debt Service Fund, as allowed by Illinois School Code. A repayment of the temporary loan will take place in May and the processing of a permanent transfer will take place in June.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kerry Tarala, full-time sixth grade teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Colleen Foltz, full-time sixth grade teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kathryn Allison, full-time eighth grade science/social studies teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board approved the employment of Nicole Roldan as a part-time lunch supervisor at Grand Prairie Elementary School for the 2014-2015 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 Adriana Flores as a part-time lunch supervisor at Grand Prairie Elementary School for the 2014-2015 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 amended Superintendent's contract as presented.

The Board went into closed session 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 returned to open session.

The Board approved the non-certified support staff salary recommendations as presented.

The Board approved the Option #1 Administrator 2015-2016 salary recommendations as presented.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

A special Board of Education meeting will be held on April 29, 2015 and the next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on May 18, both at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort, Illinois.