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PRESS RELEASE

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### **District 157-C June 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap**

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of June 17 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.

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

The Board reviewed the correspondence of thank you notes from retirees Barb Campbell and Pam Snyder.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of May 20, 2015.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported on numerous activities that took place during the last month of school. She reported that staff will be working this summer to refine all Outcome Assessments and the reporting method to parents for the 2015-2016 school year. She also reported that the school scored well on the 5Essential Survey and they were pleased to see an improvement in the collaborative teachers section.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that she has begun transitioning to her new role at Chelsea over the summer. She stated, "It is fun to get to know new staff." She said that she looks forward to meeting with staff and community members. She reported that the Assessment Round Table met and came up with some really nice ideas to establish a vision.

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that he has also been transitioning to his new role and looks forward to unity days that are scheduled for all three principals. He stated, "It has been great connecting with staff in small groups."

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that she has been really busy interviewing Special Education staff and that four stellar candidates had been identified. She reported that all grants have been submitted and that committee work is being completed over the summer. She also reported that the Advisory Committee, with representation from all three schools and the preschool, will meet every other month.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that as soon as school was out for summer, the teachers came back the following Monday to work on the various committees to plan for the new school year. The Professional Growth & Evaluation Committee agreed upon a student growth goal that will be piloted next fall for all teachers as part of their teacher evaluation rating. The pilot student growth goal was introduced to the teachers on the last day of school this year and will be factored into teachers overall performance rating for next school year. Teachers were very receptive to the pilot goal. After the goal is piloted

next school year the committee will collect feedback to reflect and make changes. The growth goal will be formally adopted in the fall of 2016.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that it was a great end of the school year and that summer started well. He reported on a number of technology projects taking place over the summer. These include replacement of computers at Hickory Creek Middle School, finalizing year end reports to the Illinois State Board of Education, decommissioning two older network file servers at Chelsea and Hickory Creek, upgrading the PowerSchool student information system to the latest stable released version, completing scheduling, upgrading several software programs and printer servers and upgrading the Bandwidth.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board on staffing. She thanked Hickory Creek Middle School Assistant Principal April Mahy for her nine years of service to 157-C, stating "You contributed enormously to the success of the district and we will miss you. Thank you." Mrs. Mahy has accepted a position at Riverside District 96. Dr. Zinni asked Chelsea Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote and Hickory Creek Principal Will Seidelmann to introduce the candidates recommended for the Assistant Principal positions at their schools. Mrs. Nepote-Paver introduced Rachel Newcomb and Mr. Seidelmann introduced Christine Marsella to the Board. Dr. Zinni provided the Board with the 5Essential Survey results. She reported that on average, Frankfort 157-C schools are performing well above the state average in all five areas and the survey results indicate that the district is well-organized for success. This is the highest rating a school district can acquire. Dr. Zinni reported that Jim Burgett, twice named "Administrator of the Year in Illinois" will provide a Board workshop in October entitled Boardmanship 101. She also reported that all District administrators have provided a record of their continuing professional development activities for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with the School Code of Illinois. Dr. Zinni also reminded the Board that registration opened June 15 for the Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO.

The Board heard reports from Tina Kohler of the Family School Partnership (FSP) and Jennifer Dore of the Education Foundation.

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meeting of May 26 and the Advisory Board meeting of June 9.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. Board bills for June totaled \$3,316,120.05. He reported that this is right at the expected levels for June as the District realizes larger than normal payouts in June for some annual purchase service costs. Mr. Saindon also reported that the annual rebate from the district's purchasing card was nearly \$20,000 this year. He commended Bookkeeper Susan Baker for her efforts in purchasing district items using the P-card to provide the rebate each year.

There were no Freedom of Information Requests.

In discussion, Dr. Maura J. Zinni provided the Board with a report according to their direction at the May 20 Board meeting to investigate the potential of bringing an orchestra program to the district. She reported that a

parent survey yielded 230 of responses with participants evenly split between having children in all three schools. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents answered 'Yes' when asked if their child would be interested in participating in an orchestra program, with eleven percent responding 'No' and fourteen percent responding, 'Maybe'. The comments section yielded a majority of positive remarks encouraging the Board to bring an orchestra program to the district. She reported that the current band directors in the district stated that an orchestra program would be beneficial to the students and they do not believe it will negatively impact the band program. Dr. Zinni said that she would like to get teacher and principal input before moving forward with the program. The Board reached consensus that more research should be completed until October when the topic will be brought back to the Board for consideration of the implementation of an orchestra program in 2016.

In discussion, the Board and Superintendent discussed the current model review for providing Occupational and Physical Therapy services. The Superintendent made the recommendation to the Board that the District use contract service agencies or independent contractors to deliver OT and PT services. This would enable flexibility in staffing to increase or decrease supports at any time during the year, provide consistency with therapists and result in increased services with decreased cost. This would enable the district to continue to provide high quality services to include more integration within the classroom as opposed to removal from academic setting. It would also provide access to a highly-trained cadre of therapists who work for an agency that specializes in related services and can provide current and ongoing professional development to ensure therapists implement the most up to date practices and allow the district to contract the same person for an extensive period of time to provide consistency. Dr. Zinni reported that surrounding districts are currently using and/or exploring agency for OT and PT or are using a combination of district employees and agency supports.

In discussion, Superintendent Dr. Zinni reported that Title I Grant-Dependent Instructional Aides positions are being honorably dismissed due to it being the end of the grant period.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon reported the need for the Board to approve two resolutions at the June Board meeting authorizing the Business Office to process and pay all regular Board bills, and payroll and related bills in a timely manner from the date of the June Board meeting to the date of the August Board meeting. This is due to the fact that there is no Board meeting scheduled for July.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon reported the need for the Board to approve a resolution providing reaffirmation of outstanding inter-fund loans.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon reported the need for the Board to approve a resolution related to the technology lease for Hickory Creek Middle School.

In discussion, Special Services Director Jen Bajda reported that as part of the evaluation and evolution of the District's Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) services program, Curt Saindon, Dr. Susan Ireland and she interviewed six agencies and one independent contractor at the end of May. These agencies and individuals were selected for interviews after an in-depth pre-screening of all identified and interested contractors and agencies was undertaken. All of the selected agencies were recommended by school districts in Illinois with

no negative references, and it is their belief that any of them could provide effective and efficient therapy for the district's students. They were looking for the best fit, both operationally and philosophically, with the school district. After much consideration and discussion, the administration's recommendation to the Board is to use Therapy Care of Batavia, IL as the primary OT/PT contract agency, and Progressus Therapy of Chicago, IL as the secondary OT/PT contract agency. It is also their recommendation to contract for additional PT services with Meghan Arnold, who would act as an independent contractor and most likely provide part-time PT support for Grand Prairie School.

The Board held the first reading of the following Board of Education Policies: 2:250 School Board: Access to District Public Records, 3:40 General School Administration: Superintendent, 3.50 General School Administration: Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent, 3:60 General School Administration: Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal, 4:45 Operational Services: Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery, 5:40 General Personnel: Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease, 5:120 General Personnel: Ethics and Conduct, 5:270 Educational Support Personnel: Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment, 5:20 Educational Support Personnel: Employment and Retirement, 5:330 Educational Support Personnel: Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves, and 6:15 Instruction: School Accountability.

The Board took action to approve the FY 2015-16 Tentative Budget as presented, as well as the Notice of Public Hearing, and directed the District Office to publish said notice in a newspaper of general circulation as soon as possible after the June 17 Board Meeting. The Board also directed the Administration to complete a final budget in anticipation of the public budget hearing on August 12, and in anticipation of subsequent Board approval of the final budget at the August 12 Regular Board Meeting in accordance with State statute. Finally, the Board directed the Administration to file said final budget with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies, as required by State law and the district's existing bond covenants.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

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 18, 2015 through August 11, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kelly Bridges, Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective June 5, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Heather Fox, Full-Time Sixth Grade Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dana Rains, Full-Time Speech Language Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Stephanie Smith, Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective June 5, 2015 as presented.

The Board approved the unpaid leave of absence for Jennifer Farrell, Full-Time Tenured Fourth Grade Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School, for the 2015-2016 school year as presented.

The Board approved the unpaid leave of absence for Julie Hannigan, Full-Time Tenured Kindergarten Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School, for the 2015-2016 school year as presented.

The Board approved the unpaid leave of absence for Jacquie Major, Full-Time Tenured Second Grade Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School, for the 2015-2016 school year as presented.

The Board approved the employment of Rachel Newcomb as Assistant Principal at Chelsea Intermediate School at an annual salary of \$69,000 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.

The Board approved the employment of Christine Marsella as Assistant Principal at Hickory Creek Middle School at an annual salary of \$65,000 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.

The Board approved the employment of Matthew Young as a Full-Time Special Education Teacher (MA + 0, Step 1) at Chelsea Intermediate School 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.

The Board approved the employment of Sean Plese as a Full-Time Special Education Teacher (BA + 9, Step 2) at Hickory Creek Middle School 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.

The Board approved the employment of Nicole White as a Full-Time Special Education Teacher (MA + 0, Step 9) at Chelsea Intermediate School 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.

The Board approved the employment of Pamela Dettman as a Full-Time Physical Education Teacher (BA + 0, Step 1) at Hickory Creek Middle School 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.

The Board approved the employment of Jennifer Ruggio as a Full-Time Special Education Teacher (BA + 0, Step 4) at Grand Prairie Elementary School 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.

The Board approved the change in position of Rodney Davis, from Full-Time Custodian to Full-Time Maintenance.

The Board approved the contract for Nancy Neuzil, Public Relations Coordinator, for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board approved the resolution honorably dismissing educational support personnel as presented. These include Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Title I Instructional Aides.

The Board approved the District partner with Therapy Care Ltd. of Batavia, IL to serve as its primary Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy service provider and Progressus Therapy Inc. of Chicago, IL to serve as its secondary Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy service provider as outlined above. Additionally, the Board approved that the school district partner with Meghan Arnold to serve as an independent contractor for the provision of Physical Therapy services. The Administration will complete final contract negotiations with all parties involved and execute service contracts as soon as possible to ensure for the provision of OT and PT services for our Extended School Year program in July and then for the 2015-2016 school year in August.

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.

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 \$1,625,000, and reaffirmed the Board's desire to repay the loan as soon as possible when monies become available in the Capital Projects Fund.

The Board approved the resolution declaring its intention to reimburse itself from the proceeds of a tax-exempt financing for the computer purchases made for Hickory Creek Middle School on June 2, 2015, as outlined above and described in the resolution.

The Board approved the following depositories for District funds: Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund (ISDLAF), Harris Bank – Frankfort, First Midwest Bank – Joliet, First United Bank – Frankfort, Fifth/Third Bank – Mokena, Illinois Funds (US Bank - Springfield), First American Bank - Metro Southwest, N.A. – Joliet, NBD Bank – 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 – Frankfort, Homestar Bank – Mokena and FirstMerit Bank – Frankfort.

The Board approved the publishing of legal notices with 21st Century Media, Frankfort Station, Tribune Group, or the SouthtownStar Publication newspapers.

The Board established a tentative Calendar of Board Business for fiscal year 2015-2016 as presented.

The Board went into closed session at 8:51 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 returned to open session at 9:31 p.m.

Following closed session, the Board accepted the resignation of April Mahy, Assistant Principal at Hickory Creek Middle School effective June 30, 2015 as presented, approved the payment of three vacation days to April Mahy at her per diem rate of \$343.49 at a total cost of \$1,030.47 and approved ten additional work days for Sean Rhoads to be paid at his per diem rate of \$333.82 for a total cost of \$3,338.20.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on August 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort, Illinois.