

August 13, 2015
PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C August 12, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of August 12 was called to order by Board Secretary Edie Adamski at 7:00 p.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Board Member Kevin Reidy made a motion to nominate Board Member Dr. Brian Sasso as the President Pro Tem. Board Member Mrs. Edith Lutz seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken with all voting Aye. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of June 17, 2015.

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

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the final budget presentation. The tentative budget was presented for approval at the June 17 regular Board meeting and has been on public display in the District Office since that time. A notice of its availability and of the August 12 public budget was posted in a local newspaper on June 18, 2015. Changes to the original, tentative budget have been processed throughout the past few months. The budget is balanced with a modest surplus projected of just under \$442,000, or about 1% of revenues.

At 7:07 p.m. the Board held the Public Hearing on the final budget. The total budget includes \$36,004,242.00 in revenues, \$35,562,539.00 in expenses, with a positive variance of \$441,703.00. The Board returned to the regular session at 7:11 p.m. After the hearing was closed, the Board passed the resolution to approve the 2015-2016 budget and the associated resolution ratifying and confirming publication of legal notice and setting the budget hearing. (SEE SEPARATE BUDGET PRESS RELEASE.)

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson, Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote and Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported on the efforts of the principals to support the "come together" theme of the district. They have been working together in a number of ways to increase the 157-C thread of unity while continuing to promote the Character Counts pillars of responsibility, respect and caring in the buildings. These administrators worked together over the summer to develop a unified behavioral incentive across all three buildings, with the tiger to represent the school mascot. While maintaining the tiger theme, the selected tigers will appropriately represent each building's age span. The incentive program will also be used to promote positive actions and attitudes within the entire school. The students will have the opportunity to be selected to participate in positive reward activities, such as lunch with the principal. Teachers will support the incentive by wearing matching T-shirts supporting the theme at the first School Improvement Day. Mr. Seidelmann also introduced Matthew Swies, the new Assistant Principal at Hickory Creek Middle School.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that teacher leaders met over the summer so that they are prepared to support teachers in the fall. Their meetings included developing a plan to support each of the three building goals as well as participating in a book study to learn to develop systems of support for teachers. They will be meeting with building principals this month to share their learning and create their plan of support within each building. Mrs. McClarence also reported that new students are being tested as they register to determine placement into the District's Advanced/Honors programs at Chelsea Intermediate and Hickory Creek Middle School. All of the current students have been notified of their placement by a letter. Advanced/Honors English Language Arts teachers have been meeting over the summer to develop their first quarter units, select rigorous text and develop engaging activities for our newly added classes. She reported that the teachers are excited to lead these new classes.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that Extended School Year (ESY) concluded August 6. In total, 40 students receiving special education services attended school for three hours Mondays-Thursdays or received walk-in services for a related service such as speech or occupational therapy. The services lasted five weeks, beginning July 6 through ongoing data collection, goals and objectives were monitored to ensure attending students maintained their skill levels. Updated goal information was mailed to parents/guardians at the end of ESY. She reported that on July 20, the first preschool screening was held for the 2015-16 school year. Sixteen students were screened and nine students were added to Project B.E.G.I.N. Ms. Bajda also reported that the Special Education Advisory Committee met in June and August. The committee is comprised of 15 staff members representing the special education teaching staff at each building and also contains representatives from the related service staff across the district.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported on a number of technology projects that were successfully completed over the summer. These included 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, completing the SNAP nursing software rollover, updating Grand Prairie FAST Math and creating Google Drive accounts.

The Board heard reports from liaisons of the Family School Partnership (FSP) and Education Foundation.

The Board heard a report from Board Secretary Edie Adamski on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meetings of June 23 and July 28, 2015 and the Advisory Committee meeting of July 14, 2015.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni recognized Cari Ann Mills for her years of service and many accomplishments as a District 157-C Board of Education member and its current Vice President. Mrs. Mills has resigned from the Board. She was elected to the Board in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. Dr. Zinni stated, "We want to publicly thank Cari for her service. She took her role very seriously in a professional manner but always stayed connected in a welcoming way to just about everyone in the District." Mrs. Mills stated, "I am happy that, in general, we as a Board made decisions with stakeholders in mind and believed that the students came first.

We tried to discuss every angle imaginable. Although the public is not privy to all of the information that comes past the eyes and the ears of a Board member, we held ourselves accountable in making the best decisions while keeping the present and future of the school district in mind. I am proud to say that our Board did not lack in integrity or thoroughness when making decisions.” On behalf of the Board, President Gina Briese stated, "The Board wishes Cari all the best in her future endeavors. Her connection with the many parents in the district will be missed."

In her report, Dr. Zinni updated the Board on staffing and enrollment. She reported that the School Improvement Day of September 4 will begin with an all-district picnic hosted by the District Leadership Team and the Board of Education. This will take place during the lunch hour to provide an opportunity to reconnect with all colleagues across the district. The afternoon activities will take place at Hickory Creek with dismissal at 2:45 p.m. for all staff. Dr. Zinni reminded the Board of the upcoming program on the highlights and lowlights of Illinois School Law 2015 and the Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO. Dr. Zinni also thanked Debbie Jankowski for her service to the district as Executive Secretary/Clerical Supervisor/Board Recording Secretary at the District Office. Mrs. Jankowski has resigned from the District to take another position.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer’s Report. The District paid out about \$2.63M in expenses during July which is slightly above the normal monthly expected range for the year of \$2.0M-\$2.5M. The primary reason for this overage is that the district processes three payrolls during the month instead of two. Board bills totaled \$2,014,539.23 for June and \$3,164,900.67 for July.

There were no Freedom of Information requests.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the 2015-2016 Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 budget. District 843 Executive Director Sarah Rexroad and Business Manager Brian Reigler were in attendance to answer any questions for District 157-C board members.

In discussion, Dr. Zinni provided information on the district entering into an intergovernmental agreement with Mokena School District 159. Currently, one District 157-C student is serviced by Lincoln-Way Special Education Cooperative 843 in the Communication Development program. Almost all of the current students serviced in Grades 1-8 within this program are Mokena residents. Due to the overwhelming number of District 159 students in this program, Mokena has decided to oversee the Communication Development program for the 2015-2016 school year. The program will be renamed Specialized Instruction II Program (“SI II”). The program will run similarly to 843’s Communication Development program with an emphasis on supporting those students with language based disabilities and is highly supported through co-teaching by a special education teacher and a speech and language pathologist. The SI II program will continue to be housed in Mokena’s buildings. The 157-C student has been successful in this type of program and, therefore, Director of Special Services, Jen Bajda has requested that the student be provided access to 159’s SI II program through an intergovernmental agreement and a memorandum of understanding.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the district hazardous routes for pupil transportation. According to School Code, each year the Board must adopt the enclosed resolution certifying the hazardous routes for pupil transportation to assure state reimbursement.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the closed session minutes of January 2015 – May 2015. As required by law, every six months the closed session minutes must be reviewed and those approved by the Board will be made part of public record. The minutes have been reviewed and at this time it was recommended that no closed session minutes be released for the public record.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the verbatim destruction of closed minutes. As required by law, the audio recordings of closed meetings older than 18 months may be destroyed.

In discussion, the Board discussed the board member vacancy and the timeline and process in which to fill the vacancy created when Board member Cari Ann Mills resigned from her position.

The Board took action to approve the publication and timeline for filling the board member vacancy. The Board of Education approved the publishing of the vacancy from August 13-20, requesting ~~letters of interest and~~ résumés be submitted to the Board of Education President Gina Briese by August 20 and holding a Special Meeting on August 27 at 8:00 p.m. at Chelsea Intermediate School.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board held the second reading of 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, 5:330 Educational Support Personnel: Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves, and 6:15 Instruction: School Accountability.

The Board took action to accept the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 FY16 proposed budget as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Briana Heckler, Full-Time Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School, effective July 20, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Courtney Feil, Full-Time Special Education Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective July 9, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Beth Shanahan, Full-Time Pre-K Teacher at Grand Prairie Elementary School, effective June 24, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Julie Simpson, Full-Time Fourth Grade Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective June 24, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Debbie Jankowski, Executive Secretary/Clerical Supervisor/Board Recording Secretary at District Office, effective August 14, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jason Smit, Full-Time Technology Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective July 30, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jennifer Rayola, Full-Time Spanish/ELL Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective August 3, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Laura Falaschetti, Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective August 4, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kim Taylor, Full-Time Secretary at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective July 30, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Lamika Obichere, Full-Time Paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective August 6, 2015.

The Board accepted the resignation of Deanna Santoro, Full-Time Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective August 12, 2015.

The Board approved the employment of Matthew Swies as Assistant Principal at Hickory Creek Middle School at an annual salary of \$68,000 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 Brittney Oswald as a Full-Time Pre-K Teacher (MA + 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 employment of Amy Venable as a One-Year, Full-Time Fourth Grade Teacher (MA + 0, Step 8) 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 Yvonne Winkler as a Full-Time Library Aide at an hourly rate of \$12.65, 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 employment of Julie Dorencz as a Full-Time School Psychologist (MA + 32 / Step 2) 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 employment of Megan Sutter as a Full-Time Fourth Grade Teacher (MA + 0, Step 8) 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 Cari Ann Mills as a Full-Time Grade Six Science/ELA Teacher (MA + 45, Step 8) 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 Johanna Bartolomeo as a One-Year, Full-Time Spanish/ESL Teacher (MA + 0, Step 8) 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 Joanne Lynne as a Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher (MA + 9, Step 8) 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 employment of Jenny Griffin as a Full-Time ELL Teacher (BA + 24, Step 8) at Grand Prairie Elementary School and 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 Bridgett Flynn as a Full-Time Special Education Teacher (BA + 0, Step 3) 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 Beth Svoboda as a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the qualifying substitute pay rate 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 long-term substitute position will begin August 24, 2015 and tentatively end November 6, 2015 or upon the return of the teacher from leave.

The Board approved the increase in FTE for Sean Connolly, Physical Education Teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, from .67 to .83 to cover an additional class period for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board approved the promotion of Char Ruhbeck to the position of Executive Secretary/Clerical Supervisor/Board Recording Secretary at an annual salary of \$50,000 effective August 13, 2015.

The Board approved the employment of Kelly Bridges as a One-Year, Full-Time Fourth Grade 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 Lynn Samalea as a Long-Term Substitute Technology Teacher at the qualifying substitute pay rate 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 long-term substitute position will begin August 19, 2015 and tentatively end January 12, 2016.

The Board approved the employment of Jennifer Mosterd as a Full-Time Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School at an hourly rate of \$11.45 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 Kristine Beecham as a Full-Time Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School at an hourly rate of \$12.30 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 Sarah (Kathy) Row as a Full-Time Nurse's Aide/Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$19.00 for the a.m. assignment and \$12.85 for the p.m. assignment 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 Coleen Maines as a Full-Time Secretary at Hickory Creek Middle School at an hourly rate of \$15.50 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 took action to acknowledge that the closed session minutes were reviewed and that no closed session minutes be released for the public record.

The Board took action to approve the destruction of audio recording of closed meetings from August 2013 until February 2014 due to the fact 18 months have passed since being made and the written minutes of the closed sessions have been approved by the Board of Education.

The Board took action to adopt the resolution certifying existing hazardous routes for pupil transportation and authorizing the President and Secretary to sign same.

The Board took action to approve the intergovernmental agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding between Mokena School District 159 and Frankfort School District 157-C to provide access to a District 157-C student into Mokena District 159's SS II program.

The Board took action to approve the voluntary updating of MAI appraisals to determine the fair market value of an improved acre of land in unincorporated Will County located within the boundaries of District 157-C for the Will County Land Use Department.

The Board went into closed session at 8:40 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 9:09 p.m.

Following closed session, the Board approved the payment of the full TRS/THIS contribution for the Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's contract for the 2014-2015 contract year and the 2015-2016 contract year.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on September 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort, Illinois.