

September 17, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C September 16, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of September 16 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:06 p.m. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2015 and the special meeting of August 27, 2015.

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

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Will Seidelmann reported that the girls' softball and boys' baseball teams will be going to the regional semi-finals. He reported that the students are going beyond their academics in sports, drama club, student council, choir and band with a great start to the new school year. He reported that a committee is being developed to look more closely at the school schedule for possible improvement. He also reported that administrators have been going over student data and are focused on getting into the classroom as much as possible to support the teachers.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Sharon Paver-Nepote reported that the school is starting a Chelsea AM Fitness Club. She reported that Chelsea has been notified that it ranks fifth in the country for funds raised to support the "Jump Rope For Heart" program last year, raising over \$62,000 for the cause. Dr. Paver-Nepote reported that for the first time Chelsea has instituted four new committees, the literacy, math, sunshine and character committees. She also reported that the school is working to streamline the Response to Intervention (RTI) program, with the Principal and Assistant Principal meeting with teams to identify students who need extra help.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that a new fitness program started this week, with some 200 students running. The new Running Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:50 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. She reported that the writing committee is working on a program where students will write stories and act them out. She also reported that teachers have been working on staff development with Teacher Leader Barb Shanahan to make graphs showing strong fluency over the past two years.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that the second screening for preschool will be held next week and that future screenings will have Principals and the Director participating to free up more time for the teachers to stay in the classrooms. Ms. Bajda also reported that a recent training for the Special Education staff to write Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) went well and was also attended by many of the principals.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that the first two Teacher Institute Days and School Improvement Day were very successful. Teacher Leaders presented to all staff to provide an overview of how they will support teachers throughout the school year and teachers were provided an opportunity to give feedback. Mrs. McClarence reported that Terra Nova testing will be done at the end of the month. Terra Nova is used to identify students and guide instruction in reading and math.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the technology team spent last week looking at the District's parent notification system. He hopes to streamline the process to get school information out to parents in a timely manner while not over using this notification system. Mr. Nelson reported that he is looking into the district's emergency communication plan and will bring more information to the next Board meeting. He also reported that the new online calendar is going over well with District families.

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 meeting of August 25, 2015 and the Advisory Committee meeting of August 11, 2015.

Board President Gina Briese invited Mike Turner to stand before the Board of Education and administered the Oath of Office to him to fill the Board vacancy of Cari Mills. He will serve through the remainder of Mrs. Mills' term which expires in spring of 2017. Mr. Turner previously served on the Board from 2011-2015.

According to Board Policy, officers of the Board will be elected by the members and serve two-year terms. Board President Gina Briese entertained nominations for the Board Vice President to serve remainder of the term previously held by Cari Ann Mills. Board Secretary Edie Adamski nominated Board member Dr. Brian Sasso as Board Vice President and he was elected unanimously by the Board.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board on staffing and enrollment. She reported that the District started the new school year with 2,500 students, up nine students from last year. This included 230 kindergarten students, up 16 students from last year. She confirmed that Dr. Jim Burgett will be

facilitating a Board training on October 21, 2015 that will begin at 5:00 pm. This will be posted as a special meeting of the Board and will be held in open session. Dr. Zinni provided an update as a follow-up to the Board discussion last June to add an orchestra program in the District. Dr. Zinni is seeking input from principals and teachers to add to the parent feedback that was gathered last May. Principals will be providing feedback at the September 17 Full Leadership Meeting and teachers will be surveyed the last week in September, with Dr. Zinni providing a report to the Board on the possible orchestra program at its October 21 Board meeting. Dr. Zinni updated the Board with information on the Joint Annual Conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO and the NSBA Annual Conference April 9-16, 2016 to be held in Boston. District 157-C rotates through Board members to give each an opportunity to attend this conference once during his/her four-year term. Dr. Zinni also reported that District 157-C won two awards from the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA.) Public Relations Coordinator Nancy Neuzil will be recognized for her creation of the District's quarterly newsletter and Board of Education brochure at INSPRA's annual Communications Contest Awards Luncheon on September 18.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. The District paid out about \$1.94M in expenses during August and that is right at the low end of our normal expected monthly range for the year of \$2.0M-\$2.25M. The District collected about \$1.4M in revenues for the month with most of the receipts coming from property tax collections (just under \$1.04M). Board Bills of \$2,112,770.48 for August were presented at the September 16th Board meeting.

There were four Freedom of Information requests.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the Articles of Agreement between the member districts of District 843 Special Education Cooperative which have been amended to share governing powers between the current governing board and a new executive board. In the amended Articles of Agreement, the executive board, made up of the Superintendent and one other administrator, either the Director of Special Education or the Business Manager, from each of the member districts, will meet monthly and will handle month-to-month governance duties. The governing board, made up of one board member from each of the member districts, will meet quarterly to approve the budget and appoint/evaluate the director of the cooperative. Each member's Board will be updated monthly on discussions and actions taken by the executive board. The By-Laws have been updated to mirror the Articles of Agreement. During the discussion, Board members expressed concern with the proposed governance structure. They ask to review other models where there is a balance of duties and powers between the governing board and the executive board. The District 843 Board representative will bring this request to the governing board.

In discussion, the Board reviewed information on a possible change in Transportation Policy 4.110. The Lincoln-Way Special Recreation Association now offers after-school care at its recently-built activity center. The new activity center location is located in New Lenox near Laraway and Schoolhouse Roads. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of amending District 157-C's transportation policy to allow district students to be transported to this governmental agency's day-care program, which just barely is out of the District 157-C transportation boundary.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the District 157-C Residency Policy and Procedures.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board took action to reject the Special Education District 843 Articles of Agreement.

The Board approved the employment of Adriana Flores as a Part-Time Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary 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 Maureen O'Brien as a Part-Time Title One Interventionist Aide at Chelsea Intermediate School at an hourly rate of \$13.50 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 approved the employment of Julie Tencza as a Long Term Third Grade substitute Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School tentatively commencing on September 9th and tentatively through October 21, 2015 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 Elizabeth Calombaris as a Long Term Substitute Music Teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School tentatively commencing on August 19th and tentatively through November 13, 2015 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 Alice Plechaty as a Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School tentatively commencing on September 7th and tentatively through December 4, 2015 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 Jean Burns as a 10 Month Secretary at Hickory Creek Middle School at an hourly rate of \$15.50 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 Michelle Neisler as a Full-Time Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$12.95 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 Snyder as a Part-Time Title One Interventionist Aide at Grand Prairie Elementary 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 approved the employment of Nicole Roldan as a Part-Time Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School at an hourly rate of \$11.75 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 Margaret Ryan as a Full-Time Head Bookkeeper at an hourly rate of \$21.64 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 Joshua Napier as a Stipend Wrestling Coach at Hickory Creek Middle School tentatively commencing on November 30th and will tentatively end on March 12, 2016 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 Laurie Ford as a Full-Time Paraprofessional at Hickory Creek Middle School at an hourly rate of \$12.95 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 One-Year, Full-Time Special Education Teacher (BA + 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 took action to recognize public gifts in compliance with policy 8.080 Community Relations – Public Gifts to District. The Board graciously acknowledged the acceptance of the following gift(s)/contribution(s) presented to Frankfort School District 157-C within the period September 2014 through June 2015: Frankfort Athletic Boosters \$18,540.74, Band Boosters \$14,593.92, Chorus \$ 4,393.83, Frankfort Education Foundation \$88,367.87, Family School Partnership \$28,374.04, with Grand Total of All Donations \$154,270.40.

The Board approved the disposal of surplus items.

The Board approved the 2015-2016 Illinois State Board of Education Application for 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 file purposes as required.

The Board approved the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit report as presented.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on October 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort, Illinois.