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PRESS RELEASE

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#### District 157-C January 12 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of January 12 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present. No one signed up to speak during the Public Forum portion of the meeting.

The Board approved the open and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of December 15.

During the recognition portion of the meeting, the Board recognized Leah Pinciak, fifth grade teacher at Chelsea Intermediate School, for earning the prestigious title of National Board Certified Teacher through the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards. Superintendent Dr. Maura J. Zinni congratulated Mrs. Pinciak, stating, "I am thrilled to recognize Leah and can tell you that the process to apply for this honor and get through the levels of scrutiny is unbelievable. This honor truly demonstrates best instructional practices that deem positive outcomes. I have observed Leah's class and I am pleased to recognize her for going the extra mile. Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Kristin Simpkins and Board of Education President Christopher McFadden and Board Secretary Edie Adamski also commended Mrs. Pinciak for her accomplishment. (SEE SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE.)

The "State of the District" was presented by Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon, Director of Technology Jake Nelson, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence, and Director of Special Services Jen Bajda. The presentation measured the District's progress towards accomplishment of the District 157-C Strategic Plan in the areas of Growth, Student Outcomes, Technology, Professional Development and Financial Stability. The "State of the District" will be presented this week to the District's staff in each of the buildings and to the parent organizations. It may also be viewed in its entirety under the "District" tab on the District 157-C website, [www.fsd157c.org](http://www.fsd157c.org).

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal, Eileen Nelson, reported that she met with all interventionists to gain understanding of progress monitoring protocols and preparation for staff at inservice. She also reported that Special Education data days will take place January 27 -28 and that Special Education teachers will share progress monitoring data and discuss needs for adjustments in goals.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal, Kristin Simpkins, reported that she and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence met with technology teacher Dawn Plestina to formalize the plan to prepare the

students to take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment within the technology curriculum.

Hickory Creek Middle School Assistant Principal, April Mahy, reported that for the past couple of months the school has been looking into data to identify low functioning as well as high performing students. They are working as teams on differentiation of instruction and targeted learning strategies. She stated, "We are a high performing district and we want to make sure we stay a high performing district."

Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Janet McClarence, reported that vertical articulation is planned for the upcoming teacher institute day. This is geared to ensuring a smooth transition for all students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Dr. Zinni stated, "Vertical articulation is tough to organize because it is hard to carve out the time to give all teachers a chance to be together to see the process at work. It is exciting that we are going to be able to make this happen."

Director of Technology, Jake Nelson, reported that the District will be doing a trial run of the PARCC test this week. Administrators will spend the day logging in and taking the test to observe the process prior to the actual testing of the students in the spring.

Director of Special Services, Jennifer Bajda, reported that the eighth grade transition meetings to high school began after break. Lincoln-Way High School staff and Hickory Creek staff will meet with students and families to discuss individual needs based on the students Individualized Education Programs (IEP's.) Specific classes and supports were reviewed. She also reported that the staff is doing a nice job of working to assure that all IEP's are in compliance.

In the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Maura J. Zinni reported that recent legislation (105 ILCS 5/2-3.153) requires school districts to participate in a stakeholder climate survey. District 157-C will utilize the Illinois State Board of Education survey, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, to meet this compliance requirement. The survey provides an opportunity for teachers, students and parents to have a voice in improving their schools. From January 12 through March 13, teachers, students and parents will be asked to take a 20-minute research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment. This survey will serve as an opportunity for schools to reflect on progress since the last statewide implementation and provides a comprehensive picture of a school's organizational culture in an individualized report measuring five "essentials" critical for school success: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment and Ambitious Instruction. The feedback gathered from this survey will serve as a basis for informing the district's next strategic plan.

Assistant Superintendent, Curt Saindon, presented the Board with the treasurer's report. He reported that Board bills for January totaled \$2,136,771.76, typical for January in the \$2.0 to \$2.25 million per month range.

The Board heard a report from Board Vice President, Patrick Usher, on the Lincoln-Way Special Education District 843 governing board meeting of December 16. Board member, Cari Mills, reported on the most recent meetings of the Family School Partnership organization and the Frankfort Education Foundation.

There were two Freedom of Information items.

In discussion, Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence presented a proposal for a new "Teacher Leader" role in the District. District 157-C believes that the most important factor in improving student learning is the quality of the teacher providing the instruction in the classroom and is committed to providing training and targeted professional development to ensure its teachers have the skills to implement quality instruction. The new Teacher Leader role is intended to improve instruction and support the teaching staff at all schools. Further study of the benefits of a Teacher Leader role in the District will be completed.

In discussion, Director of Technology Jake Nelson updated the Board on the regular staggered technology upgrade schedule. Hickory Creek Middle School currently has five year old technology and its lease was up at the end of this past fiscal year. Following research of the new technology and pricing, a lease-purchase recommendation will be brought to the Board in March or April.

In discussion, Superintendent, Dr. Maura J. Zinni, provided the board with a draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar. She met with the Calendar Committee during the months of November and December to discuss their recommendations. Based on the feedback from the Board, the Calendar Committee will meet again to make a final recommendation to the Board in February.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent, Curt Saindon, provided the tentative/preliminary school fees schedule for 2015-2016. The school fees do not cover the District's costs, but rather help to offset or cover a small part of the total overall costs. The administration recommended a small increase for most fees (\$5 in most cases), no increases for some fees, and a small decrease for the Pay Bus Fee based on the district's most recent State Transportation Claim. The finalized fee schedule will be presented to the Board for approval in February.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent, Curt Saindon, presented information on the previously discussed \$500,000 abatement of the Operations & Maintenance Fund reserves to the Debt Service Fund to rebate the 2014 tax levy and requested that the Board approve the related resolution and certification.

In discussion, in keeping with the District's Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan of the projected major maintenance and repairs, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided information on one major

construction project that will need to be bid out for summer completion. Approximately a dozen or so in-ceiling unit ventilators on the south side of Chelsea Intermediate School need to be replaced as part of a project that was started last summer. It is anticipated that the work will cost in the \$300,000 to \$350,000 range. All of the unit ventilators replaced last summer, and to be replaced this summer, are over 30 years old and past the end of their expected useful life.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with additional information based upon their preliminary discussion at the December meeting regarding the consideration of transitioning custodial, grounds and maintenance services over time from an in-house function to an out-sourced function.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with a current list of old, unneeded surplus property. As required by the Illinois School Code, school districts wishing to dispose of unneeded surplus property must follow established procedures prior to their sale, donation or disposal. Mr. Saindon provided a Resolution declaring the items as surplus and unneeded for school for approval by the Board.

In discussion, Superintendent Dr. Maura J. Zinni, provided the Board with a memo outlining the 2015-2016 staffing needs for the District. Dr. Zinni pointed out that the District has seen a leveling off and slow decline in enrollment over the past three years. The 2015-2016 staffing needs are based upon current enrollment and will become more solid as the actual enrollment numbers become available.

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

The Board approved the Abatement Resolution transferring funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the School Bond and Interest Fund for the payment of principal and interest on the Capital Appreciation General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2004C, and abating taxes heretofore levied for the year 2014 to pay debt service on said bonds. Additionally, the Board directed the Administration to file said Resolution and associated Certifications with the Will County Clerk and Cook County Clerk by the end of February, as required by law.

The Board acknowledged that that the July 2014 through December 2014 closed session minutes were reviewed and that no closed session minutes be released for public record.

The Board approved the destruction of audio recording of closed meetings from February 2013 until July 2013 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 authorized the Superintendent and his/her designee to begin preparing a tentative budget for fiscal year 2016.

The Board authorized the distribution of the seniority lists per the requirements of the Illinois School Code.

The Board approved the rollover of technology at Hickory Creek Middle School by completing the process of determining the technology needed, obtaining price quotes from various qualified technology providers and reviewing lease-financing proposals from various reputable technology lease providers. With Board approval the administration will begin this process and bring a purchasing and leasing recommendation to the Board in March or April for their consideration and approval, with the technology to be ordered in April or May, delivered in early June, and installed over the summer.

The Board approved the resolution declaring items as surplus and unneeded for school district purposes. The Board also directed the Assistant Superintendent/District Office to dispose of any surplus items from time to time, in accordance with established State statutes and Illinois School Code provisions.

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.

After Closed Session, the Board took action to increase the hours of Meghan Arnold, part-time physical therapist, due to an increase in students requiring physical therapy, a minimum of 2.5 hours per week at her current hourly pay rate through the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Prairie Board Room.