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PRESS RELEASE

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District 157-C February 9 Board of Education Meeting Recap

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of February 9 was called to order by Board member Gina Briese at 7:01 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 January 12.

Board correspondence included a thank you note for the floral remembrance in memory of Erich Spengler from the Spengler Family.

During the "Recognition" portion of the meeting, the Board recognized the Hickory Creek Middle School students who competed at the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Speech Contest on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at Manteno Middle School. The following students were Judge's Choice Winners in the following categories: Regular Duet Acting: Anmarie D'Ortenzio, Sarah Johnson, Lauren Dauber, Anna Jungels, Sara Glass, Ashley Mills, Claire Moutvic, Katie Sunderland, John McMahon and Alec O'Connor; Small Group Acting: Cali Burns, Evan Rafol, and Alyssa Vegter; and Solo Acting: Lauren Dauber. Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Kevin Suchinski complimented the students and their teachers Renee' Grady, Sue Niendorf and Pam Swierczewski. After the students were presented with certificates of achievement from the Board, student Lauren Dauber performed for the Board and audience.

Grand Prairie Elementary Principal Eileen Nelson reported that the Character Counts committee has created a Grand Prairie Golden Pillar award. Students are nominated weekly by a staff member for demonstrating overall good character. A week's stay of the golden pillar trophy in a classroom is earned through a random drawing by one girl and one boy in each community. Students receive daily certificates and visit the office for a sticker showing, "You made a difference today!"

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal, Kristin Simpkins, reported that Assistant Principal Doriane Woods has worked closely with Director of Technology Jake Nelson and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence to begin training the proctors who will be in place for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing. Their work has provided the team with a highly organized approach to the first administration of this new test. In addition, the students are all working through an explicit curriculum in technology that includes a series of specific skills the students will need in order to navigate the PARCC test, and an assessment of each child that reflects their ability to demonstrate each skill.

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal, Dr. Kevin Suchinski, reported that the school held the Second Quarter Student Celebration Assembly on Friday, January 23. This assembly was coordinated by the student body to highlight the success of the Second Quarter and the students who earned their stripes in the areas of Academics, Responsibility, Character, Participation and School Spirit. Dr. Suchinski also reported that the school's new wrestling program has been a great success, with 25 students participating.

Director of Special Services, Jennifer Bajda, reported that the pre-school staff will begin using an online progress monitoring tool to assess student functioning levels and growth. This new technology tool is in response to the teachers' desire to improve how they are monitoring students and also due to identified areas of improvement

during the pre-school monitoring visit this past November. Thirty-eight areas will be assessed: Social, Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies, The Arts, and English Language Acquisition. The pre-school staff has committed to develop ways to monitor half of these areas consistently by the end of the 2014-2015 school year and the remaining areas added for the 2015-2016 school year.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Janet McClarence, reported that she met with the Assistant Principals to determine a plan of action to roll out the PARCC guidelines and assessment information to entire staff in time for March testing dates. Assistant Principals are test coordinators, and are responsible for testing in each of their buildings, just as they are for the ISAT testing. Mrs. McClarence reported that the Assistant Principals have done a great job creating testing schedules, securing locations, times and proctors to help administer the new assessment. On January 29, the District conducted a PARCC Infrastructure Trial and Training session. At a February 10 training session, another set of proctors will be trained. The goal is to have enough staff members trained as proctors to have small group training at the February 27 Institute Day when all of the classroom teachers will be trained.

Director of Technology, Jake Nelson, reported that he reviewed each of the Federal technology subsidy program E-Rate proposals for wireless infrastructure and cell phone service that were submitted in response to the District's posting of its 470 form. Based on the review, the Technology Department will be recommending the installation of a Cisco Centralized Controller System and begin installation at one school (Hickory Creek) this summer if awarded funding. The following summer, when the District will not be deploying new computers at any of the buildings, the Technology Team would then recommend installing wireless at Chelsea and Grand Prairie, also contingent on funding received.

Superintendent, Dr. Maura J. Zinni, recognized the District's maintenance, grounds and custodial crews. She stated, "I want to extend my appreciation to Director of Building & Grounds Dan Spacek and our tireless maintenance, grounds and custodial team. These gentlemen have responded to the inclement weather conditions over these past few weeks in a timely, professional and positive manner. They live by the motto: Service with a smile." She also complimented Mayor Jim Holland and the Village of Frankfort for its efforts in clearing the roads. Dr. Zinni reported that District 157-C was recently notified that it has been awarded an FY2015 School District Library Program Grant in the amount of \$1,797.75, which was based on FY2014 district housing count of 2,397 students who receive library services. The School District Library Program Grant provides supplementary support for school districts' library media program which enhances student learning and academics. She also reported that a special board reorganization meeting will need to be held after the canvass of the votes on April 28 and prior to the State's deadline of May 5. At this meeting the outgoing board members are recognized for their service to the district and community; the new board members are seated and take the

oath of office; election of officers; and establishing the upcoming year's meeting schedule. The date of May 4 was determined by the Board as the date for District 157-C's special board reorganization meeting. Dr. Zinni also reported that the District's Family School Partnership (FSP) organization will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" night on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Hickory Creek Middle School. All District 157-C Board of Education candidates will be invited to attend to discuss their qualifications and answer questions from those in attendance.

Assistant Superintendent, Curt Saindon, reported that the District paid out about \$2.97M in expenses during January which is in the normal/expected range for January. Most of the spending occurred in the Education Fund (\$2.42M) and related to payments for salaries and benefits along with other typical school year operating costs.

The Board heard a report from Board member Cari Mills regarding the most recent Education Foundation and Family School Partnership organization meetings. There were no reports on the most recent Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meeting, District 843 Advisory Committee meeting or the Frankfort Township Planning Commission meeting.

There were no Freedom of Information items.

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence on the administrative team's review of the District's current Everest/Gifted program. This included a study of the current research on gifted education, an Everest parent survey, principal feedback regarding the educational needs currently trending in the district and interviews with the current gifted teacher. The review of the District's current Everest/Gifted program resulted in a number of recommended updates to the program to meet the needs of the District's highest achievers. The recommendation presented by Mrs. McClarence would allow for more students to be serviced on a daily basis rather than a weekly basis, without adding any additional staff. The program would include Honors level English language arts programming for grades 3-8 and math enrichment for fourth and fifth graders. This math pull-out program would promote a smooth transition into the middle school Honors math program. The Board gave direction to the Administrative Team to move forward with the changes to the Everest/Gifted program and further information will be brought to the Board next month.

In discussion, Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni presented further information regarding the District's implementation of a teacher leader program that was provided to the Board at last month's meeting. Last month, she shared the research in support of teacher leaders, what that role would look like, and the proposed staffing needs to implement such a program in the district. The teacher leader role is intended to improve instruction and support the teaching staff at all schools. Dr. Zinni reported that this coming year, the District is in the position to reduce four full-time teachers due to declining caseloads of students receiving interventions. Through attrition and/or reassignment to classroom teaching positions, she proposed that the district hire four teacher leaders. This repurposing of positions would not increase the overall budget for salaries and benefits. The Board gave approval to keep moving forward on this proposal. The Administrative Team will gather input from the teachers and principals and provide additional information to the Board at the March meeting.

In discussion, the Board was provided with the District 157-C 2015-2016 Parent/Student Handbook as reviewed and revised by a committee comprised of administrators, teachers and parents. The committee reviewed and recommended changes in order to more clearly define specific areas that required adherence to current policy concerning discipline and those mandated by the State. After review by the Board, the handbook will be placed on the March agenda for approval.

In discussion, Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported on the Federal technology subsidy program, E-Rate, that provides connectivity and technology funding for schools and libraries, as administered by the Schools and Libraries Corporation (the SLC) of the Federal Communications Commission (the FCC.) The District must re-certify compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as part of this process. E-Rate rules require that the District periodically certify ongoing compliance with CIPA. This action item is brought to the Board annually in February to ensure ongoing compliance with Federal and State requirements. The approval of the action item states that District 157-C continues to purchase, install and maintain software licenses to use current and updated internet filtering software, and that it will take any steps necessary to protect its students from access to inappropriate and unwanted web sites, images or other information available on the world wide web.

In discussion, Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that with the Federal technology subsidy program, E-Rate, in the past District 157-C has qualified for a 40 percent discount on eligible Tier 1 services based on its low income count, but has not qualified for Tier 2 services for hardware and infrastructure projects. New changes to the program will phase out some coverage for Tier 1 service, but increase eligibility for Tier 2 services. Based on initial estimates, Mr. Nelson said he believes the District will receive about \$50,000 per school to assist with the installation of wireless internet access to be spent over a five year period, if needed. Board approval is necessary of the selected communications carriers.

In discussion, the Board reviewed the revised draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar. The Calendar Committee met after the January 12, 2015 Board of Education meeting to review the number of School Improvement Days (SIP) that were included in the first draft. This revised draft contains four SIP days, which is one less than was presented at the January 12, 2015 Board of Education meeting.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon updated the Board on the recommendation for hiring of summer help. For the summer of 2015 he is proposing 4 (FTE) custodial/maintenance/grounds, 2 (FTE) technology summer workers and 1 (FTE) clerical (this is a reduction of 2 FTE from last summer.)

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon updated the Board on the District's initial revenue projections for the 2015-2016 school year. As more information becomes available this spring regarding revenues, especially State revenues, Mr. Saindon will share it with the Board as the District formalizes and finalizes the tentative budget and prepares for its presentation in June.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided information on replacement of sixteen in-ceiling unit ventilators authorized by the Board in January. The unit ventilators are located at Chelsea Intermediate School and are over 30 years old and past the end of their expected useful life. Mr. Saindon reported that bids for the work came in lower than expected and that the work could be done this summer.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon reported on the current milk contract through Krystal Dairy of Homewood, Illinois. He stated that they have provided excellent service over the years and offered the best pricing at renewal. He recommended that the District enter into a one year contract (for the 2015-2016 school year), with the option of exercising four one-year contract extensions based on the annual renewal terms and pricing offered by Krystal Dairy.

In discussion, the Board held the first reading of the following Board policies: 2:140 School Board - Communications To and From the Board, 4:45 Operational Services - Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery, 4:110 Operational Services – Transportation, 4:120 Operational Services - Food Services, 4:150 Operational Services - Facility Management and Building Programs, 5:10 General Personnel - Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment, 5:185 General Personnel - Family and Medical Leave, 5:220 Professional Personnel - Substitute Teachers, 5:250 Professional Personnel - Leaves of Absence, 6:280 Instruction - Grading and Promotion, 6:340 Instruction - Student Testing and Assessment Program, 7:50 Students - School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, 7:100 Students - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students, and 7:270 Students - Administering Medicines to Students.

The Board waived the second reading of the above Board policies and approved them with a change in the wording of 4:150 Operational Services - Facility Management and Building Programs.

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

The Board accepted the resignation of Tony Esparza, Full-Time Maintenance, effective January 23 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Joanne Lynn, Title I Paraprofessional at Grand Prairie Elementary School, effective January 30 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Rebecca Trsar, Full-Time Gifted Teacher, effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year as presented.

The Board took action to approve the School Calendar for 2015-2016 as presented.

The Board authorized the administration to fill one full-time equivalent (FTE) position for clerical summer help for the summer of 2015.

The Board authorized the administration to fill two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for technology summer help for the summer of 2015.

The Board authorized the administration to fill four full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for custodial/maintenance/grounds summer help for the summer of 2015.

The Board approved AT&T as the District's local and long distance phone service provider, Verizon as its cell phone service provider, Comcast as its wide area network service provider, the Illinois Century Network as its Internet service provider, and Sentinel Technologies as its wireless internet installing contractor, based on the results of the E-Rate review process. The Board authorized the administration to file the appropriate E-Rate forms and execute the necessary service provider contracts and documentation, with assistance from its independent E-Rate consultant, TeleSolutions, as needed.

The Board took action to certify ongoing compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as required by Federal E-Rate regulations. Furthermore, it is stated that the school district actively maintains current internet filtering software licenses, updates lists of restricted sites, and does actively engage in review and management of computer activity in its schools to help ensure that inappropriate web sites, images or content are not accessible by its students from school district computers. These actions are required by CIPA and are being undertaken to not only comply with Federal and State requirements and regulations, as applicable, but also to protect District 157-C students from the damaging effects related to accessing inappropriate web sites, images or content.

The Board authorized the administration to award the bid for the replacement of sixteen ceiling mounted unit ventilators at Chelsea Intermediate School to Oak Brook Mechanical at a cost of \$203,000. This work will be completed over the summer of 2015 and paid for out of Operations & Maintenance Funds Reserves. Additionally, the Board authorized the administration to continue using International Contractors for construction management and FGM Architects as architects and engineers on this project, as needed, at nominal rates currently in place for such work. Finally, the Board authorized and allowed the Administration to process any reasonable and needed change order requests related to this project up to \$25,000, to ensure the efficient and timely completion of said work during the summer of 2015.

The Board approved the fee schedule for the 2015-2016 school year, and directed the administration to disseminate the fee schedule as part of the online registration process this spring. Additionally, as updated pricing for Student Accident Insurance becomes available the Board directed the District Office to disseminate that information to all parents, as needed.

The Board approved the extension of the milk contract with Krystal Dairy of Homewood, IL for FY 2015-2016 at the same terms and conditions as are currently in place, with the lowest calculated cost per pint of milk to include a 1.23 cent per pint markup from monthly CMPC Dairy Reports. Per the bid specifications, the Board reserves the right to extend this contract for an additional 1-year period (with mutual consent), in 2016-2017, on a year-to-year basis, at the discretion of the Board.

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.

Following Closed Session, the Board took action to approve the administrator compensation as presented.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:53 p.m.

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