

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 115
February 8, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District #115, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Monday, February 8, 2016 and called to order at 6:30 p.m. at West Campus in the Boardroom.

On Roll Call the following Members were found to be present:

John Powers, Vice President
Diana Kreiling, Member
Ted Moorman, Secretary
Lise Eliot, Member
Sally Davis, Member
David Lane, Member

Absent: Reese Marcusson, President

Administration Present:

Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations/CSBO
Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent Business Services K-12/CSBO
Lori Wilcox, Assistant Superintendent of Growth, Talent, and Human Relations
Barry Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology & Assessment K-12
Chala Holland, Principal

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President John Powers reported that Mr. Marcusson was absent and opened the Regular Meeting of the District 115 Board of Education at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Powers said he has received emails from citizens over the past couple of weeks regarding finances, budgets, plans for spending and related cycles. He commended them for reaching out to make their questions and concerns known, as the Board is constantly trying to keep the community informed of what they're doing. Our finances are very cyclical at times and often times mundane, but there are a few things that have popped up recently that make them noteworthy. People are concerned as they see and read about Chicago Public Schools and their funding related issues and are concerned about what we do here. We are fortunate to be in a position where we don't have some of the challenges that the Chicago Public School system has, but nonetheless, it is the job of Board members to try to be as diligent as possible in terms of keeping people informed. One of the Board's objectives is to constantly focus on all of our students. Thanks to the Board members who preceded many of the members currently at the table, and the staff that diligently manages finances on a regular basis, we are in good shape. It is imperative that people in the community who have questions get answers. We have received over 40 FOIA requests over the past 2(two) years for information.

There are multiple ways of obtaining information from the district. Mr. Powers noted that you do not have to make a formal FOIA application to obtain information. You can make a phone call, meet with district finance people, call the Superintendent or talk to a Board Member. If you feel that submitting a FOIA request is the best way to answer your questions, please continue, keeping in mind that often times you get data that contains a lot of information that could require additional explanation. For instance, he noted that those who FOIA the Budget will get the state-mandated budget format which is cumbersome, difficult to navigate and has abundant nuances that might require further clarification. There is no effort to hide anything, it is simply the state's format.

The Board's goal and objective is to make sure they are getting noteworthy, fact-based information to people because they have no secrets. Trust is an important part of this. It is important that if you feel as though you are not getting the full story you look for alternative ways to get those answers through one of the methods above.

The Board tries to spend for generational reasons, such as the investment in the Leading Edge Initiative that put a Chromebook in the hands of every student. It was a very conscious investment that is an important way to best prepare our students by ensuring they have the best tech available. The Chromebooks have already changed how students do homework, interact in class and how teachers teach.

The proposed new welcome center is largely anchored to safety concerns. It is an expensive project and it is important that people are aware of what we are doing and why we are doing it in order to see whether or not it is the best use of those funds. Mr. Powers stated that those are fair game questions and invited people to keep them coming.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Simeck asked Dr. Holland to update the Board on activities at the high school. Jake Durburg, Student Council President and Senior Class President, Nicollete Stern reported that students held a door decorating contest in December and celebrated the break with a Holiday Spirit Week that included special activities each day. In January, *The Calm Before the Final Storm*, an event that included, free food, gear, a DJ and the Turnabout Dance was an opportunity for students and staff to celebrate the end of 1st semester and enjoy each other's company before finals. Jake reported that the new finals format with shorter finals benefited many students. Proceeds from the Homecoming Dance and Turnabout will be used to benefit a school in Flint, Michigan because of their water crisis. Student Council is working with the North Chicago Principal to arrange a backpack giveaway for North Chicago students. The bag will be filled with school supplies for the beginning of the school year. E Day will include fifty diverse sessions including dance, dueling pianos, a bouncy house in the commons, food and music.

Dr. Holland reported that based on feedback from students and staff on second semester finals last year, some minor changes will be made for first semester finals. Student feedback will be solicited again after finals. E Day, is an attendance day for students and is part of the social emotional initiative at the high school. We are focused on maintaining academic excellence while providing balance for students to explore other aspects of who they are. Dr. Holland thanked the APT for collaborating to make these types of experiences possible. Registration is underway for next year and students are in the process of selecting courses. Summer School registration will open this month. Summer School bridge courses will be offered to support students who need to further develop or refine a prerequisite skill for success in a class in the fall. Our Counseling Department is sponsoring a free application for student aid (FAFSA) workshop for seniors and their parents on February 11.

Mr. Simeck reported that a bill known as SB1, is the first bill of this year's current legislative session. SB1 is a reprise of last year's SB16 that related to school funding. For Lake Forest, this is a "Robin Hood Bill" which would take from some and give to others. While SB1 is a shell of a bill at this time, it is yet to be made clear what will fill that shell. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), the successor to the No Child Left Behind Act, has been approved by Congress and Senate and the President has signed it. The next phase is for the rules to be written by the Administration. Our participation with the National School Board Association is important because they inform lawmakers about those rules. Mr. Simeck discussed the ongoing conversation in the community related to college applications and how students are doing in their college searches. He noted that "average" in Lake Forest is disproportionately high. A score of 28 represents the top ten percent of students in the nation. Our students report that they have been very well prepared for college. Liberal Arts colleges are eagerly recruiting students to their institutions. State Honors colleges offer capped class sizes, special living arrangements, and turns a large university into a small school experience.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Mr. Powers asked Mrs. Kreiling to update the Board on Communications efforts. Mrs. Kreiling reported that she and Ms. Davis have been meeting with Anne Whipple to look at different ways to listen to the community and stakeholders and to communicate back to them about what the Board is accomplishing, what they are evaluating and what they are planning for the future. During the first step, community listening, they attended parent group meetings to hear about the community's concerns. They will continue to attend other community forums. A Board of Education report with highlights of District 115 and 67 events was published in the recent *Insights* newsletter. They are also analyzing communication strategies, such as the degree of stakeholder engagement chart. They will also be looking at best practice communication strategies the Board can implement and will continue to work on a formal communication plan they hope to present to the Board later this spring.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Dr. Eliot reported that the Education Committee met February 3rd and welcomed new community member Jeff Giannelli. Mr. Giannelli is a Lake Forest resident, parent and business owner. Mr. Rodgers spoke about assessments and the fact that the state is moving away from ACT and has decided to adopt SAT as the new statewide assessment. The plan is to offer SAT Prep courses next year to replace ACT Prep offered this year. Mr. Simeck presented more background about the ECRA contract on the agenda. If approved, ECRA will allow the District to use this copious assessment data to better track and advise students about academic achievement, monitor social emotional measures and should help get better measures of student growth in order to meet some of the teacher evaluation goals. The committee will meet again in April.

Finance/Operations Committee

Mr. Powers reported that the Committee met on January 11th. He commented that SB1 has been in the news recently. The finance staff has been keeping a close eye on the bill and what it may or may not do. One of the key elements is to take special education funding from wealthier districts to redistribute to other districts that are struggling. When you lose financial control of your district you can't properly represent all the students. The district gets about \$116,000 in funding. We are aware of what is going on and while we would not like to lose that funding, we are able to address it, should it happen. The agreement with Auditor Miller Cooper has been extended. Ms. Hermes updated the Committee on the comprehensive food service review. Mr. Albus gave an overview of the 5-year financial projections. Some community emails have asked when the spending is going to stop and Mr. Powers responded that he understands their concern but we are trying to invest dollars we already have and it doesn't affect the tax levy. Moving forward on projects such as the welcome center projects is not going to affect the tax rate. When and if the Board decides that it is an appropriate use of those dollars we hope to get feedback from the community.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Moorman reported that NSSD met on January 20. They reviewed the financial audit. It was a clean audit with only one major change which was the adoption of GASB 68 that requires a new standard for pension liability disclosures. Enrollment is down slightly from last year but is rising as we move toward the end of the year. New NSSD Superintendent, Dr. Kurt Schneider, will start on July 1, 2016. He is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Learning in District 181 in Hinsdale and serves as Adjunct Professor at the University of Wisconsin Madison where he teaches courses in education leadership and policy analysis rehabilitation in the psychology department. The next meeting is on February 17 at 7:00 pm at the NSSD campus in Highland Park.

Ms. Davis is the new liaison to ED-Red. She reported that House Speaker, Mike Madigan, announced today that beginning February 16th, the House is going to be holding a bipartisan education funding task force that will include a series of hearings throughout the spring. She noted that ED-Red is a good source for information about what is evolving in funding discussions so the Board can share that information with constituents in the community.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of ECRA Contract in the amount of \$33,000 for Fiscal year 16 and \$36,000 for Fiscal year 17.

Mr. Simeck said that the district does not have specific data on student achievement and growth trajectories. There is also an area in our Mission Vision work that is particularly challenging regarding social emotional growth. We do not have the capacity now to define and measure growth. ECRA specializes in tackling problems like these. Getting them on board immediately will help as we plan over the summer for the coming school year. They can also assist in the data work necessary to include student achievement in teacher evaluations and in this year's strategic planning work and implementation in the coming year. He recommended the Board approve the ECRA contract as presented.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Davis, seconded by Dr. Eliot that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve the ECRA Contract in the amount of \$33,000 for Fiscal year 16 and \$36,000 for Fiscal year 17 as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Kreiling, Elliott, Moorman, Lane, Davis, Powers
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Additional Late Start Dates, March 16, April 20, May 18

Dr. Holland reported that the date of the March late start was listed as TBD until we received dates and information on spring testing dates. March 16 has been chosen. The two additional dates will be used to plan for the new school day next year and to continue to engage in department curriculum mapping processes.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Kreiling, seconded by Mr. Moorman that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve additional late start dates on March 16, April 20 and May 18 as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Davis, Moorman, Kreiling, Lane, Eliot, Powers
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of PRESS Issue 90 First Reading

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Eliot, seconded by Ms. Davis that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve PRESS Issue 90 First Reading.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Kreiling, Eliot, Moorman, Lane, Davis, Powers
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Human Resources Report

The Human Resources Report includes;

- Hiring
- Resignations
- Change of Assignment

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Eliot, seconded by Mrs. Kreiling that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Human Resources Report, as presented.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Davis, Moorman, Eliot, Lane, Kreiling, Powers
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Consent Agenda*

Mr. Powers reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

1. Approval of Disbursements, Checks Already Written and Direct Deposit Payroll and Taxes for the period January 7, 2016, to February 3, 2016, as presented and summarized below:

Education Fund	\$239,873.12
Building and Maintenance Fund	206,265.87
Debt Service Fund	-
Transportation Fund	69,888.90
Capital Projects Fund/General	6,807.96
Procurement Card Expenses	235,228.47
Insurance Premium Wire Pyts	315,659.62
Direct Deposit Payroll and Taxes	<u>1,935,136.88</u>
Total Expenditures	\$3,008,860.82

2. Acknowledgement of McMurrin Give of Art Reference Books
3. Acknowledgement of Slack Gift of Glass
4. Minutes of a Regular Meeting, January 11, 2016
5. Minutes of an Executive Session, January 11, 2016
6. Minutes of a Joint Board Workshop, January 7, 2016
7. Disposal of Audio Recordings, July 1, 2014

*Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board Member.

Dr. Eliot noted that there were two members of the public present at the January 7, 2016 Joint Board Workshop, and asked that the names of Nancy Thorner and Gary Finley be added to the minutes.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Moorman, seconded by Mr. Lane that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of Nancy Thorner and Gary Finley as guests in the minutes of the January 7, 2016, Joint Board Workshop.

Votes were taken by roll call. Votes were cast as follows:

ROLL CALL: Aye: Lane, Eliot, Kreiling, Davis, Moorman, Powers
Nay: None

Motion Carried

FOIA REQUESTS

Donnell E. Davis, Non Resident
Trey Cobb, Non Resident
Nancy Thorner, Resident
Debbie Dent, Resident
Pending FOIA: SmartProcure, Commercial

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 9, 2016	Jazz Festival – 7:00 p.m. RMA
Friday, February 12, 2016	Institute Day - No School
Monday, February 15, 2016	Presidents’ Day – No School
Wednesday, February 24, 2016	Late Start Day – 9:30 a.m.
March 3, 4, 5, 2016	Talent Show Performances 7:00 p.m. RMA
Monday, March 7, 2016	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m. LFHS West Campus Board Room

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Moorman moved, seconded by Mrs. Kreiling that the meeting be adjourned.

On voice vote, the motion carried

Mr. Powers declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Ted Moorman, Secretary	Date