

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 115  
October 14, 2014**

**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 Tuesday, October 14, 2014 and called to order at 7:00 p.m. at West Campus in the Boardroom.

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

Nicki Snoblin, Secretary  
Ted Moorman, Member  
Dave Schreiber, Vice President  
Anne Sorensen, Member  
Dick Block, President

Absent: John Powers, Member

Administration Present:

Michael Simeck, Superintendent  
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services  
Lauren Fagel, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction,  
Technology & Assessment  
Barry Rodgers, Principal  
Giovanni Benincasa, Curriculum Director

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Dick Block called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Block nominated Reese Marcusson be elected to the Board to fill the vacancy created last month by the resignation of Todd Burgener. Mr. Marcusson currently serves on the Education Committee and for many years has been the Executive Vice President and CFO of Window to the World Communications, Inc., the parent company of WTTW Public television station and WFMT radio station. He has also served on the Boards of the Lake Forest Library, Gorton Community Center and the Lake County Boys and Girls Club.

Approval of Appointment of New Board Member

**MOTION:** Mr. Block moved, seconded by Mr. Schreiber, that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the appointment of New Board Member Reese Marcusson as presented.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Aye: Moorman, Sorensen, Snoblin, Schreiber, Block

Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Block administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Marcusson. Mr. Marcusson executed the Oath of Office and joined the Board at the Board table.

Mr. Block congratulated Board Member, Dave Schreiber, on his unanimous election as Vice President at the September 30, 2014 Special Meeting. Mr. Block reported on new Board Member committee assignments. Mrs. Snoblin will continue as Chair of the Education Committee and will be joined by Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. Marcusson who formerly served as a community representative on the committee. The Board will seek a new community representative to fill the position vacated by Mr. Marcusson. Mr. Powers will chair the Finance and Operations Committee and will be joined by Mr. Moorman and Mr. Schreiber. Mr. Block and Mr. Schreiber will represent the District on the Joint Shared Services Committee with District 67. Mrs. Snoblin and Mr. Block will represent the District on the Tri-District Committee with Districts 115, 67 and 65. Mr. Moorman will chair the Policy Committee and will be joined by Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. Marcusson. There will be a few minor changes in Administrative Liaisons.

Mr. Block encouraged board members to attend the October 30 IASB Meeting. He noted that our law firm is hosting an annual School Law Seminar on October 29 where board members will receive an informative, detailed binder full of information on legal issues as well as general information on board service. The Annual Joint Conference of the Illinois of School Boards, the Illinois Superintendents' Association and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials will be held November 21 in Chicago and will offer a number of training programs on topics of interest to board members.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Simeck asked Mr. Rodgers to update the Board on high school activities. Student Council President, Luke Gibson reported that the Formal Homecoming Dance was a great success. Students raised money for Greenwood Elementary in Waukegan. Student Council Vice President, Lena Svigos reported that the sale of Homecoming t shirts resulted in a \$900 profits. Student Council will also be involved in the Student Advisory Board, a group run by Mr. Rodgers and Assistant Principal, Jim Sullivan. The student board will work on finding ways to use grant money to make improvements around the school.

Mr. Rodgers noted that the attendance at the Homecoming Dance doubled this year. There is a practice ACT for students tomorrow. Some students will take the PSAT and freshmen will participate in a variety of activities including a club fair and a presentation on how to be a good citizen in the digital world and cyber bullying. There will be an Open House in the new Innovation Incubator on November 6 at Parent Teacher Conferences from 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

Mr. Rodgers reported that teachers are using their faculty department work late start time to work on creating a visible curriculum. Conversations have centered on teaching and learning and developing strategies for making the student experience better.

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October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment is 1675 which is up 1 student from last year at this time. Enrollment is projected to remain stable for the next few years.

Interviews are underway for a new Social Studies Instructional Director.

Mr. Rodgers reported on rankings including the recent News Week Magazine ranking that rated LFHS #12 nationally and #2 in the state. This ranking is based upon college enrollment, graduation rate, AP composite and SAT composite. US News and World Report ranks LFHS as #578 nationally and #24 in the state. These results are based mainly on AP participation rate and how well students do on AP tests. The Daily Beast ranked LFHS #56 nationally and #2 in state based upon graduation rate and college acceptance rates, but a number of notable schools are missing from this report. The Sun Times looks at the scale score on PSAE or ACT and shows LFHS as #9 in state but will have to change their methodology in the future as the PSAE has been retired. The Tribune has historically used the percentage of students who meet state standards. They have not assigned a number rating this year but offer links to the State School Report Card where more information may be obtained. Chicago Magazine ranks based upon spending per pupil and the ACT Composite. LFHS is ranked #2 in Lake County. Mr. Rodgers suggested that when looking at rankings from these sources they should be considered a composite picture and then we should find areas for growth.

Mr. Simeck complimented Mr. Rodgers on his contribution to school culture and the focus on school culture. The Homecoming festivities engaged not just our kids, but the whole community as evidenced by the number of businesses who participated in window painting this year. Although these types of positive experiences don't fit into any of the ranking processes above, they are exceedingly important in the lives of our children and to our community.

Mr. Simeck read comments from the Social Studies Department honoring their Department Chair and friend, Jim Gantt, who passed away on September 16<sup>th</sup> for his numerous contributions to the high school during the past 18 years.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no Public Participation.

## **REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

Mr. Rodgers and Curriculum Director, Giovanni Benincasa reported on Leading Edge Learning. Mr. Rodgers said that Leading Edge Learning creates a dynamic, inspiring environment where technology facility and community beyond LFHS enhance the learning experience. At the beginning of the school year, laptops were put into the hands of 140 teachers and 450 freshmen students received Yoga Chromebooks. Learning spaces have been updated to include the Yoga Studio where students and teachers can go for assistance and training and the Yoga Depot where students can take their Chromebook to be repaired. The new Innovation Incubator Business Class is a business start-up class where students develop new products and new ideas and work with mentors.

Mr. Benincasa discussed the need to have timely and relevant professional resources for teachers. Resources have been brought to teachers that were not available before. The new Yoga Studio staffed by two full time educational technologists who have been trained to teach teachers. There

have been 297 documented contacts in the Yoga Studio in the first 5 weeks of school as teachers take advantage of on-going professional development opportunities and 911 assistance before and after school as well as during the school day. Staff members and students are also welcome in the Yoga Studio. Opportunities for basic Google certification training were offered and to date over 100 teachers have completed the training.

## **BOARD COMMITTEES**

### Education Committee

Mrs. Snoblin reported that the Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>. She welcomed Mr. Marcusson who will be now be serving on the Committee as a Board Member rather than a community member and announced that his former position as community member is now open.

### Finance/Operations Committee

Mr. Block reported that the Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting. The next meeting is set for October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at East Campus. Discussions of the Athletic budget, the 5-year budget and annual tentative tax levy are scheduled for the next meeting. Community members and Board members are invited to attend.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Moorman reported that NSSED met last Wednesday. There are currently 18 member districts, but Glenbrook District 125 has decided to pull out after the 2014-2015 school year and provide services in their district rather than through NSSED. Lake Forest High School's tuition fees will be going down about \$6500 this year. The NSSED Superintendent will be retiring after the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Schreiber reported that ED-RED has requested that district Board Presidents and Superintendents make sure that their voices are heard on the School Funding Reform Act by contacting State and House representatives.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Approval of 2015-2016 School Calendar

**MOTION:** Mrs. Snoblin moved, seconded by Mrs. Sorensen, that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar as presented.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Aye: Moorman, Schreiber, Sorensen, Marcusson, Snoblin, Block  
Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of PRESS Issue 85 and 86 Policy Updates 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

**MOTION:** Mr. Schreiber moved, seconded by Mr. Moorman that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education waive the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of PRESS Issue 85 and 86 Policy updates.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Aye: Schreiber, Marcusson, Moorman, Snoblin, Sorensen, Block  
Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of PRESS Issue 85 and 86 Policy Updates 2nd Reading

**MOTION:** Mrs. Snoblin moved, seconded by Mr. Schreiber that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the second reading of PRESS Issue 85 and 86 as presented.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Aye: Schreiber, Snoblin, Moorman, Marcusson, Sorensen, Block  
Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of Human Resources Report

Mr. Simeck recommended approval of the Human Resources report as presented.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Sorensen moved, seconded by Mrs. Snoblin, that the Lake Forest 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: Sorensen, Schreiber, Snoblin, Moorman, Marcusson, Block  
Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Block reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls & Financial Statements September 4, 2014 to October 8, 2014.

Education Fund	\$1,011,524.54
Building and Maintenance Fund	327,604.70
Debt Service Fund	-
Transportation Fund	81,984.01
Capital Projects Fund/General	5,960.14
Procurement Card Expenses	422,104.17

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Direct Deposit Payroll and Taxes 1,985,591.67  
Total Expenditures \$3,834,769.23

Approval of Accurate Biometric Fingerprinting Contract  
Minutes of A Regular Meeting, September 9, 2014  
Minutes of A Special Meeting, September 10, 2014  
Minutes of An Executive Session, September 10, 2014  
Minutes of a Joint Board Workshop, September 10, 2014  
Minutes of An Executive Session, September 30, 2014  
Minutes of A Special Meeting, September 30, 2014  
Minutes of A Budget Hearing, September 30, 2014  
Disposal of Audio Recordings: March 12, 2013

Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of a Board Member.

**MOTION:** Mr. Moorman moved, seconded by Mr. Schreiber, that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**ROLL CALL:** Aye: Sorensen, Snoblin, Marcusson, Schreiber, Moorman, Block  
Nay: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

**FOIA REQUESTS:**

Alex Whittler, Commercial  
Gary Finley, Resident  
Bill Trevino, Commercial

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 National Testing Day  
Wednesday, October 22, 2014 Late Start Day - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, November 6, 2014 Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Friday, November 7, 2014 No School

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** November 11, 2014 Board of Education Meeting  
7:00 pm – West Campus Board Room

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Mrs. Snoblin moved, seconded by Mr. Schreiber, that the meeting be adjourned.  
On voice vote, the motion carried

Mr. Block declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Nicki Snoblin, Secretary

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Date

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