

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

February 12, 2013

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, February 12, 2013 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, Member
Dick Block, Secretary
Todd Burgener, Member
John Scribner, Member
Monty Edson, Member
Sharon Golan, President

Absent: Jim Carey, Vice President

Administration Present:

Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Allen Albus, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Jennifer Hermes, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Dr. Julie Cooley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Jay Hoffmann, Principal
Jennifer Knight, Director of Personnel and Instruction

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Golan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She stated that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting and that no action was taken.

Mrs. Golan reported that the Board is involved in the ongoing oversight of the school's infrastructure and with the help of staff, has identified some areas at the high school that need repair or replacement. They have talked to financial advisors to find the best way and time to go forth with the projects. The Board follows a careful process in open session that balances the needs of our students and the needs of our facilities while being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars. Two years ago, the Board was approached by members of the Booster Club to partner with them in the Diamond Anniversary Campaign, a proposed joint venture project that would involve among a number of other things, the replacement of the track. Unfortunately, to proceed with that program, the Board would have had to borrow \$2.6 million to get the project started. The Board was uncomfortable borrowing that amount of money at that time. There was disappointment on both sides, but discussions between the Diamond Anniversary Board and the Board of Education were discontinued last summer. Mrs. Golan noted that the Board places great value in their continuing relationship with the Booster Club as well as with the APT, Applause, Pals and the Foundation parent groups. As discussed at the last Board meeting there are several areas of structural concern that are due to be replaced or repaired including air handlers in the pool, boilers

and chillers and the track. More discussion on infrastructure needs will continue at tonight's meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Simeck asked Mr. Hoffmann to report on school activities. Mr. Hoffmann reported that enrollment of the members of the Class of 2018 is underway. The Gymnastic Team is heading to State after winning Conference, Regional and taking second in Sectionals. Boys' swimming won Conference and are heading to Regional. Poms took second in the first IHSA Pom Tournament. They won the Nationals at the Universal Dance Academy competition. The overall winner of the Music Honors Competition was pianist, Anna Noronha. Drama students have been busy with the winter play, Arsenic and Old Lace and Theater Fest.

Mr. Simeck noted that the Talent Show will run from March 6-9.

Mr. Simeck asked Jim Sullivan, Science Department Chair to report on the recent visit by Chinese science teachers. Mr. Sullivan said that Chinese teachers visited classrooms and were extremely impressed with the high school and the Science curriculum and the Science experiment opportunities available for our students. They were also impressed with our personable, mature Mandarin students who engaged them in Mandarin conversations in the classroom as well as in the hallways during their visit.

Mr. Simeck asked Mr. Edson to update the Board on the College Bound Opportunities Program (CBO). Mr. Edson reported that CBO began 7 years ago in Highland Park and Deerfield and expanded to Lake Forest 2 years ago. The organization was founded to help students who cannot afford to go to college by providing mentors who help them navigate the college admission process. The program is open to juniors who are paired with volunteer mentors who will help them select and pay for college by applying for grants. Mentors work with the junior students for 6 years throughout their college careers. A job coach is available after graduation to aid in the job search process. There is also a small annual scholarship involved. Five LFHS juniors were welcomed to the program last Sunday.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Ave. Lake Bluff shared a portion of a letter she received in support of her efforts to bring transparency to Lake Forest and Lake Bluff taxpayers. She also commented that she has received numerous phone calls in support of her work.

Carl Lambrecht noted that volunteers are very effective in education. He said that he measures a school not by its top students, but by its poor students, wondering why they didn't get up, why they didn't grow. He said he likes the idea of using volunteers to save the taxpayers' money.

REPORTS

Mrs. Snoblin reported on her recent visit to the National School Board Association's Federal Relations Network Conference (FRN) held in Washington DC at the end of January. The

conference provides school board members from all over the country the opportunity to learn about national issues that impact their districts and to interact with other school board members. They learn about best practices and how to identify ways to help retain local control and ensure that education is not forgotten in budget debates. Mrs. Snoblin, Mr. Simeck and District 67 Board member Bill Andersen attended the 5 day conference where speakers engaged in discussions centered on federal education funding and a NSBA bill that protects local school district governance. She reported that despite many problems across the country, public education is not, as a whole, “broken” and that in international tests, the US is 5th in math and gaining, 4th in science and top in civics. While there is an achievement gap between well-to-do students and students who are in need, that has more to do with background and environment than about the schools. Charter Schools overall aren’t doing better than regular public schools. Mr. Simeck also arranged a visit to the Finnish Embassy to hear more about the Finnish educational system.

Mr. Simeck commented that the unfunded federal government mandates shift the responsibility of funding from Washington to the local community and cost Lake Forest and Lake Bluff taxpayers \$5000 per student per year. The District has spent \$4.5 million in the last 5 years on unfunded mandates. That amount does not include the most recent mandates including one to extend responsibilities in the school day. Mr. Simeck thanked the Board for allowing them to attend the conference.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Mr. Edson reported that the committee met on Wednesday, February 6th to discuss the federal common core and how it will affect the classroom, recent teacher education opportunities and experiments in the flipped classroom. They focused on the revised and updated 2013 vision, goals and objectives. He noted that the objectives were formed after discussions with District 67 and that the districts are now more in sync in terms of content and common language. The emphasis this year will be to convert the objectives into something specific, measurable and achievable. The next meeting will be held the first week in April.

Board Finance and Operations Committee

Mr. Block reported that the Committee has not met. No meeting is scheduled at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Replacement Lease for Passenger Vans

Mr. Albus reported that the leases on 3 of the 4 activity buses leased by the District to transport groups of students to after school and weekend activities are up. The replacement vehicles recommended are new 2013 Chevrolet Starcraft 14 passenger buses. The annual lease would increase by \$108 per unit.

MOTION: Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Burgener seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the replacement lease for three 14 passenger vans as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Burgener, Scribner, Edson, Snoblin, Block, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Reimbursement Resolution

Mr. Albus reported that in order to fund the large infrastructure replacements/improvements there must be an issuance of General Obligation (GO) bonds. In order to include any costs between now and the time the Board considers a funding issuance, the District must have in place a reimbursement resolution. Passing this resolution does not obligate the Board to do a funding issuance; it is a proactive step to maintain options.

MOTION: Mr. Burgener moved and Mr. Edson seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Reimbursement Resolution as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Edson, Burgener, Scribner, Snoblin, Block, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Construction Management Contract

To avoid the appearance of any inappropriate involvement, Mrs. Golan stated she will recuse herself from the discussion and the vote on this agenda item. While she has no financial relationship to any company being discussed, there is a distant familial relationship.

Mr. Albus and Mark Jolicoeur of Perkins and Will gave an overview of the track replacement project. Mr. Albus recommended approval of the Construction Management Contract with Pepper Construction Company as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Burgener moved and Mr. Edson seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Construction Management Contract as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Snoblin, Scribner, Edson, Burgener, Block,
Nay: None
Recused: Golan

Motion Carried

Approval of Auditor Renewal

Mrs. Hermes reported that the District recently concluded a one year contract with independent auditor, Miller Cooper & Company. The District has had a 5 year relationship with the company. Mrs. Hermes recommended a 3-year renewal of the contract with Miller Cooper & Company.

MOTION: Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Burgener seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Auditor Renewal as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Snoblin, Block, Scribner, Burgener, Edson, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Human Resources Report

Mrs. Knight presented the Human Resources Report noting that the hiring process has begun for next fall.

MOTION: Mrs. Snoblin moved and Mr. Block seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the personnel report as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Burgener, Snoblin, Scribner, Edson, Block, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Golan reported that the Consent Agenda includes:

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls and Financial Statement

Approval of Financial Reports:

Financial Reports: The List of Checks Written and Direct Deposit Payroll

From January 1, 2013 – February 6, 2013:

Education Fund	\$ 845,980.77
Building and Maintenance Fund	360,350.62
Debt Service Fund	--
Transportation Fund	124,014.91
Capital Projects Fund/ General	--
Procurement Card Expenses	96,870.44
Direct Deposit Payroll & Taxes	<u>1,798,509.48</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,225,726.22

Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 8, 2013

Minutes of Executive Meeting, January 8, 2013

Disposal of audio recordings: June 2011

Release of Executive Session Minutes: November 2011 through December 2012

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

MOTION: Mr. Edson moved and Mr. Scribner seconded that the Lake Forest High School District 115 Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

ROLL CALL: Aye: Edson, Block, Burgener, Scribner, Snoblin, Golan
Nay: None

Motion Carried

FOIA REQUESTS:

Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Avenue, Lake Bluff, Il 60044
Nancy Thorner, 331 E. Blodgett Avenue, Lake Bluff, Il 60044
Pat O'Brien, CL Graphics: pato@clgraphics.com

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. for a discussion on matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) No action was taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:	2/15	Tri-District Institute Day – no school
	2/18	President's Day – no school
	2/20	Late Start Day
	3/6	Late Start Day
	3/6-3/8	Talent Show

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 12, 2013 Board of Education Meeting
7:00 pm – West Campus
Board Room

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Scribner moved and Mr. Burgener seconded that the meeting be adjourned.
On voice vote, the motion carried

Mrs. Golan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Dick Block, Secretary

Date

2/12/13