

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67
December 17, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lake Forest High School West Campus in the Board Room and called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Andersen.

Board members present at roll call were:

Bill Andersen, President	Lesley Fisher, Vice President
Rick Schuler, Member	Beth Clemmensen, Member
Mike Borkowski, Member	Rob Lemke, Member
Jeff Folker, Member	

Absent:

Administration Present:

Mr. Michael Simeck, Superintendent
Ms. Jennifer Hermes
Mrs. Lauren Fagel
Dr. Lori Wilcox
Dr. Andy Henrikson

Staff Present: Eileen Faller, Board Clerk

Guests Who Signed In: Cindy Kienle, Everett Parent, Jennifer and Ed Mulloy, Cherokee parents, Jennifer Karras, Deer Path Board of Education Liaison, Kathryn Lambeth, Everett Parent, Lisa Weaver, Cherokee teacher, Denise Galatsianos, Cherokee teacher, Jason Maxwell, Cherokee parent, Desiree Witte, Cherokee parent, Doug and Joanne Lee, Cherokee parents, Florence Woo, Cherokee parent, Wiebke Droege, Cherokee parent, Allison Cekay, Executive APT President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Andersen stated that educational proposals are always under discussion by the Board of Education. At District 67 it has been the approach to study best practices, listen to educators, parents and students and use the information to innovate. Without innovation a school district can never hope to be great. Innovation attracts top people, fosters creativity, and excites teachers to inspire their students. A key part of innovation is monitoring and learning from experience. When an innovation has unforeseen consequences or creates other problems it is the district's responsibility to address such problems. The Board of Education is fully committed to providing vision and oversight on behalf of the community that elected them to serve.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Simeck announced that Dr. Dale Truding would present a report about the work of the LASIC committee, following public participation, and encouraged members of the audience to remain for the presentation. Mr. Simeck stated that a number of audience members were in attendance because of a really successful program and others because of the unintended consequences, all of whom care about the students and the quality of the school district. Mr. Simeck pointed out that immersion is a very popular program that was implemented at the urging of a large number of parents. Mr. Simeck stated that there is a commitment to look carefully at the research, discuss how to improve the program that is currently in place, and plan how to move forward. A tremendous amount of thoughtful work has been completed by the LASIC committee on how to improve the immersion program. In spring, a number of different meetings took place at Cherokee to learn from people who are passionate, in one way or another, about the program. Two commitments were made at that time, to have a PTAC (parent teacher advisory committee), and to have a committee look carefully at the complex issues surrounding the implementation of the program. The District has followed through on both of these commitments. There was a very tepid initial response to the request for participation in the LASIC committee and the invitation had to be re-issued in order to form a committee. Every single person who applied was invited to join and had an opportunity to participate in an open, honest and thoughtful conversation.

A Rockville re-visit meeting took place at the District office. A number of teachers and administrators met together to take a meaningful look at the data from their Rockville visit and how it could relate to our district.

Mr. Simeck and the Board congratulated Dr. Andy Henrikson on his new position as Superintendent of Mundelein Elementary School and stated that it was a great opportunity, for him personally, but there was also a sense of loss for our district.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cindy Kienzle, Everett School, stated that her daughter had transferred to Everett as a full day kindergartener as there was no full day program available at Cherokee and also her daughter would not have been a candidate for the Mandarin program. Mrs. Kienzle felt that the non-mandarin children would be segregated and she suggested that the Mandarin program should be offered but parents who opt in should be required to pay. Mrs. Kienzle requested information on the comparative cost of the immersion program compared to non-mandarin student program.

Jennifer Mulloy, Cherokee parent, stated that all children have different needs and they are fortunate to live in a community that can provide a variety of innovative experiences. Mrs. Mulloy stated that the program provides joy and confidence for her child and it would be devastating for all the children in the program to take away an experience that they all enjoy. Research has demonstrated that language introduction at an early age is very effective. The beauty of the Mandarin program is

that it is picture based and can assist many children with learning disabilities to be successful.

Kurt Rummel, Everett Parent, stated that he enrolled his younger children in the Mandarin program at Cherokee because he believes in the cognitive advancement of learning a second language at an early age and quoted McGill University research on the subject. Mr. Rummel fully supports the Mandarin immersion program.

Rick Florjancic, Cherokee, spoke of his daughter's experience. Initially they were against the program but they see how their daughter has gained confidence over the past few months. He sees that this is increasingly important and based on their experience he is now a huge proponent of the program. Mr. Florjancic stated that the program may not be for everyone but appreciates the choices the District offers.

Babafemi Taiwo, Cherokee School, stated that being able to speak multiple languages is a gift. Children have a huge capacity for learning. Mr. Taiwo asked the district to assess and carefully weigh the benefits of the program and if there has not been any damage done to continue with the program.

Yasmin Mekki, Everett parent, stated that her daughter is enrolled in the Mandarin program and has grown from a shy little girl to a confident young lady with something that was uniquely hers. Mrs. Mekki stated that all kids are involved in various groups at school but can still be a part of the school. Mrs. Mekki advised that parents should help their children become involved in something they love and thanked the District for the opportunity.

Nicole Korczak, Cherokee parent, stated that her daughter is enrolled in the Mandarin program. She also stated that nothing is perfect but wondered why there could not be both an excellent Mandarin and an excellent traditional program, just like an excellent band or orchestra program. The overall cost of the program is very minimal and she would have to pay taxes regardless of the program her children are involved in. Mrs. Korczak thanked the District and hoped the traditional and Mandarin programs would continue to be excellent.

Florence Woo, Everett, stated that she grew up in a Cantonese family and the opportunity to learn the Cantonese language was not available when she was younger. Her children are enrolled in the Mandarin program and she thinks the program is very valuable. Mrs. Woo stated that her children are excited and are teaching their parents to speak another language and she hopes the Board will continue with the program.

Georgia Kyriacou, Cherokee parent, stated that she has a daughter enrolled in the Mandarin program in 2nd grade and wanted to echo the sentiments of many of the other parents at the meeting and asked the Board to put out some of the facts about what is positive and what is negative including how taxpayer dollars are being used to educate the children in all programs. Mrs. Kyriacou believes that there is a strong Mandarin and a strong traditional program available in the District.

Mr. Andersen thanked the members of the public for their presentation.

REPORTS

LASIC Report

Dr. Andy Henrikson explained the purpose of the LASIC Committee was to make a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding re-shaping the world language program for District 67. Everyone on the committee was really invested, had various perspectives but worked together as a team. The District retained Dr. Dale Truding as the facilitator who brought lots of skills including a background in language acquisition and a design thinking process from Stanford in order to build a consensus and arrive at a recommendation.

Mrs. Lauren Fagel advised that the first task of the LASIC group was to establish group norms that would guide the work. Bringing in Dr. Truding, with expertise in the design thinking process, allowed the committee to put the norms into practice.

Dr. Truding stated that there was something very unique about the group of stakeholders, parents, teachers, administrators who coalesced around the mission, what the goal was, and kept the students at the center of the work. Dr. Truding commended the community for their efforts. The design thinking process is about understanding the process and gaining empathy by listening to the ideas and concerns of the committee. An initial meeting took place in August . In August/September all ideas were put on paper. There were approximately 400 ideas that were categorized to see how the ideas fit together. In September/October data was gathered based on research and best practices. Dr. Tara Fortune from the University of Minnesota, met with the group and shared information on best practices, research, studies and a great deal of information was gained from her.

On December 9, 2013, five(5) groups of parents, teachers and administrators, presented their prototypes, with evidence for each point based on all of the collected data. The prototypes will be tested.

Mrs. Fagel advised that the test phase of the design thinking began on December 9 and would continue over several weeks. The leadership team of Lauren Fagel, Dale Truding, Carol Lynne Krumes, Kelly Jackson and Andy Henrikson will present the two(2) strongest prototypes to Mr. Simeck.

Mr. Simeck will direct the instructional leadership team to vet the prototypes through five(5) different lenses, curricular and education programming, finance and staffing, community support, professional development and contractual. A significant amount of time will be spent taking the one(1) to two(2) prototypes and working them through the five(5) lenses. Mr. Simeck will then take the prototypes and share them with various stakeholder groups including the education committee, the district world language committee, parents and staff. Mr. Simeck will take the

final prototype to the Board of Education. It is anticipated that the first phase will be implemented in August 2014.

China Trip

Dr. Ingrid Wiemer, Mrs. Kelly Jackson and Mr. Tom Cardamone thanked the Board for the opportunity to share their take-aways from the China trip. They stated that they felt privileged to see a different culture, to gain global awareness, to deepen their cultural understanding, and the group realized they are more similar than different. Everyone wants what is best for students.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Board Education Committee – Lesley Fisher, Jeff Folker, Beth Clemmensen
Mrs. Fisher reported that the Education Committee met on November 19, and discussed the charge of the committee with the purpose of the committee being to vet and provide guidance to the administration on major educational initiatives and district goals. Lauren Fagel gave a review of the design thinking process. The Rockville visit was discussed and a Rockville re-visit /data dive was scheduled for December 16.

Board Finance & Operations Committee – Rick Schuler, Rob Lemke, Mike Borkowski
Mr. Schuler reported that the committee met on December 10. Susan Jones and Betsy Allen of Miller Cooper presented the FY13 Annual Financial Report. Board members on the committee also met privately with the auditors.

Discussion took place regarding the tax levy led by Mr. Andersen and Mr. Schuler. The committee looked at Capital Expenditure, educational initiatives and reviewed five(5) year projections. Lauren Fagel, Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Assessment and Dr. Lori Wilcox, Executive Director of Growth and Talent Development reported on potential new initiatives.

Board Policy Committee - Mike Borkowski, Jeff Folker

The Policy Committee had not met since the last Board meeting. A meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2014.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

North Suburban Special Education District - Mike Borkowski

Mr. Borkowski reported that a meeting had taken place on December 9, 2013. The NSSSED Auditors provided an overview of the audit results and no major compliance or financial issues were detected. The NSSSED Board had a discussion regarding the process that occurs when a member district files their intent to withdraw. The NSSSED Superintendent reported on the progress being made with the “transformation” of NSSSED following the departure of District 112. A question was raised regarding how outstanding debt was handled in the case of a member district withdrawing. Because there is no long-term debt currently this is not an issue.

Illinois Association of School Boards/ED-RED – Rob Lemke

Mr. Lemke updated the Board on the ramifications of SB1 State Pension Reform. Governor Quinn signed State Bill 1 on December 5. The bill is aimed at addressing the State's large pension deficit and is expected to save the State \$160 billion over the next 30 years.

The bill changes the value of the Teachers Retirement System for current and future teachers and administrators. As a result of the bill hiring talented teachers and administrators into the District, especially from other states, is going to become more difficult. The bill does not address the cost shift issue, it does not require districts to pay new money into the retirement system, nor does it prevent this change from happening in the future. It seems likely that a future bill will include a cost shift to further address the shortfall. SB1 is certain to be challenged in court.

Curriculum Coordinating Committee – Lesley Fisher

The Curriculum Coordinating Committee met on December 5. The committee discussed staff development in LA and Social Studies. Teachers participated in a materials review process. The top two or three programs will be field-tested and a recommendation will be taken to the Board in May or June.

With regard to the Bridges math program, Janice Heigl will shift her focus from procedure to application. Teachers shared that the change in the program is very smooth due to the program having staff ownership, strong professional development and students succeeding.

The committee was given an update on LASIC. December 9 was the last meeting and the committee will have 2 or 3 prototypes to recommend to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will then take the prototype to ILT, the Education Committee World Language teachers, staff, the Finance Committee, the Board and various stakeholders for vetting. The Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

A review of the Special Education Program will take place in January, by an outside evaluator, and the results will be shared with the Board of Education in February.

Spirit of 67 Foundation – Lesley Fisher.

The Spirit had not met. No report was presented.

APT – Lesley Fisher

No report was presented.

ACTION ITEMS:

Acceptance of 2013 Audit

Mr. Andersen advised that the Acceptance of the Audit would be postponed until January when the Auditors would be present.

MOTION: Mr. Borkowski moved, seconded by Mr. Schuler, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, table the Acceptance of the 2013 Audit.

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

Ayes: Schuler, Folker, Clemmensen, Fisher, Lemke, Borkowski, Andersen.

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of 2013 Tax Levy

Mrs. Hermes advised that the taxing bodies in Illinois must adopt and file their tax levies by the last Tuesday in December. The Board adopted a tentative levy at the November meeting and the recommendation is that the Board adopt those figures as the final 2013 Tax Levy.

MOTION: Mrs. Fisher moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, adopt the 2013 Tax Levy, as presented.

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

Ayes: Clemmensen, Lemke, Andersen, Folker, Borkowski, Schuler, Fisher.

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Mission/Vision/Goals Contract

Mr. Simeck introduced Ms. Shani Harmon of the Transformation Team who gave an overview of the Mission/Vision/Goals process and stated that the first part of the process was the exploration phase which involved interviews with 25 to 30 people including Board members, administrators, principals, teachers and staff culminating in a one day working session to see what is the best practice and the vision that is being created. There is a parallel process taking place with District 115. The second phase would involve the community.

MOTION: Mrs. Clemmensen moved, seconded by Mr. Schuler, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Mission/Vision/Goals contract.

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

Ayes: Borkowski, Lemke, Clemmensen, Andersen, Fisher, Schuler, Folker.

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Human Resources Items

Mr. Simeck recommended the approval of the Human Resources Items, as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Borkowski moved, seconded by Mr. Schuler, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Human Resources Items, as presented.

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

Ayes: Lemke, Borkowski Schuler, Clemmensen, Andersen, Fisher, Folker.

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Allied Flex Carryover

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls, and Financial Statements for November 2013

Approval of Minutes of A Regular Meeting – November 19, 2013

Approval of Minutes of An Executive Session – November 19, 2013

Disposal of audio recordings – March 20, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Schuler moved, seconded by Mrs. Fisher, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented.

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

Ayes: Lemke, Borkowski, Schuler, Clemmensen, Andersen, Fisher, Folker.

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried unanimously.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Nancy Thorner, Non-Resident

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting. No action was taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, December 23, 2013

Winter Break

Monday, January 6, 2014

School Re-opens

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
LFHS West Campus, Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Borkowski moved, seconded by Mrs. Fisher, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, adjourn the meeting.

On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Mike Borkowski, Secretary Date