

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67
BOARD WORKSHOP
April 21, 2014**

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Andersen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in Seminar B, Lake Forest High School West Campus.

PRESENT:

Bill Andersen, President

Lesley Fisher, Vice-President

ON ROLL

Jeff Folker, Member

Rob Lemke, Member

CALL VOTE

Beth Clemmensen, Member

Mike Borkowski, Member

Rick Schuler, Member

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Michael Simeck, Superintendent

Dr. Andy Henrikson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Mrs. Lauren Fagel, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Assessment

Dr. Lori Wilcox, Executive Director of Growth and Talent Development

Mrs. Kelly Jackson, Cherokee Principal

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Mrs. Clemmensen gave an overview of the Mission/Vision/Goals initiative and advised that the committee looked at the Core Values, “what we stand for,” the Mission, “why we exist,” the Vision, “where we are going” and the Goals, “priorities to get there”. The committee looked at best practices from schools across the nation and met with local and leading experts in education. Board members, administrators, principals, parents and community members met off-site, and solicited input from the community through community forums, interviews and surveys.

The two top ranked outcomes from the surveys were to have: happy, well-rounded students and creative problem solvers with the ideal day having balance, engagement, a healthy environment and to be challenging.

A discussion took place with the Board regarding the:

Mission – Inspired by caring, effective educators and an engaged community. We educate and empower all students to maximize their growth and develop a balanced sense of self, deep respect for others and steadfast resiliency.

Vision – A premier learning community that educates without boundaries – where all students cultivate their mind, experience meaningful connections and unleash their passions.

“Tagline” – Learning without Boundaries.

Milestones – What will be achieved together by 2024:
Instruction, Personalization, Assessment, Talent, Communication and Environment

“Where does the district go from here?”

The Mission, Values, Vision and Milestones will be posted on the district website and additional comments will be requested. The Board and administration will create near term milestones for each of the major areas of progress. The administration, in partnership with the faculty and staff, will create a strategic plan that describes how 1, 3 and 5-year milestones will be achieved.

The proposed Mission/Vision will be presented to the Board of Education at the April 22 meeting.

Mrs. Jackson discussed the World Language Consideration with the Board of Education. The Design of the “Inspiration Block” is:
Students placed across homerooms
90 minute blocks each day with two Inspiration Block options of Language Acquisition and Inquiry-based/STEM Inspired.

The recommendation that will be taken to the Board for the 2014-2015 Inspiration Block is:

Kindergarten Full day students have a choice of Language Acquisition or Inquiry/STEM – and make a choice at the end of Kindergarten for future experience. First and Second Grades continue with current Partner Model. Students in the traditional program receive Inspiration Block once a week. Third and Fourth Grades have two Inspiration Blocks, Language Acquisition or Inquiry/STEM Inspired.

For 2015-2016 Kindergarten full day students choose Language Acquisition or Inquiry/STEM and make a decision at the end of Kindergarten for future experience. First, second, third and fourth grades have two Inspiration Blocks, either Language Acquisition or Inquiry/STEM Inspired.

Mr. Simeck stated that it is the end of a very long and detailed process, all the options presented previously had flaws. Mrs. Jackson is leading the school organization trying to achieve a unifying and positive experience for staff, parents and students. Mrs. Jackson is working on an idea with staff and teachers are very interested.

The recommendation that will be presented to the Board is that the District 67 Administrative Team implements a one-year pilot of a two-year phase-in plan of the Inspiration Block at Cherokee Elementary School. *

*In order for the Inspiration Block to function effectively the Administrative Team will resolve instructional disruptions cause by the late arrival and early departure of the shuttle buses.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Harpold thought it was a great way to even out and grow a cohort that everyone benefits from. Mrs. Jennifer Graham was concerned with the cost factor of Kindergarten. Mr. Paul Markov requested that the permissive transfer issues be sorted, that the District send out the recommendation prior to the Board meeting and asked if students enroll in the Mandarin program in first grade do they catch up. Mr. Mark McLaughlin thanked the Board for the commitment to the current class, stated that if students are at Cherokee they should be a Cherokee family, students should not be frozen out who cannot afford full day Kindergarten, that the Board should present the Kindergarten pilot whatever the option is for First Grade.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mrs. Clemmensen and seconded by Mr. Borkowski, to adjourn the meeting

On voice vote meeting adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 11:10p.m.

Mike Borkowski, Secretary

Date