

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115
300 SOUTH WAUKEGAN ROAD, LAKE FOREST, IL 60045
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District 115, County of Lake, State of Illinois, was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, and called to order at 4:51 p.m. by President John Noble.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dewey Winebrenner, Member

John Noble, President

Gail Gamrath, Member

Anne Geraghty Helms, Vice - President

Amy Connell - Donohue, Secretary

Jenny Zinser, Member

ABSENT: Robert Silvay, Member

CABINET PRESENT:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:

Tiana Tolver, Board Clerk

GUESTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Zinser and seconded by Ms. Connell Donohue that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 4:52 p.m. to discuss matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony or a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Helms, Winebrenner, Zinser, Connell-Donohue, Noble, Gamrath

Nays:

Absent: Silvay

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Ms. Connell-Donohue moved, seconded by Ms. Helms that the Board of Education, Lake Forest Community High School District 115 return to Open Session at 5:37 p.m.

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

REOPEN REGULAR MEETING:

President Noble called back to order the Regular Meeting of the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois, at 5:38 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT ROLL CALL WERE:

Jenny Zinser, Member

Amy Connell-Donohue, Secretary

Anne Geraghty Helms, Vice-President

Dewey Winebrenner, Member

Gail Gamrath, Member

John Noble, President

ABSENT: Robert Silvay, Member

CABINET PRESENT:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent

Jenn Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO

Renee Fitzsimmons, Assistant Superintendent of TLA

Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer

Erin Lenart, Assistant Superintendent/LFHS Principal

Phil Georgia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:

Tiana Tolver, Board Clerk

Brittany Tjardes, Director of Fiscal Services/CSBO

Peter Lubliner, LFHS Teacher

Blaine Lakin, LFHS Teacher

Steve Dunn, LFHS Teacher

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Libby Yakes

GUESTS: Lesley Fisher

FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Finance Committee of a Whole met to discuss the FY26 Year End Update, FY27 Tentative Budget, Summer Construction Update, and a Financial Overview.

FY26 ended successfully and the financial audit begins soon. The process of the budget development was covered. FY27 Budget will be presented to the Board for approval in September.

Members of the Board asked questions and discussion ensued. The Board acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Finance and Operations team.

WORKSHOP

Artificial Intelligence presentation given by Peter Lubliner, Steve Dunn, and Blaine Lakin. An interactive discussion was held amongst the Board, administrators, and student Board rep.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and members of the community recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Noble provided a report highlighting the start of the school year, budget planning efforts, referendum/capital projects, dedication to community engagement/transparency, and gratitude to the community.

The full President's report can be found on the website.

BOARD RECOGNITION

President Noble read a resolution to be entered into the official record in honor of Lesley Fisher.

RESOLUTION

***WHEREAS**, in 2021, the administration of Lake Forest Community High School recognized an opportunity to strengthen lifelong relationships between the School and its alumni through a more intentional commitment to celebrating, engaging, and reconnecting generations of Scouts; and*

***WHEREAS**, to bring that vision to life, the District turned to one of its own, Mrs. Lesley Fisher, a proud member of the Lake Forest High School Class of 1990 whose husband and children are also proud Lake Forest High School alumni. With authenticity, warmth, creativity, and unwavering devotion to her alma mater, Mrs. Fisher built a vibrant alumni relations program rooted in connection, service, tradition, and Scout pride; and*

***WHEREAS**, under Mrs. Fisher's leadership, the LFHS Alumni Association strengthened the District 115 community by honoring the past, celebrating the present, and building the future of our high school, by connecting graduates through mentorship, volunteerism, philanthropy, and lifelong engagement; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mrs. Fisher expanded alumni communications, supported class reunions and All-Alumni Reunions, grew the Alumni Ambassadors program, helped lead the School's landmark 90th Anniversary Celebration, and created meaningful opportunities for alumni to reconnect with and give back through career exploration, classroom experiences, alumni panels, and other District initiatives; and*

***WHEREAS**, working alongside the dedicated Alumni Ambassadors and volunteers, Mrs. Fisher helped establish the first-ever Lake Forest Community High School Alumni Legacy Scholarship and Awards Program, strengthened the Wall of Fame as a lasting tribute to distinguished alumni, preserved the stories and memories of generations of Scouts, including through the Association's In Memoriam recognition, and fostered enduring partnerships among the Lake Forest High School Foundation, District leadership, alumni volunteers, community organizations, and local businesses; and*

WHEREAS, the remarkable success and lasting impact of Mrs. Fisher's work inspired the Board of Education to support the establishment of the position of Alumni Coordinator in 2026, affirming alumni engagement as a lasting and valued part of the District's future; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership, genuine care for others, and steadfast commitment to Lake Forest High School, Mrs. Fisher helped ensure that the School is not simply a place where students graduate, but a lifelong community to which alumni proudly return, affirming for generations of Scouts that their connection to Lake Forest High School continues throughout their lives...Once a Scout, Always a Scout.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District 115 hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to Mrs. Lesley Fisher for her visionary leadership, exceptional service, and enduring contributions in building and leading the District's alumni relations program from 2021 through 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board recognizes Mrs. Fisher's lasting legacy of strengthening the bonds among generations of Scouts and extends its heartfelt thanks and best wishes, knowing that the relationships she cultivated, the traditions she strengthened, and the alumni community she helped build will continue to enrich Lake Forest Community High School for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Board of Education and that a copy be presented to Mrs. Lesley Fisher as a lasting expression of the District's gratitude, admiration, and appreciation.

ADOPTED this 12th day of August, 2026, by the Board of Education of Lake Forest Community High School District 115.

Members of the community and Board recognized Lesley for her contributions to Lake Forest Community High School's alumni relations.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP REPORT

Dr. Montgomery, in collaboration with Drs. Lenart, and Fitzsimmons presented the Shared Services Report, Budget Update, Summer Construction Update, Joint District Administrator Retreat, Artificial Intelligence at LFHS, Student Board Reps and D115 Spotlights, Back to School, and Upcoming Events.

The full presentation can be found on the District website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

LIAISON REPORTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Exceptional Learners' Collaborative for the 2026-2027 School Year

Motion: Ms. Helms moved, seconded by Mrs. Gamrath that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Exceptional Learners' Collaborative for the 2026-2027 School Year.

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

Aye: Connell-Donohue, Zinser, Gamrath, Noble, Helms, Winebrenner

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Barbara Marbury, Breeze, LLC, Consultant Agreement 2026-2027

Motion: Ms. Zinser moved, seconded by Mr. Winebrenner that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the SBarbara Marbury, Breeze, LLC, Consultant Agreement 2026-2027.

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

Aye: Noble, Gamrath, Helms, Zinser, Winebrenner, Connell-Donohue

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Referendum Phase I Furniture Purchase Not to Exceed \$290,000

Motion: Mrs. Gamrath moved, seconded by Ms. Zinser that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Referendum Phase I Furniture Purchase Not to Exceed \$290,000.

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

Aye: Helms, Connell-Donohue, Zinser, Gamrath, Noble, Winebrenner

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA*

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

1. Approval of Monthly Financial Report, April and May
2. Approval of Human Resources Report
 - Hires
 - Resignations
 - Leaves of Absence
 - Changes of Assignments
 - Stipends|Activities|Athletics|Test Prep Assignments
3. Approval of Amended 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Calendar

4. Approval of Contract for the Theater Department to Travel to New York City, Summer 2027
5. Minutes of an Executive Session, June 2, 2026
6. Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Workshop, June 2, 2026

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Ms. Helms that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Consent Agenda Items.

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

Aye: Connell-Donohue, Gamrath, Zinser, Winebrenner, Noble, Helms

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

FOIA REQUESTS*

The Data Branch USA | 18 of 18 | In Progress

Jim Karr | 1 of 1 | Completed

Frank McCormick | 1 of 1 | Completed

L. Lawliet | 1 of 1 | Completed

Parents Care | 1 of 1 | Completed

Philippe Melin | 1 of 2 | Completed

Robert Dodson | 1 of 1 | Completed

**FOIA Requests will be available on the website once completed*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

First Day of School for Students

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Finance Committee of a Whole - 5:00 p.m.

**Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
LFHS West Campus Board Room**

Press Releases

- Class of 2026 Graduation
- LFHS Freshman Wins America 250 Essay Contest
- LFHS Second Semester Academic Honors
- Film Based on LFHS Teacher Peter Ferry's Novel Comes to Gorton
- Four LFHS Lacrosse All-Americans
- New Mark McMahon Print Benefits LFHS Theater
- New Under the Hard Hat Episode: Summer Construction

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Gamrath, seconded by Ms. Zinser to adjourn the meeting.

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

President Noble declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

John Noble, President Date

Amy Connell Donohue, Secretary Date