

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY OF LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT 67
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lake Forest High School, West Campus, in the Boardroom and called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Mr. Borkowski

Board members present at roll call were:

Jeff Folker, Member	Suzanne Sands, Member
Mike Borkowski, President	Rob Lemke, Vice President
Alice LeVert, Secretary	Richard Chun, Member
Justin Engelland, Member	

Absent:

Administration Present:

Mr. Mike Simeck, Superintendent
Mrs. Rebecca Jenkins, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO
Mrs. Anne Whipple, Communications Consultant

Also Present: Janice Patterson, Recording Secretary

Guests:

Recess Regular Meeting:

Mr. Borkowski asked for a motion to recess the regular meeting until the close of the Board Workshop.

Motion: Mr. Engelland moved, seconded by Mrs. Sands that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, recess the regular meeting until the close of the Board Workshop

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

Ayes: Lemke, Chun, LeVert, Engelland, Folker, Borkowski, Sands

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

Adjourn to Executive Session:

Motion: Mrs Sands moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, that the Board of Education, Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters related to

collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students

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

Ayes: Engelland, Sands, Folker, Lemke, LeVert, Borkowski, Chun

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn Executive Session:

Motion: Mr. Chun moved, seconded by Mr. Folker that the Board of Education, Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest Illinois, adjourn Executive Session at 5:44 p.m.

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

Workshop:

The Board discussed a timeline for the upcoming Board vacancy due to Mr. Borkowski's intention to resign as Board member and Board President at the March 17 Board meeting.

Adjourn Workshop:

Motion: Mr. Engelland moved, seconded by Mrs. Sands, that the Board of Education, Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest Illinois, adjourn the Workshop at 6:56 p.m.

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

Re-Open Regular Meeting:

Mr. Borkowski called back to order the regular meeting of the Lake Forest School District 67 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois at 7:06 p.m.

Board members present at roll call were:

Justin Engelland, Member

Richard Chun, Member

Mike Borkowski, President

Alice LeVert, Secretary

Rob Lemke, Vice President

Jeff Folker, Member

Suzanne Sands, Member

Absent:

Administration Present:

Mr. Michael Simeck, Superintendent

Mrs. Rebecca Jenkins, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO

Mrs. Anne Whipple, Director of Communications Consultant

Dr. Jeff McHugh, Director of Teaching and Learning

Also Present:

Staff Present: Janice Patterson, Recording Secretary

Guests who signed in: Jennifer Kolar, Susie Brugioni, Lauren Bell and Natalie Bolgren, DPM.

President's Report:

Mr. Borkowski discussed a topic which he entitled "*Mission or Money?*" As part of his report he discussed the District 67 Board's rationale for the recent tax levy decision and provided a higher-level perspective, discussing the Board's philosophy.

There are many goals that a Board of Education can have. Two goals that often get discussed are Mission and Money. What do each of these goals look like?

- 1) The Mission Goal could be stated as Achieving the District's stated Mission & Vision.
- 2) The Money Goal could be stated by some as Being fiscally responsible, while others might say it really means Lowering taxes.

Which of these two goals is more important? Is the true goal of the Board to achieve the Vision at any cost? Or should the top priority as Board members be to save every last dollar for the taxpayers, with an end goal of trying to never raise taxes.

Different people have different opinions, but Mr. Borkowski believes the taxpayers of Lake Forest elected the seven Board members because they want Lake Forest to have exceptional public schools and they trust the Board to get that accomplished in a fiscally responsible manner. That is the platform on which most of the Board members were elected, in one form or another. That is the Board's job, in a nutshell.

Mr. Borkowski believes that the vast majority of taxpayers understand that achieving the District Vision, which is how he measures if District 67 has exceptional schools, does cost money. No one wants the Board to be foolish with the community's resources. At the same time, Mr. Borkowski believes that taxpayers understand the value created from having excellent schools, both in developing our youth into future leaders of the world and in terms of direct financial benefit from real estate appreciation.

District 67 does indeed have a defined Vision statement, as well as a Mission statement and Milestones. Mr. Borkowski stated that the Vision statement is centered around the growth of all students, with a similar theme in the aligned Mission statement and Core Values. How does the Board measure its success in terms of achieving the Vision? There is a set of six Milestones which guide progress in pursuing the Vision.

A few things about the Vision:

1. First, the achievement of the District's Vision is an excellent barometer of whether Lake Forest District 67 is an exceptional school district or not. The Vision was created six years ago with broad community-wide involvement, with a diverse and inclusive group of stakeholders. The Vision may not be perfect, after six years it is time to do a formal review of it and create the next iteration of it, but the Vision remains the best description of what this community stated it wants its school district to be.
2. Second, focusing on achieving the Vision and the related Milestones drives District behavior. The Vision drives the Board's decision-making process, it drives the Administration's recommendations, and it drives teachers' and staff's actions with students. It truly is a Vision-centric district. These are not just words, they are a way of life in District 67. This does not happen by accident, it starts with the Board's constant focus on the Vision and flows throughout the entire organization.
3. The third thing is that achieving the Vision takes focus and also takes money. It takes effort and financial resources. Whether it is paying for world-class teachers or reimagining learning spaces, both of those are specific Milestones in the Vision statement and they require money.

Shifting attention to the Money Goal. What does it mean to be fiscally responsible? Mr. Borkowski started with the tax levy, since that affects every single Lake Forest taxpayer.

The tax levy is the way the School District gets most of its money, from Lake Forest residents paying real estate taxes. The state of Illinois has a defined law which caps the amount that a School Board is permitted to increase its tax levy each year. If a school board wants to exceed that legally defined amount, it must go through a referendum process. The District 67 Board believes it can achieve the Vision without the use of a large-scale referendum, by optimizing every dollar that they have access to through the much smaller annual tax levy increases.

Every year, the Board has detailed discussions about whether the tax levy should be raised to the maximum amount permitted by law. It is most certainly not a foregone conclusion. For reference, the maximum increase permitted by law this year is 1.9%. On average, that means a homeowner of a \$1M house in Lake Forest will see an increase of \$66. Does the Board care about an increase of \$66 to a homeowner? Yes, they care very much. That is why the Board quizzes the Administrators every year to demonstrate in concrete terms why the District needs the additional money. Once again this year, the team was quizzed on that topic. The list of projects required to fully achieve the Vision is long, and the cost to implement them all far exceeds the financial resources. In addition, a large portion of annual expenses are salaries, which increase every year. The teachers' contract dictates the increases they receive each year, and those small increases are well deserved, but that amount alone is greater than the 1.9% permitted to increase the levy by this year. If the District is serious about achieving the Vision and the Board has demonstrated that it is indeed serious about that, then increasing the levy is necessary.

A few interesting and extremely important facts to consider when talking about what Fiscally Responsible means in District 67, with an eye on taxpayers:

- The District 67 tax rate is the lowest tax rate among all elementary school districts in Lake County.
- The District 67 tax rate is the second lowest among the 368 elementary school districts in the entire state of IL.
- And the District 67 tax rate is the third lowest among all 852 school districts, elementary, high school, and/or unit districts, in the entire state of IL.
- District 67 also maintains a AAA Bond Rating, which is the highest possible rating, and is one of only 73 school districts in the United States to achieve that.

Mr. Borkowski believes these facts are strong measures of the Board's fiscal responsibility, while simultaneously, aggressively pursuing the Vision.

Given the incredibly low tax rate relative to all other districts in the state, our consistent achievement of the AAA Bond Rating, and our concrete need for additional funds in order to achieve the Vision, Mr. Borkowski believes that increasing the tax levy by the 1.9% permitted by Illinois law is not only an acceptable action for the Board to take, but is the most fiscally responsible decision that could be made. Taking less would save each taxpayer literally a few dollars, but taking less would absolutely limit the ability to achieve the Vision, which was created by the community and a Vision which the community expects the Board to achieve. The long-term positive impact on achieving the Vision far outweighs the minimal short-term savings individuals would see.

Mr. Borkowski stated that different communities have different levels of resources and have different expectations for their public schools. In Lake Forest, we are fortunate to have a high level of resources, and also an amazing taxpayer base which has high expectations for the type of schools they desire.

The District 67 Board has a sharp focus on achieving the Vision, while still ensuring fiscal responsibility at every turn. The Board accepts the responsibility to achieve the desired Vision, while treating every dollar as if it were their own. The Board manages the resources they have access to, and constantly determines how to achieve the optimal return on every dollar that is spent.

Ultimately, the Board's goal is to create and maintain an exceptional school district through the achievement of the Vision, and to do that in a fiscally responsible manner. Mission and Money are not mutually exclusive. It turns out that they are not actually two conflicting goals at all. Rather they are entirely intertwined with each other, and managing both simultaneously is part of the DNA of the Board, as well as the Administration and staff of the District.

To the taxpayers, thank you for the trust you put in each of us. You elected the Board to do a job, and Mr. Borkowski spoke for all seven Board members when he said that they do their best every day to achieve the desired Vision in a fiscally responsible manner.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Simeck congratulated Deer Path Spelling Bee winner Alexandra Anderson and runner up Carolyn Stach and thanked the APT for organizing the Annual Art Fair where numerous talented artists were showcased. Ten students were chosen to participate in the Youth Art Show at The Gallery in Lake Forest. Mr. Simeck reported that all K-8 staff and parents, and students in grades 3-8 will be asked to take the National School Climate (NSCC) survey. The survey is administered annually to assess perceptions of the environment within the school and a completion of 95% counts towards the District on the state's rubric. Mr. Simeck reported that the District is taking the threat of coronavirus seriously. Mr. McHugh presented a video on "The Power of perseverance" regarding the Bridges math program.

Reports:

No reports were presented.

Board Committees:

Education Committee - Suzanne Sands, Rob Lemke, Richard Chun

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. in West Campus.

Board Finance and Operations Committee – Rob Lemke, Alice LeVert, Justin Engelland

Dr. Lemke reported that the Finance and Operations Committee met on February 11 and discussed three contracts, Siemens, Landscaping Services and Deer Path doors. Quest Food Services were the only bidders for the Food Service contract with a 10% reduction in management fees. The District is currently bidding for photography services. Budget projections and student fees were also reviewed.

Board Policy Committee – Jeff Folker, Richard Chun, Justin Engelland

Mr. Folker reported that the Policy Committee met jointly with the District 115 Policy Committee, on January 29 and discussed Policy 4:10 - Fund Balances, regarding changes to the fund balance parameters. The Committee also discussed Policy 5:330 - Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves and updating the Board Operating Procedures Manual on Filling a Board of Education vacancy. The policies were on the agenda for approval. Mr. Folker advised that the District's policies were audited in 2018 and received a full recognition status by the Regional Office of Education.

Compensation Committee - Jeff Folker, Suzanne Sands, Justin Engelland

Mr. Folker advised that the Compensation Committee met on January 30 with the D115 Compensation Committee and discussed shared service, redundant activities, comparison districts and engaging an outside consultant to review the shared service salary bands. The plan is to bring the findings to a Joint Board workshop.

District Committees:

NSSSED - Suzanne Sands

Mrs. Sands reported that the NSSSED Leadership Council is in the process of changing its name. The NSSSED financial model is being updated and the prospective model was discussed.

Legislative Liaison – Alice LeVert

Mrs. LeVert reported on the National School Board Association Advocacy conference that she attended in Washington DC with Mr. Simeck where they met with Senators Durbin and Duckworth and Representative Brad Schneider. Discussions included teacher shortages and fostering a more diverse workforce and the shortcomings of the IDEA. Mrs. LeVert also highlighted future spending increases that Governor Pritzker outlined in his budget address.

Spirit of 67 Foundation – Richard Chun

Mr. Chun reported that the Spirit of 67 is in the process of reviewing grant applications.

APT Executive Board – Suzanne Sands

Mrs. Sands reported this year's annual meeting will be held on March 11 at CROYA from 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker is Darren Barndt, Lake Forest High School Instructional Director and author of the book "Extreme Teammates." The slate for the 2020-2022 APT will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. JumpStart to 5th grade has been restructured based on feedback from last year and will be held on Tuesday, April 28, with meeting times offered in the morning and evening.

Public Participation:

There was no Public Participation.

Action Items:

Approval of Siemens 3-Year Contract Renewal in the Amount of \$45,319.52 with 3% Escalation per year

Motion: Dr. Lemke moved, seconded by Mr. Engelland that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Siemens 3-Year Contract Renewal in the Amount of \$45,319.52 with 3% Escalation per year

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

Ayes: Folker, LeVert, Chun, Lemke, Borkowski, Engelland, Sands

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Landscaping Service Renewal in the Amount of \$70,415.00

Motion: Dr. Lemke moved, seconded by Mr. Engelland, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Landscaping Service Renewal in the Amount of \$70,415.00

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

Ayes: Borkowski, Engelland, LeVert, Sands, Lemke, Folker, Chun

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Bid for Deer Path Middle School Doors in the Amount of \$122,254.00

Motion: Dr. Lemke moved, seconded by Mr. Engelland, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Bid for Deer Path Middle School Doors in the Amount of \$122,254.00

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

Ayes: LeVert, Lemke, Sands, Folker, Borkowski, Chun, Engelland

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2020-2021 Student Fees

Motion: Dr. Lemke moved, seconded by Mr. Engelland, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the 2020-2021 Student Fees

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

Ayes: Sands, Lemke, LeVert, Engelland, Borkowski, Chun, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Quest Food Service Bid

Motion: Mrs. LeVert moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Quest Food Service Bid

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

Ayes: Lemke, Borkowski, Chun, LeVert, Engelland, Sands, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Hearing Officer Report on the Residency of Student A

Motion: Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Hearing Officer Report on the Residency of Student A

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

Ayes: Engelland, Chun, LeVert, Sands, Lemke, Borkowski, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Revised 2019-2020 Calendar

Motion: Mrs. LeVert moved, seconded by Mrs. Sands, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Revised 2019-2020 Calendar

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

Ayes: Sands, Lemke, Engelland, Folker, Borkowski, Chun, LeVert

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Policy 4:20 Fund Balances - First Reading

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mrs. Mrs. LeVert, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the First Reading of Policy 4:20 Fund Balances

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

Ayes: Chun, Lemke, LeVert, Borowski, Sands, Engelland, Folker

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval to Update Section 3.7 of Board of Education Operating Procedures Manual -
Procedures for Filling a Board Vacancy

Motion: Mr. Folker moved, seconded by Mrs. Sands, that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, approve the Update of Section 3.7 of Board of Education Operating Procedures Manual - Procedures for Filling a Board Vacancy

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

Ayes: Borkowski, Lemke, Chun, Engelland, LeVert, Folker, Sands
Nays:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Human Resources Items

Motion: Dr. Lemke moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, 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: Folker, Chun, LeVert, Sands, Lemke, Engelland, Borkowski
Nays:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls, and Financial Statements for January 2020

Education Fund	\$220,824.35
Building and Maintenance Fund	154,717.22
Debt Service Fund	-
Transportation Fund	104,147.75
Capital Projects Fund	19,375.98
Debt Service Fund - Bond/Interest Wire Payments	-
Procurement Card Expenses	54,749.04
Insurance Premium Wire Payments	466,014.97
Direct Deposit Payroll and Taxes	<u>1,854,340.15</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,874,169.46</u>

Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Workshop, January 28, 2020

Minutes of an Executive Session, January 28, 2020

Motion: Mrs. LeVert moved, seconded by Mr. Folker, 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: Chun, Lemke, Engelland, Borkowski, Folker, LeVert, Sands
Nays:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

Laurie Rose, Status Complete
Sheet Metal Werks, Status Complete
NBC Universal, Status Complete
Illinois Retired Teachers Association, Status Complete
22nd Century Media, Status Complete

Announcements:

Thursday, March 5, 2020	Parent Teacher Conferences - Full Day of School
Friday, March 6, 2020	Parent Teacher Conferences - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
	No Student Attendance

Tuesday, March 17, 2020	Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
	Board Room, West Campus

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session took place prior to the meeting. No action was taken.

Following the Regular meeting the Board returned to workshop to discuss Mr. Borkowski's intent to resign from the Board at the March 17 meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion: Mrs. Sands moved, seconded by Mr. Chun that the Board of Education of Lake Forest School District 67, Lake Forest, Illinois, adjourn the meeting

On voice vote, motion carried.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Mike Borkowski, President Date

Alice LeVert, Secretary Date