

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115
300 SOUTH WAUKEGAN ROAD, LAKE FOREST, IL 60045
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025**

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 Thursday, December 11, 2025, and called to order at 4:32 p.m. by President John Noble.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jenny Zinser, Member	Dewey Winebrenner, Member
Amy Connell - Donohue, Secretary (4:34 p.m.)	Gail Gamrath, Member
Anne Geraghty Helms, Vice - President	John Noble, President

ABSENT: Robert Silvay, Member

CABINET PRESENT:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent
Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO
Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer
Renee Fitzsimmons, Assistant Superintendent of TLA
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
Whitney Draegert, Director of Business Operations/CSBO
Brad Ruda, LFEA
Melissa Doucette, LFEA
Donna Lovitsch, LFEA
Laura Flangel, LFEA
Jenn Thomas, LFEA
Paul Goldstein, LFEA
Deb Schneider, LFEA

GUESTS: Jennifer Smith, Attorney, Franczek
Mark Stein, Illinois Education Association UniServ Director

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Winebrenner and seconded by Ms. Helms that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 4:33 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) and 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. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Gamrath, Winebrenner, Noble, Helms, Zinser

Nays:

Absent: Silvay, Connell-Donohue (4:34 p.m.)

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Ms. Zinser moved, seconded by Mr. Winebrenner that the Board of Education, Lake Forest Community High School District 115 return to Open Session at 6:21 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 6:21 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT AT ROLL CALL WERE:

John Noble, President

Gail Gamrath, Member

Jenny Zinser, Member

Dewey Winebrenner, Member

Anne Geraghty Helms, Vice-President

Amy Connell-Donohue, Secretary

ABSENT: Robert Silvay, Member

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Kosta Vitzilaios

Josie Irvin, Student Body President

Elizabeth Specketer

Ethan Farrell, Student Body Vice-President

CABINET PRESENT:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent

Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO

Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer

Erin Lenart, Assistant Superintendent/LFHS Principal

Phil Georgia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Renee Fitzsimmons, Assistant Superintendent of TLA

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:

Tiana Tolver, Board Clerk

Frank Lesniak, Assistant Principal of Student Operations

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE

Final Tax Levy

Dr. Hermes provided an update on the tax levy that will be presented to the Board for final approval this evening. Members of the Board asked questions and discussion ensued.

WORKSHOP

Open Topics/New Business

In the coming months, we will focus on the following areas:

February - Financial philosophies

March - Reengaging those who contributed to the Portrait of a Learner

April - Continuing our financial philosophy work with a focus on future planning

Discussion held on updated policy 3:50. Mr. Winebrenner and Ms. Helms will work on the policy for presentation at the upcoming Board meeting, it will be approved in February.

RMA Refresh

The decision was made to halt the RMA refresh project. The administrative team will continue to work on upgrades to space; plans to work with PALS and Applause. Financials were provided to the Board in the weekly update.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

LFHS UPDATES: STUDENT COUNCIL WE ARE ONE REPORT

Ethan Farrell and Josie Irvin presented on recent activities at the high school amongst the student body. Topics included Vox Box, Boo Grams, Holiday Festivities, and the Principal's Advisory Council.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Noble did not have an official report this month.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP REPORT

Dr. Montgomery, in collaboration with Dr. Lenart presented the District Leadership report. The topics were the Referendum Update, Triple I Conference, Learning Forward, Alumni Panel, Athletics Commitment Day, New Community Outreach, Spreading Holiday Joy, and Upcoming Dates.

The full presentation can be found on the District website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORTS

Mr. Lesniak, Assistant Principal of Student Operations presented the 2025- 2026 Annual Assessment Report. Focus areas were the ISBE College and Career Readiness Indicators, Student Experiences,

AP/Dual Credit Data, ACT Data, and Seal of Biliteracy Data. He interviewed the student board representatives on their experiences with AP, dual credit, and ACT.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ed-Red and Legislative Update

Mr. Noble gave an update on the IASB Resolution Committee; the committee met last month at the Triple I Conference.

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Dr. Montgomery reported that the final meeting on reorganization is next week. The newly formed board will begin in January; looking forward to a positive start.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of 2025 Final Tax Levy

Motion: Ms. Helms moved, seconded by Mrs. Gamrath that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the 2025 Final Tax Levy.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Sunbelt Speech Path Contract 25-26

Motion: Ms. Zinser moved, seconded by Mrs. Gamrath that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Sunbelt Speech Path Contract 25-26.

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 the First Reading of PRESS Issue 120

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 First Reading of PRESS Issue 120.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval to Table Action Item 4: Approval to Waive the First Reading of Updated Policy 3:50 and Action Item 5: Approval of the Second Reading of Updated Policy 3:50

Motion: Mrs. Gamrath moved, seconded by Ms. Helms that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois table Action Item 4: Approval to Waive the First Reading of Updated Policy 3:50 and Action Item 5: Approval of the Second Reading of Updated Policy 3:50

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

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

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 Appointment of IMRF Authorized Agent
2. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
3. Approval of Human Resources Report
 - Hires
 - Resignations
 - Retirements
 - Leaves of Absence
 - Changes of Assignments
 - Stipends | Activities | Athletics Assignments
4. Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Workshop, November 11, 2025

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

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Silvay

The motion was carried unanimously.

FOIA REQUESTS*

Woo Park | 1 of 1 | Completed

Edin Ding | 1 of 1 | Completed

Heather Kerr | 2 of 2 | Completed

Academy Research Group | 2 of 2 | Completed

**FOIA Requests will not be made available on the website until completed*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, December 8, 2025

Joint Policy Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
LFHS West Campus - Seminar Rooms

Monday, December 22, 2025 -
Friday, January 2, 2026

Winter Break - No School for Students

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Winebrenner seconded by Mrs. Gamrath to adjourn the meeting.

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

President Noble declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

John Noble, President

Date

Amy Connell Donohue, Secretary

Date