

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115
MARCH 7, 2023**

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 Tuesday, March 7, 2023, and called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Ms. Zinser.

Present: Sally Davis, Vice President
 Marcus Schabacker, Member
 Jenny Zinser, Board President
 John Venson, Member
 Dewey Winebrenner, Secretary
 John Noble, Member
 David Burns, Member

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent
Jeff McHugh, Deputy Superintendent
Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO
Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer
Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer
Erin Lenart, Lake Forest High School Principal

Staff Present: Whitney Draegert, Director of Business Services/CSBO
Dan Mortensen, Director of Facilities
Tiana Adams, Board Clerk

Guests Present:

Adjourn to Executive Session:

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Burns, seconded by Dr. Venson that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 5:11 p.m. to discuss matters related to the appointment, employment, compensation, 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: Schabacker, Noble, Davis, Winebrenner, Burns, Venson, Zinser
Nays:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session:

Motion: Mr. Burns moved, seconded Mr. Noble, that the Board of Education, Lake Forest Community High School District 115 return to Open Session at 6:09 p.m.

Votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Winebrenner, Burns, Venson, Davis, Schabacker, Zinser, Noble

Nays:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Reopen Regular Meeting:

Ms. Zinser called back to order the Regular Meeting of the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois, at 6:11 p.m.

Board members present at roll call were:

Jenny Zinser, Board President

Sally Davis, Vice President

Dewey Winebrenner, Secretary (6:12pm)

David Burns, Member

John Venson, Member

John Noble, Member

Marcus Schabacker, Member

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent

Jenn Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO

Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer

Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer

Erin Lenart, Lake Forest High School Principal

Staff Present: Tiana Adams, Board Clerk

Heather Monzingo, Little Scouts Director

Staff Members of Little Scouts

Corey Holmer, Educational Technologist

Jimmy Juliano, Educational Technologist

Laura Grigg, Educational Technologist

Guests Present: Christine Farrell, APT Executive Board

Lainey O'Neal, Student Council Vice-President

Students of MacBook Trial Program

Board Workshop:

New Business/Open Topics

Discussion held on emails received in regards to the Mandarin program. Dr. Lenart discussed the number of students registered in classes and the cost to run the program. Members of the Board asked questions on

how to keep the program. Administration is still looking into options; previously it was determined that classes at five or less would not run.

Discussion held on school mental health services. Administration is on alert and hoping Dr. Dan Cates can give a deeper dive into what needs to be addressed. There will be regular check-ins to address any high level concerns as they are discovered. Members of the Board asked questions and a discussion ensued.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Dr. Lenart gave a high level overview of the students rights and responsibilities. There will be more information provided in the weekly update to the Board and the Education Committee will review next week. An update will be provided in April's workshop.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Montgomery will provide an update on the strategic plan as a part of his presentation this evening. He briefly discussed objectives, goals, and metrics. Administration is in the process of interviewing companies to assist. A Board member questioned if members of the administrative team could do the work in house instead of outsourcing the work. Discussion held on outsourcing and whether it was the best option. More details will be provided in upcoming meetings.

Referendum/Facilities Update

Dr. Montgomery discussed the question he is asked the most in regards to the referendum, which is, "What happens if the referendum does not pass?" If the referendum does not pass then the District will operate by spending more money, cost will escalate and things will need to be paid for as they break versus budgeting and fixing them in advance. Ultimately the students would be affected. Discussion held on referendum options.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

President's Report

President Zinser discussed what the month of March means for students and staff. She discussed the community's concern on how the District has reached a place of urgency for facilities at the school. Due to the community's prior request, the District has not held on to tax payer dollars in a rainy day fund. The community wanted the Board and Administration to come back every 15-20 years and explain what is needed for funding for capital improvements. Many other districts, including District 67 have a financial tool called a debt service extension base (DSEB) which is used by government entities to extend the repayment of outstanding debt. In the early 1990s, all Illinois schools had the opportunity to qualify for a DSEB, however our District did not have any debt on record and did not qualify. Since this District does not have a DSEB to use for incremental capital improvements, there has been the continuous implementation of a rigorous and responsible planned maintenance program since the last round of capital improvements 17 years ago. We are proud of the work that has been done to maintain our 88 year old schoolhouse. A debt of gratitude is owed to Dan Mortensen and his team for the work they do each day to extend the systems and equipment, well beyond their projected life expectancy. However even the best maintenance cannot guard against system failure. So as best practice, the District is approaching the community explaining the urgency of our needs and placing the request for support on the April 4th ballot. Following the election this board has made a commitment to discuss future funding options to determine if there needs to be a new way of funding capital improvements. The community can vote in a future election to allow the Board of Education

and Administration to accrue debt for the purpose of making capital improvements. Dr. Montgomery will share in his report about potential next steps contingent upon the April 4th referendum results. It is encouraged for the community to visit the District's website to find detailed information and videos.

President Zinser further discussed her commitment to the community as the Board President. She discussed the use of the Freedom of Information Act that may be used to keep the community well informed.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Montgomery's report consisted of the following topics: Independent Review, Referendum Next Steps, and Strategic Plan Update.

There have been recent concerns and warnings in regards to children's mental health; our country has seen a significant impact on mental health and the wellbeing of young people. Schools play an important role in addressing these concerns and we take these warnings seriously. At our high school, we are fortunate that our team of counselors, teachers, social workers, and psychologists work tirelessly with our students who need support. To ensure we continue to lead in the mental health services we offer students, independent expert Dr. Daniel Cates has been asked to review the resources and identify areas of strength and future opportunity. He is a licensed clinical psychologist with extensive experience. Interviews will begin this week and continue through the end of the school year; once complete he will provide consolidated feedback and recommendations. This information will help guide future plans and ensure we are well equipped to support mental health and wellbeing; the goal is to continue to offer resources that serve the whole child, allowing every Lake Forest High School student to grow and thrive.

Dr. Montgomery discussed what happens when the referendum passes versus what could be lost if the referendum does not pass. When the referendum passes a Construction Committee will be established of multiple stakeholders; community members will be invited to apply. We will move from the pre-construction phase into the construction planning phase, working with the architect of record Perkins & Will and commercial construction experts, Pepper Construction. Potential loss could be the use of portions of the building, continuity of learning, educational offerings, programs, opportunities that are unique to LFHS; these are all real possibilities. Information was provided on how to vote in Lake County.

Following a year and a half of collaborative work with the community, teachers, staff, students and administrators, the team is proud to share with the Board the five-year strategic plan. As a collective vision, this plan articulates the strategic direction for the community's aspirations for every student, sets the educational priorities, and focuses the work over the next five years. The development of this plan strengthens the school's mission. This plan also connects the Portrait of a Learner with actionable and measurable goals and objectives. The Portrait of a Learner envisions students who can think critically, communicate effectively, adapt positively to changing priorities, and demonstrate confidence and resilience. The academic growth and success of all students is the primary goal of Lake Forest High School. The Strategic Plan places emphasis on building systems and programs centered on readying students to succeed in college or in their post-high school career. This emphasis includes enriching student experiences through engaging and authentic programming. Dr. Montgomery walked through how the plan is organized and next steps. Thanks to all who have participated in our Portrait of a Learner and Five-Year Strategic Planning process. A discussion ensued amongst the Board of Education on the strategic plan.

LFHS Updates

School Spotlight

Dr. Hermes introduced the spotlight for the evening. Little Scouts, is a Lake Forest High School infant and preschool program, housed at West Campus. Tonight they will provide a brief history and highlights of the program. She discussed some of the accomplishments of the staff and director; primarily during the pandemic they were one of the first schools to reopen and operate without fail or closure. They have also secured \$241,000 in grants and opportunities since 2020. The team led by Heather Monzingo, Director earned a bronze circle of quality rating; the only preschool in Lake Forest to receive this honor and they are trending towards the next level of silver circle. The program has grown 54% since the pre-pandemic numbers.

Heather Monzingo, Director of Little Scouts provided an overview of the Little Scouts program. The program was started as a response to a staff survey and began with only three children. She provided the ratings for the number of children enrolled that align to the community. She discussed the manner in which the teaching takes place in the classrooms. Videos were played that highlighted some of the prior and current Little Scouts students.

Student Council Report

Lainey O'Neal, Student Body Vice-President presented activities and highlights at the high school over the recent month. From talent shows to sporting events to Valentine's Day serenades. An important upcoming event is prom which will be held as it was pre-pandemic.

Principal's Report

Dr. Erin Lenart presented on Foundation Grant Day, end of the Winter sports season, course recommendations and staffing, new beginnings for Spring and upcoming events. An exciting new device that will be brought to the school as a part of the foundation approvals is a plasma cutter. LFHS will be the only school on the North Shore with this device. It requires a lot of ventilation before it can be operated, we are 98% of the way there.

Public Participation

Parents of students at LFHS discussed experience with counseling services at the school, school social work programs, and requested a Student Bill of Rights be adopted.

Reports/Discussions

APT Executive Report

Christine Farrell, President of Lake Forest High School's Association of Parents and Teachers (APT), provided an overview of the association as well as recent activities. The mission of the APT is "to make our community stronger through service and volunteerism." The APT provides support for teachers, enrichment for students, and opportunities for parent involvement. It is the largest parent organization at the school.

Board Committees

MacBook Trial Report

Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer along with Educational Technicians Corey Holmer, Jimmy Juliano; Laura Grigg; and students Nate, Lizzy, and Taylor presented on the MacBook Beta Program. An overview of the program was provided as well as survey data, feedback and the students present shared their experiences.

80 MacBooks were used in the beta program, they were used exclusively for academic coursework. Any issues big or small were to be reported immediately to ensure a successful future rollout. MacBooks had a strong preference over the currently used Chromebooks.

There is an action item on the agenda this evening for approval to implement this for the full student body next year. Members of the Board asked questions and a discussion ensued.

Education Committee

Mr. Winebrenner, Committee Chair, reported the committee has not met since the last meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for next week.

Finance and Operations Committee

Mr. Noble, Committee Chair, reported the committee met on February 8th to work with the auditors. The District received glowing marks from the auditors. He discussed frequently asked questions around referendum funding. There is more information in the full report for those that would like to read it.

Policy Committee

Ms. Davis, Committee Chair, reported the committee has not met since the last meeting. There is a small administrative change to a policy that is on the consent agenda for approval.

Liaison Reports

ED-RED

Mr. Noble provided an update on a recent legislative meeting with Ed-Red. There are some bills that are being brought forward and there will be more updates soon.

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Dr. Venson provided an update from Dr. Kurt Schneider, Superintendent of True North's latest report. The facilities plan has been approved. The 2023-2028 strategic plan has been passed as well. Two of the districts that previously used TrueNorth have decided to either bring their programs fully in-house or partially. This will have a significant impact to the organization and it will be a rough road as they explore their offer to members and the community at large.

Parent-Support Organizations

Mr. Burns discussed how the APT supplements the cost of prom through their fundraising. Members of the community can donate via the website. The LFHS Foundation held their Grant Day. There were 17 requests submitted and 12 were awarded for total funding of \$131,000. The Foundation luncheon will be held on April 28th, one of their biggest fundraisers of the year.

Action Items

Approval of 2023 - 2028 Strategic Plan

Motion: Dr. Schabacker moved, seconded by Dr. Venson that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the 2023 - 2028 Strategic Plan.

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

Aye: Venson, Winebrenner, Burns, Schabacker, Noble, Zinser, Davis
Nay:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of 2021-2022 Financial Audit

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois accept the 2021-2022 Financial Audit.

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

Aye: Noble, Burns, Zinser, Venson, Schabacker, Davis, Winebrenner
Nay:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Apple Financial Services Lease for Technology Equipment and Software Support in the amount of \$1,571,289.00 and associated Apple Financial Services Guaranteed Buyback Agreement

Motion: Dr. Venson moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Apple Financial Services Lease for Technology Equipment and Software Support in the amount of \$1,571,289.00 and associated Apple Financial Services Guaranteed Buyback Agreement.

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

Aye: Burns, Schabacker, Noble, Zinser, Venson, Winebrenner, Davis
Nay:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Textbook Recommendations

Motion: Dr. Venson moved, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Textbook Recommendations.

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

Aye: Davis, Winebrenner, Venson, Noble, Burns, Schabacker, Zinser
Nay:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal Of Non-Tenured Preferred Building Substitute Teachers

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal Of Non-Tenured Preferred Building Substitute Teachers.

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

Aye: Schabacker, Zinser, Davis, Winebrenner, Venson, Noble, Burns
Nay:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Reassignment of Administrator

Motion: Dr. Schabacker moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Reassignment of Administrator.

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

Aye: Winebrenner, Burns, Schabacker, Noble, Davis, Zinser, Venson
Nay:
Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Reassignment of Administrator

Motion: Mr. Schabacker moved, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Reassignment of Administrator.

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

Aye: Zinser, Noble, Venson, Davis, Schabacker, Winebrenner, Burns
Nay:
Absent:

The motion 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 Disbursements, Payrolls and Financial Statements, November 2022, December 2022, January 2023
2. Approval of Human Resources Report
 - Retirements

- Resignations
 - New Hires
 - Changes of Assignment
 - Activities/Athletics/Test Prep
3. Approval to Waive First Reading of Policy 4:50
 4. Approval of the Second Reading of Updated Policy 4:50 - Payment Procedures
 5. Minutes of a Workshop, February 7, 2023
 6. Minutes of an Executive Session 1, February 7, 2023
 7. Minutes of a Regular Meeting, February 7, 2023
 8. Minutes of a Joint Special Meeting, February 7, 2023
 9. Minutes of an Executive Session 2, February 7, 2023

Motion: Dr. Venson moved, seconded by Mr. Burns 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: Venson, Winebrenner, Burns, Zinser, Noble, Davis, Schabacker

Nay:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

FOIA Requests

Josiah Chatterton | Completed
Robert Dodson | In Progress
Stephanie Victor | Completed
Jeff Brincat 2 of 2 | Completed
Parents Care FOIA Department 2 of 4 | Completed
Parents Care FOIA Department 3 of 4 | Completed
Parents Care FOIA Department 4 of 4 | Completed
Vaibhavi Hemasundar 1 of 3 | Completed
Vaibhavi Hemasundar 2 of 3 | Completed
Vaibhavi Hemasundar 3 of 3 | Completed
Dan O'Neil 1 of 2 | Completed
Dan O'Neil 2 of 2 | Completed
Illinois Retired Teachers Association | Completed
Liam Blackley | Completed
Shamus Quinn | Completed
Bo Kim | Completed
Lucas Silva | In Progress
Andrea Batiste 1 of 3 | Completed
Andrea Batiste 2 of 3 | In Progress
Andrea Batiste 3 of 3 | In Progress
Hannah Natanson | In Progress
Samir Vhidra 1 of 3 | In Progress
Samir Vhidra 2 of 3 | In Progress
Samir Vhidra 3 of 3 | In Progress

Parents Care FOIA Department 1 of 2 | In Progress

Parents Care FOIA Department 2 of 2 | In Progress

Jeff Brincat 1 of 2 | Rescinded Request

Jeff Brincat 2 of 2 | In Progress

Dan O’Neil | In Progress

Public Participation:

Students from the Students Demand Action group spoke on gun violence and discussed a resolution they are proposing that the Board approve for secure storage resolution.

Announcements

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Education Committee Meeting - 7:30 a.m.
East Campus - Room 109

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Community Safety Series: What Parents Need
to Know about Fentanyl - 7:00 p.m.
Deer Path Middle School

Friday, March 24, 2023 -
Friday, March 31, 2023

Spring Break - No School for Students and Staff

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

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

*Please note this is a change from the previously
scheduled date of Tuesday, April 4, 2023*

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Winebrenner, seconded by Dr. Schabacker to adjourn the meeting.

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

Ms. Zinser declared the meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Jenny Zinser, President Date

Dewey Winebrenner, Secretary Date