

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115
NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

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, November 1, 2022, and called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Ms. Zinser.

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

Absent: None

Administration Present:

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

Staff Present: Tiana Adams, Board Clerk

Guests Present: None

Adjourn to Executive Session:

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Noble, seconded by Dr. Venson that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. 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 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) and matters related to security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).

Votes were cast as follows:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session:

Motion: Dr. Schabacker moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Board of Education, Lake Forest Community High School District 115 return to Open Session at 5:33 p.m.

Votes were cast as follows:

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

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 5:33 p.m.

Board members present at roll call were:

Jenny Zinser, Board President

John Venson, Member

Marcus Schabcker, Member

David Burns, Member

John Noble, Member

Sally Davis, Vice President

Dewey Winebrenner, Secretary

Absent: None

Administration Present:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent

Jeff McHugh, Deputy Superintendent

Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO

Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer

Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer

Erin Lenart, Lake Forest High School Principal

Whitney Draegert, Director of Business Services/CSBO

Staff Present: Tiana Adams, Board Clerk

Julia Polszakiewicz, Communications Manager

Rachel Abel, Instructional Director

Guests Present: Paul Hanley, Managing Director of Beyond Your Base

Pride Haggerty, Student Council President

Board Workshop:

New Business/Open Topics

A board member questioned the recent events at the high school in regards to ammunition being found and why there was not more adamant communication on no hate being tolerated in the school. Discussion held on the incident which was not deemed a hate crime. The Principal Advisory Council is researching the work of other schools and plans to share with the school on what is deemed acceptable.

A board member questioned the Young Americas Foundation (YAF) club and if it is acceptable based on the One Lake Forest High School statement.

Ms. Zinser discussed the superintendent evaluation process. Board members would receive an email tomorrow to complete the survey, the deadline is November 16. The negotiation and parameters for the superintendent's contract would be sent to the Board for review and the attorney will be in attendance at the December meeting. The Board will work with District 67 board members and the attorney to align on the superintendent's contract renewal.

Dr. Montgomery discussed the financials and explained where the Board could go online to see financials and purchase card statements outside of the board meeting documents. It was proposed that there be an additional Finance and Ops meeting on December 9.

Referendum Planning Update

The Communications Department provided an update on the facilities master plan public information and next steps. Paul Hanley of Beyond Your Base discussed the referendum planning including the draft ballot language as well as the thoughts and recommendations regarding the public information program. Next steps and the timeline was provided. There would be a community forum held on November 14 to provide tours of the facilities and answer questions from the community.

Discussion held amongst the board and administration on the wants and needs of the community as well as the draft language for the ballot.

A board member requested going for a higher amount on the ballot. Discussion held on this request.

Triple I Conference Resolutions

Mr. Noble discussed the resolutions from the Illinois Association of School Boards; he has no concerns with the recommendations. Discussion held on removing some of the resolutions from the consent agenda to review further prior to approval.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

President's Report

Ms. Zinser thanked everyone for joining the meeting and wished everyone an early Happy Thanksgiving. Congratulations to Dr. Lenart, Dr. Montgomery, administrators, staff, and students for achieving an exemplary rating on the most recent Illinois state report card which is the highest rating possible. This represents an increase from last year that the District should be proud of and follows the 2021 National Blue Ribbon High School award. While celebrating these achievements, the evidence of learning loss shown in math and reading test score trends across Illinois and the nation cannot be ignored. Ensuring academic excellence is our mission and goal; work will continuously be done to support students and teachers so that achievement of success is attainable for all learners.

As the District continues to improve educational experiences and the academic facilities there would be important meetings this month. The strategic planning meetings are continuing through February and potentially through March if deemed necessary. There would be a Community Forum meeting held on

November 14 at East Campus to discuss facilities plans as well as a potential referendum for April's elections. All stakeholders of Lake Forest High School would be fully informed on the needs being addressed and the importance of their support.

November 15 is National School Board Member day and Ms. Zinser expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the time, compassion, and dedication the board members bring to their role. It is a volunteer role that is rewarding and demanding. The Board is elected to represent the best interests of the community while providing the best educational opportunities and outcomes for students. At times this can be a daunting task to make decisions that impact what may be delivered to students while ensuring to act as the best stewards of the taxpayer dollars.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Montgomery's report consisted of updates on Facilities Planning, Strategic Planning, One Lake Forest/Residency, and Gratitude/Great Full Market.

There is a great deal of education on the horizon around a potential referendum that could occur as early as April 2023. Any member that was a part of the Facilities Master Plan Oversight Committee will be invited to an online update on Friday to learn about the Board's progress. Then November 14 there will be the Community Forum which will be from 6-7pm with building tours immediately following. After the forum there will be the opportunity to gather feedback from the community ahead of the board's vote on a resolution around the referendum at the December 6 meeting. Postcards will be received in the mail on the week of November 7. The referendum is a piece of a much bigger puzzle to the work being done in the District.

The plan that is governing the bigger puzzle is the Strategic Plan which is currently being developed. There is a team of over fifty individuals coming together to build upon the work from the Portrait of a Learner which was completed in the Spring. It is important that there is alignment to the vision. The first meeting was held on October 6 and the next meeting is on November 3. The team was asked to do a SWOT analysis on what is going well, what are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the District. At the upcoming meeting the results will be shared; the results thus far appear to be in line with the topics we have been hearing through conversations. The following meeting will be held on January 10 with the intent that the Board will approve the five-year strategic plan at the regularly scheduled February meeting. The strategic plan governs all the work that will be done in the short term and long term. At the end of the November meeting, the goal is to have priority areas and then during the January strategic planning meeting, goals and objectives will be developed based on the work from the prior meetings.

Dr. Montgomery discussed the general themes of questions he has heard recently. There have been questions on residency and how it is determined in the District. The requirements of residency were discussed; all information may be found on the district website. Dr. Hermes spoke to the third-party provider that assists in the verification of documentation. An additional topic of recent conversations has been around who school attendees, student behavior, and discipline. Dr. Montgomery highlighted the One Lake Forest High School statement that was the byproduct of over two years of work. The statement espouses the importance of fostering an inclusive environment and embraces diversity. This statement is important and has been intertwined in almost every board goal and will also be brought to life in the strategic planning process.

A board member commented that hate has no place in our community or in the school; the Board unanimously approved the statement and is fully committed to free speech and the right to express one's beliefs. It is the Board and Administrators responsibility to put a stop to abuse and that cannot be done in silence.

Dr. Montgomery finished his report on the topic of Gratitude. Last week was Principal Appreciation Day; thanks to Dr. Lenart and Dr. Sassen for their leadership of Lake Forest High School. The leadership team has shined through multiple occurrences recently and it is a pleasure to have them on the team.

A video was played highlighting the Great Full Market event that took place on October 16. The work of the Great Full Market is unparalleled and the partnership with Quest makes a great deal of this possible.

LFHS Updates

Student Council Report

Pride Haggerty, Student Council President presented on recent student activities and celebrations. Vice President, Lainey was unable to attend; it was acknowledged that she just won a state championship for Tennis.

Principal's Report

Dr. Lenart discussed recent and upcoming events at the high school. The parent-teacher conferences were successful, there was a five percent increase in the total number of students that had parents/guardians participate.

The One Lake Forest statement was approved last April by the Board as a vision statement for the school. The statement is anchored in the District's commitment to finding resources that support students and staff. A line from the statement "As we maximize possibility for each student's growth, we continue to actively work to eliminate barriers, systems, and practices that maintain or contribute to disparities, inequities, discrimination, and intolerance of any kind." There is departmental work being done to align this with the curriculum.

Dr. Lenart provided updates on the upcoming Veteran's Day Celebration, Principal's Advisory Council, School Report Card, Code of Conduct, and People Celebrations.

The school is very proud of the exemplary rating on the school report card, it has been a couple years since this level of rating has been achieved. The school along with other districts in the community focus on ACT tests; however the school report card rating is focused on SAT testing. The instructional directors are excited about new techniques that can be used around reading and math SAT test performance that will help students.

School Spotlight

Rachel Abel presented on English as a second language (ESL) and bilingual parent advisory (BPAC). The great work that is being done at the school is never the product of one person and there is a lot of gratitude to be given to the great people that she works with every day.

There are three levels of language acquisition classes offered throughout the day. Social emotional wellness support is also provided as well as academic support. There is a newer alignment of Spanish for Native Speakers-Spanish Language Arts. Dr. Abel provided a brief overview of the staff of the program that support the needs of the students. Growth of these students has been amazing and we are able to support them on their next pathway to a career or to higher education.

The bilingual parent advisory council meets four to five times per year and it is for bilingual families. Data is presented on how the students are performing and feedback is provided on how we can make the school better to ensure the students are growing and learning alongside their peers. The next meeting is November 3 and the theme will be on future career pathways.

A member of the board asked questions in regards to the report.

A board member requested that Dr. Abel speak to the slide she presented earlier in the day at the Education Committee meeting around One Lake Forest High School statement and how it will be embedded in the school community.

Discussion held on the One Lake Forest High School statement and its meaning.

Public Participation

Members of the public addressed the board in regards to concerns in curriculum, the lack of knowledge on the One LFHS statement, and hate actions at the school.

Reports/Discussions

None

Board Committees

Education Committee

Mr. Winebrenner, Committee Chair, reported the committee met this morning. He apologized for the One LFHS statement not being more prominent throughout the community and the District would work to make that happen. Dr. Abel presented during the meeting on how the work that is being done is embedding the statement into curriculum and into professional development.

Finance and Operations Committee

Mr. Noble, Committee Chair, reported the committee has not met since the last meeting and the next meeting will be in December.

Policy Committee

Ms. Davis, Committee Chair, reported the committee met on October 24 and it was an Ad-Hoc meeting to discuss a particular policy that is on the agenda for discussion tonight as a first reading. The policy is a recommendation of Dr. Lenart with input from Dr. McHugh that relates to students' rights to participate in political activities, rights to express themselves, and to participate in peaceful expression of their political beliefs. The policy also references the attendance policy and the codes of conduct. The second reading will take place in December with the goal of adopting.

Liaison Reports

ED-RED

Mr. Noble discussed updates for Ed-Red. This past week ED-RED opened up their Ad-Hoc committees, Safety & Special Ed Funding. He was able to attend both groups on Friday; topics were fairly dense and the goal was to outline and structure legislation for the early part of 2023. There is a lot of shared interest from the various districts and this looks to be a positive start.

Mr. Noble met with ED-RED's Executive Director, Bridget Peach, about the mandates work, and she confirmed progress has been made with Representative Mussman for legislation this Spring. It will not likely be everything we were trying to do last year but the professional development and trainings for teachers will likely be the starting point.

Tonight the Board would be voting on the IASB resolutions, and Mr. Noble would be representing the Board for the voting decided on at the IASB annual conference later in November.

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Dr. Venson provided an update from Dr. Kurt Schneider, Superintendent of True North's report. The Cooperative met on October 12; majority of the discussion was on strategic and facilities plans. There are two phases to the facility plan and the first is expected to go to their board for approval at the November meeting and is expected to be funded by the fund balance. The second phase is much larger and a bit more complex. The strategic plan is ongoing and the expectation is to have a draft plan in place by February.

Parent-Support Organizations

Mr. Burns provided an update on the parent organizations. The foundation will be looking for grant requests; teachers are encouraged to come with their great ideas. A campaign is being created to get more potential donors. The foundation is also looking for ways to let students and parents know what they have done to help the District.

During the Boosters meeting, a discussion was held on the referendum and why it is happening. The Booster bash is currently being planned.

The APT meeting would be held on Thursday.

Action Items:

Approval of First Reading of Policy 7:132 - Student Political Activities

Motion: Dr. Schabacker moved, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the First Reading of Policy 7:132 - Student Political Activities.

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

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

Nay:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of 2022 Tax Levy and the Establishment of Budget Hearing Date

Motion: Mr. Noble moved, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the 2022 Tax Levy and the Establishment of Budget Hearing Date.

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

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

Nay:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Recommendation to Reject Roofing Bids for Summer 2023 - West Campus

Motion: Ms. Davis moved, seconded by Dr. Venson, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the Recommendation to Reject Roofing Bids for Summer 2023 - West Campus.

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

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

Nay:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of S&S Systems America Security Camera Contract in an amount not to exceed \$585,000

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 S&S Systems America Security Camera Contract in an amount not to exceed \$585,000.

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

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

Nay:

Absent:

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of ISBE School Maintenance Project Grant FY 2023

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the ISBE School Maintenance Project Grant FY 2023.

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

Aye: Venson, Davis, Zinser, Winebrenner, Burns, Noble, Schabacker
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.

Approval of Disbursements, Payrolls and Financial Statements, June 2022

Approval of Human Resources Report

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Adopt Resolution on Fund Balances - Miller Ratio Adjustment at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Alternative Fueled School Bus Funding at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Firearm Dealer Location at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Adopt Resolution on Capital Grant Fund for School Buildings at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Adopt Resolution on School Safety Fund at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Involvement with Candidates for Public Office at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Adopt Resolution on Mandates Review Committee at IASB Delegate Assembly

Approval of IASB Recommendation to Adopt Resolution on Financial Contribution For School Board Elections at IASB Delegate Assembly

The Board has agreed to remove two items from the consent agenda to discuss further prior to approval. These two items are the Approval of IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Alternative Fueled School Bus Funding at IASB Delegate Assembly and the Approval of IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Firearm Dealer Location at IASB Delegate Assembly.

Ms. Davis thanked Mr. Noble for his hard work amongst all three districts to bring forth the recommendations.

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

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion held on the removed consent agenda items.

Motion: Mr. Noble moved, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Alternative Fueled School Bus Funding at IASB Delegate Assembly.

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

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

The motion carried.

Motion: Mr. Noble moved, seconded by Ms. Davis that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the IASB Recommendation to Reject Resolution on Firearm Dealer Location at IASB Delegate Assembly.

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

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

The motion failed.

FOIA Requests

Dan O'Neil | In Progress (2 of 2)
Jonah Meadows, The Patch | In Progress
Walter Brzeski | In Progress

Public Participation:

A parent requested the One Lake Forest High School statement be for District 67 also.

Announcements

Tuesday, November 8, 2022	Election Day - No School for Students and Staff
Monday, November 14, 2022	Facilities Community Forum - 6:00 p.m. LFHS East Campus - RMA
Wednesday, November 23, 2022 - Friday, November 25, 2022	Thanksgiving Break - No School for Students and Staff
Tuesday, December 6, 2022	Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. LFHS West Campus Board Room

Adjournment:

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

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

Ms. Zinser declared the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Jenny Zinser, President Date

Dewey Winebrenner, Secretary Date