

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 115
APRIL 11, 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, April 11, 2023, and called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ms. Zinser.

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

Absent: Marcus Schabacker, Member

Administration Present:

Jeff McHugh, Deputy Superintendent
Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO
Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer
Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer

Staff Present: Tiana Adams, Board Clerk

Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Burns seconded by Mr. Noble that the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 6:04 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: Noble, Davis, Winebrenner, Burns, Venson, Zinser
Nays:
Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session

Motion: Mr. Burns moved, seconded by Dr. Venson, that the Board of Education, Lake Forest Community High School District 115 return to Open Session at 6:33 p.m.

Votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays:

Absent: Schabacker

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 6:33 p.m.

Board members present at roll call were:

John Venson, Member
Sally Davis, Vice President
David Burns, Member

John Noble, Member
Jenny Zinser, President
Dewey Winebrenner, Secretary

Absent: Marcus Schabacker, Member

Administration Present:

Matthew Montgomery, Superintendent (Virtual)
Jeff McHugh, Deputy Superintendent
Jennifer Hermes, Chief Operating Officer/CSBO
Melissa Oakley, Chief Communications Officer
Jordan Salus, Chief Technology Officer

Staff Present: Tiana Adams, Board Clerk
Patrick Sassen, Director of Educational Services
Alan Wahlert, Assistant Principal
Michael Sanchez, Business Services Coordinator
Jenny Sterpin, Executive Director of Special Education | Compliance | Grant Management
Dan Mortensen, Director of Facilities
Nick Kramer, Transitions Teacher
Ashleigh Malec, Director of Student Activities
Tim Burkhalter, Director of Athletics

Guests Present: Amy Connell Donohue, Transitions Parent
Lance Tritsch, Pepper Construction
Todd Doyle, Pepper Construction

Board Workshop:

New Business/Open Topics

President Zinser discussed the recommended gun safety storage resolution presented by students of LFHS. District 65 has recently passed a secure storage resolution and has shared this with our District for review. Members of the Board stated they are in agreement with the resolution and provided some suggestions. Edits will be made based on the suggestions and brought back for vote in May.

Dr. Sassen spoke on the history of cords and stoles at graduation. LFHS utilizes honor night celebrations to acknowledge student achievements. Last year achievements were acknowledged in the program by symbols. A recommendation was made by a board member to acknowledge athletic accomplishments as well as academics. Some board members expressed social/emotional concerns amongst students if the program is changed.

Dr. Wahlert spoke on the current Student's Rights and Responsibilities in the student handbook. There have been discussions held with students, staff, administration, and the community on how to update and make the philosophy richer. Language from other districts, Portrait of Learner, and One LFHS Statement will be incorporated in the updated document. The Education Committee reviewed the suggested edits at their meeting last month and made recommendations. Language will now be more fluid and understandable for students and parents. There were no changes made to the policies that govern students. Members of the Board asked questions and discussion was held on updating the Student's Rights and Responsibilities.

Referendum and Facilities Planning Update/Transitions Renovations

Dr. Hermes provided an overview of the upcoming renovations set to take place at West Campus for the Transitions Program and grounds garage. Dr. Sterpin discussed the needs of students and how the program has grown tremendously since its initial start ten years ago. The current space no longer fits the program needs. An outside organization has donated \$25,000 to help with the furniture needs.

Ms. Donahue, a parent of a Transitions Student, spoke on the needed updates to the Transitions space. Mr. Kramer, a teacher of Transitions spoke on the program and some of the daily activities that students may participate in. The Board asked questions and discussion was held on the upcoming renovations.

Mr. Mortensen provided an update on the upgrades scheduled for the grounds garage. The garage is very outdated and dilapidated; the new recommended facility will have offices and a workshop along with an athletics cold storage area. This building will also include public restrooms that serve that area of the campus.

These two projects were bid together and are tonight's agenda for approval.

FOIA Procedures

Discussion will be held at next month's meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

President's Report

President Zinser shared that the District office, administration, and staff are deeply saddened by the passing of a friend and colleague, Tanya Dornik. Tanya was the Administrative Assistant to Dr. Hermes. She was a kind and gentle soul who will truly be missed. On behalf of the Board, Administration, and Staff; our sincerest condolences are extended to the family and friends of Tanya during this difficult time.

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching; in just two months the class of 2023 will graduate. It is now the home stretch, yet there are still many things on the calendar to do such as tomorrow's Suite of Assessments, amongst many other senior activities and the beginning of Spring sports.

As a reminder to everyone on what it means to be a Scout, President Zinser read the intentionally crafted One Lake Forest High School statement as the perfect reminder of what it means to be a Scout. The statement was read due to recent activities at the school and it should be unquestionably clear that the Board and Administration will not condone or accept the persecution of students or staff.

President Zinser thanked the community for supporting John Noble, Dewey Winebrenner, and herself in the April 4th election to remain members of the Board. Thank you to all that voted. It is a pleasure to serve the communities of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Montgomery attended the meeting virtually due to a death in the family. His report consisted of the following topics: One Lake Forest High School, District 115 Referendum, and a Shared Services Update.

In order to maximize the 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. Our district is better for all students and staff when we embrace and value the diversity that exists. Dr. Lenart has sent communications since the last meeting, discussing some challenging experiences both within and outside our walls that have created fear, worry, uncertainty for our students and staff of the LGBTQ+ community. I want to reinforce our commitment to One Lake Forest High School, which means addressing these types of events head on. There is no place for intolerance within our LFHS Community. It is encouraged that everyone be mindful of their choices and how they impact the example we are setting for our students.

Dr. Montgomery congratulated Ms. Zinser, Mr. Noble, and Mr. Winebrenner on their re-election to the Board. Having a Board that supports the staff and administration is paramount. Serving on the Board is a thankless job and after serving through the pandemic, it is a true testament of their character that they signed up again. Thanks for continuing the journey.

Based on the results of the election last week, the District is cautiously optimistic on the outcome of the referendum. The votes will be certified on April 20th. As of Friday the votes were one hundred and twenty to the positive and as of today it has narrowed to ninety-seven. The mail-in votes are counted for fourteen days after the election and then the results will be certified. It is believed that the District will pull ahead of this and the road to building trust with the community will be ongoing for years to come. We need to continue to demonstrate effective communication, transparency, and stay true to what was set out to be accomplished with this project; hopefully laying the groundwork for more effective relationships, more open communication, and garnering trust amongst our stakeholders. Thank you to everyone that voted. An update will be provided once all votes have been canvassed.

Dr. Montgomery discussed the Shared Services report; this is an annual report that will be brought forward each year, hopefully in April. One of the key goals that was asked from both Boards of Dr.

Montgomery upon hiring him was to conduct an analysis of Shared Services to determine if it is still a benefit to both Districts. The three communities have spent a great deal of time over the past two years on the analysis and he is unequivocally in support of Shared Services; next year will be the twentieth anniversary of the Shared Services agreement. There have been questions as to whether the agreement is still good and the answer is yes, it is still good for both Districts. It is hoped that the benefits of this agreement will be communicated year over year to educate the community of the why behind a shared services agreement. Dr. Montgomery discussed some of the benefits of having a shared services model. As a recommendation from the security audit that was previously conducted in the fall, a new position was posted for a shared Director of Safety and Security; the goal is to develop protocols for students that will mirror the same experience from elementary to the high school.

LFHS Updates

Principal's Report

Dr. Patrick Sassen, Assistant Principal discussed recent events at the school which included spring break, sports tournaments, and concerts. He also recently attended the principal's advisory meeting and discussion was held at that meeting on issues that students have with the school and how they can be resolved. Congratulations to Coach Cat Catanzaro for being named the Illinois Coach of the Year for the Central Section. The SAT and PSAT exams will be administered tomorrow; there is also an upcoming job fair.

A member of the Board questioned if there has been thought to bringing the job fair for alumni students that are in college.

Public Participation

None

Reports/Discussions

Athletics and Activities Report

Ashleigh Malec and Tim Burkhalter provided the 2022-2023 Student Engagement Annual Report. The report consisted of the background information, engagement plan, athletic/activity offerings, community outreach, partnerships, financial information, celebrations, and extracurricular progress. The full report can be found linked to the agenda. The Board asked questions on the data and program opportunities and discussion ensued.

Board Committees

Education Committee

Mr. Winebrenner, Committee Chair, reported the committee met in mid-March and reviewed the Students Rights and Responsibilities code that is currently being revised. Thank you to all that is working on this; the new product will be much easier for everyone to understand and use. The committee also discussed integrated math as well as how teachers manage discussions on controversial topics in the classroom.

Finance and Operations Committee

Mr. Noble, Committee Chair, reported the next meeting won't be until May once the final referendum results are in.

Policy Committee

Ms. Davis, Committee Chair, reported the committee has not met since the last meeting and will be meeting jointly next week with District 67.

Liaison Reports

ED-RED

Mr. Noble highlighted some upcoming legislation that will be coming forth such as consolidation, cash on hand reports, and electric school buses. The full report is attached to the agenda.

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Dr. Venson provided an overview from Dr. Kurt Schneider, Superintendent of True North's report from their last meeting on March 8. The full report is attached to the agenda.

Parent-Support Organizations

Mr. Burns reported on upcoming events for the parent organizations such as the Annual Foundation Luncheon which includes a live auction. Donations are still needed for Project Safe, a fundraiser to help subsidize the cost of prom.

Action Items

Approval of 2023-2024 Shared Services Compensation

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Mr. Burns that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve 2023-2024 Shared Services Compensation.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2023-2024 Administrative Compensation

Motion: Mr. Burns moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve 2023-2024 Administrative Compensation.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2023-2024 Exempt Compensation

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Dr. Venson, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the 2023-2024 Exempt Compensation.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of a Tenured and Non-Tenured Teacher

Motion: Mr. Winebrenner moved, seconded by Ms. Davis, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois adopt the Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of a Tenured and Non-Tenured Teacher.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Perkins and Will Master Contract Agreement for Architectural Services

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 Perkins and Will Master Contract Agreement for Architectural Services.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2023-2024 Quest Food Services Contract Renewal

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 2023-2024 Quest Food Services Contract Renewal.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Transitions Renovations and Grounds Building Project in the amount of \$5,683,742

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 Transitions Renovations and Grounds Building Project in the amount of \$5,683,742.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2023-2024 Student Fees

Motion: Mr. Burns moved, seconded by Mr. Noble, that the Lake Forest Community High School District 115 Board of Education, Lake Forest, Illinois approve the 2023-2024 Student Fees.

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

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sassen introduced the new Director of Special Education, Pete Nadler.

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, February 2023
2. Approval of Human Resources Report
 - One-Year and Multi-Year Employment Contracts
 - Shared Service One-Year and Multi-Year Employment Contracts
 - Shared Service Multi-Year Employment Contracts
 - Certified - Part Time, Tenured and Probationary Employment Contracts
 - Hires
 - Changes of Assignments
 - Resignations

- Separations
 - Change of Assignments
 - Stipends/Activities/Athletics/Test Prep
 - Summer School/Extended School Year Hires
3. Approval of 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar
 4. Approval of 2023-2024 Amended School Calendar
 5. Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Workshop, March 7, 2023
 6. Minutes of an Executive Session, March 7, 2023
 7. Approval to Waive First Reading of Policy 6:50 (PRESS Issue 110)
 8. Approval of Policy 6:50 - School Wellness (PRESS Issue 110)
 9. Approval to Waive First Reading of Policy 7:285 (PRESS Issue 110)
 10. Approval of the Second Reading of Policy 7:285 - Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program (PRESS Issue 110)

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

Nay:

Absent: Schabacker

The motion carried unanimously.

FOIA Requests

Parents Care | 5 of 5 completed

Samir Vhaidra | 1 of 3 completed

Jeff Brincat | 4 of 4 completed

Hannah Natanson-Washington Post | 1 of 1 completed

Dan O'Neil 3 of 3 completed

Lacus Silva | 1 of 1 completed

Andrea Batiste | 3 of 3 completed

Frank McCormick | 1 of 1 completed

Zach Manchester | 1 of 1 completed

LaQuisha Robinson | 1 of 1 completed

Sheri Reid-Smart Procure | 2 of 2 completed

Skip Shein | 1 of 1 in progress

Public Participation:

Students discussed a resolution they would like the Board of Education to consider in regards to gun safety. President Zinser acknowledged that their voices have been heard from the prior meeting and the Board is in support.

Announcements

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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

Adjournment:

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

On Voice Vote, motion carried.

Ms. Zinser declared the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

John Noble, President Date

John Venson, Secretary Date